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Twelfth Series, Vol. VIII, No. 7

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Phalguna 13, 1920 (Saka)

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Fourth Session**

**(Twelfth Lok Sabha)**




*(Vol. VIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

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## LOK SABHA

*Thursday. March 4, 1999/Phalguna 13, 1920 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

## OBITUARY REFERENCES

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, namely, Sarvashri A.M. Chellachami and Ram Naresh Singh.

Shri A.M. Chellachami was a member of Fifth Lok Sabha representing Tankasi Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu from 1971 to 1977.

A teacher and an agriculturist by profession, Shri Chellachami was a well-known social and political worker. He was associated with various organisations in different capacities. He worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden, promotion of adult education and development of the rural areas. He took keen interest in the field of poultry and dairy farming.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Chellachami was a member of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions from 1973 to 1975 and the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from 1975 to 1977.

Shri A.M. Chellachami passed away at Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu on 2nd December, 1997 at the age of 65.

Shri Ram Naresh Singh was a member of Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabhas representing Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar from 1989 to 1991 and from 1991 to 1996.

Earlier, Shri Singh was a member of Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1977 to 1985. During the period, he was a member of various Committees in the State Legislative Assembly.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Singh was a member of Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Energy in 1990 and Parliamentary Committee on Transport and Tourism from 1993 to 1996.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Singh was a well-known social and political worker. He worked relentlessly for the promotion of education and rural development.

Shri Ram Naresh Singh passed away on 26th December, 1998 at Aurangabad, Bihar at the age of 63.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

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

**11.03 hrs.**

***The Members then stood in silence for a short while.***

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 121, Shri Mahesh Kanodia.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Article 356 of Indian Constitution...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Not now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): If not now than never..*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, first listen to us...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lalu Prasad and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I appeal to you, please take your seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There has been violation of Constitution...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you are on the Panel of Chairmen. Please understand the situation.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is important, let it continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 122, Shri Lakshman Chandra Seth.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We have very important business to take up today. Please take your seats.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We want to know what action has been taken...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You are supposed to sit down when I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It should have been brought on the agenda...*(Interruptions)* To save the democracy, this battle is being wage and to Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appending to you. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is this the way to run the House?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please don't get annoyed...*(Interruptions)* Do not get angry, save democracy...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: President's Rule in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please don't get annoyed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not angry. Speak after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Please read the Article 356. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Question no. 122.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lakshman Chandra Seth, please ask your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Question no. 122

...*(Interruptions)**

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

---

*Not recorded.

**11.06 hrs.**

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

**Comprehensive Bill for Agriculture Workers**

*122. SHRI* LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are introducing a comprehensive bill for protection of interest of agriculture workers;

(b) if so, the stage at which the proposal stands; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be finalised?

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A proposal for enacting a Central legislation to protect the interests of the agricultural labourers in the country is at the stage of consultation with various Ministries/Departments of Government. Government would endeavour to finalise the Bill and introduce it in the Parliament at the earliest.

*[English]*

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: Sir, I want to know...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Lakshman Chandra Seth says.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: Sir, I want to know whether the Government are introducing a comprehensive Bill for protecting the interest of Agriculture workers....*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I want to apprise honourable Member that Government would attempt to introduce this bill in Parliament as early as possible...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: This Bill should be introduced in this House in this Session or in the next Session positively...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lalu Prasad, you are a senior Member. Please understand, there is a procedure already laid down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to raise your point after the Question Hour. Now, please take your seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You are a Senior Member. Please understand.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record other than the hon. Minister's reply.

*...(Interruptions)**

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: We shall listen to it after the Question Hour.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: In order to encourage labourers in industrial area. The number of agricultural labourers is about seven and half crores. We have proposed that identity cards should be issued to them.

---

*Not recorded.

...*(Interruptions)* About their working...*(Interruptions)* To solve the disputes which arise in these matters, the services of revenue officials is being taken. ...*(Interruptions)* We proposed for the arrangement of shelter for women agricultural labourers. ...*(Interruptions)* To include all these things in that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is important. After that we shall listen to it, not now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on the point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now there is no point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: To include it, we have already sent it and after that we would work for the passing of it here. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not come to the well.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will take serious action against those Members who will come to the well of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

**11.09 hrs.**

*At this stage Shri Pradeep Kumar Yadav and some other hon'ble Members came and sat on the floor near the Table*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not come to the well.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

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

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: Now I have come to know from the hon. Minister that there are 7.5 crores agricultural labourers in our country. But there is no law to protect their interests at present. There are also considerable number of working women in the agricultural field. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is bringing a Bill to protect their interests in the current Session or in the next Session of Lok Sabha. I also want to know from the hon. Minister the salient features of this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. Otherwise, the Chair will take action against you. What is this? You are obstructing the proceedings of the House several times.

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: As I have said, ...*(Interruptions)* Such measures have to be taken for seven and a half crore agricultural labourers of the country. ...*(Interruptions)* I have said that they will be issued identity cards after proper identification. ...*(Interruptions)* Their work-hour will be fixed...*(Interruptions)* Their working conditions will be fixed...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: If in the process certain disputes arises, then do solve all those disputes...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I appeal to hon. Members to behave in the proper way in the House. Is this the proper way to behave in the House? I am appealing to the leaders also. What is this?

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: The interests of women labourers will also be protected and measures

*Not recorded.

for building shelter for them will be taken...*(Interruptions)* Not only this, we hope that a fund in this regard will be raised which will be named "Welfare fund" and the amount of this kind will be about 1000 crore rupees. From it they will get help in doing all those things...*(Interruptions)* As our honourable members know it has been implemented in Kerala. To implement it State Governments on their own will work towards framing such type of laws...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. Otherwise, the Chair will take action against you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The House shall be run according to the provision of the Constitution...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, our points may kindly be listened...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: I want to know from the hon. Minister how in the proposed Bill the Government is going to provide social security to the agricultural workers, such as pension and allowance and also wasteland to those agricultural labourers who do not have land as this will provide social security to landless agricultural labourers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the leaders also that this is not good. This is not the way to run the House. If this is the behaviour of hon. Members, how is it possible to run the House?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I certainly accept this. But here the demand in this particular subject is related to Constitution and, that is why, the Government should make a positive statement with regard to the date they would like to bring the Bill to Rajya Sabha. If the Government is ready to disclose this, then the issue will be resolved. The only point is, the Government should take a view because this particular subject is agitating the mind of everybody. This is an important issue. We have to protect the constitutional provision also. I want to know whether the Government will take any initiative to close the Chapter. Immediately after it is known, I will appeal to my colleagues to get back to their seats...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Let the Government make the position clear and then I will appeal to my colleagues to occupy their seats and to allow the question hour to continue.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: There is a procedure for suspension of question hour. Has that procedure been followed? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Now the hon. Minister will reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise the matter after question hour. Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What is the response of the Government to this demand?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): The Government is aware of its constitutional obligation of bringing Presidential proclamation in the other House. The Government will bring it in the other House at the proper time. But it is strange that an experienced Leader of the Opposition has asked us to decide the Agenda of the other House.

I do not think, a bad precedent should be set where an assurance on what agenda will come up in the other House should be sought in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI: He only said that it is a question of maintaining the dignity and honour of our Constitution. They should let us know that they are not bypassing the Rajya Sabha. We never said that you should let us know the agenda of the other House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: The Lok Sabha has already adopted the Resolution. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI: We requested the Government only to let us know and assure us that the Rajya Sabha would not be bypassed. That was the only assurance our Leader sought. We never said that you should let us know the agenda. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It is not the business of this House. ...*(Interruptions)* Why do you ask about the Rajya Sabha? You have a Leader in the Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)* How can a Leader in the Lok Sabha ask about the Rajya Sabha?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: It is an established convention that we cannot make any reference in this House about the proceedings of the other House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to hon. Members once again not to disturb the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You first listen to us.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: What should we listen?

MR. SPEAKER: What are you speaking?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is my appeal to hon. Members. You can discuss this matter after the Question Hour but not now. Please do not disturb the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to hon. Members to please go back to their seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, are you interested in disturbing the Question hour?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lalu Prasad, please ask your colleagues to go back to their seats. Already, they have wasted fifteen minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

...*(Interruptions)**

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker Sir, we all know that this issue is related with crores of labourers of the country. Therefore to provide legal protection to them provisions are already existing. For these agricultural labours...*(Interruptions)* Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is already in force. Likewise Act, 1973 is also promulgated...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour may not be disturbed.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Likewise Workmen's Compensation Act is also implemented...*(Interruptions)* The laws regarding Provident Fund is also implemented. Laws have also been enacted for inter state migratory workers. ...*(Interruptions)* Despite all these facilities there is a proposal to bring in a Central legislation in this regard. From all angles, for Social security etc. an attempt will be made to accommodate all these points therein I want to say this much, here...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you are a Senior Member. I am appealing to you. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will bring a comprehensive Bill in the current session or in the next session, what will be the salient features of the Bill and also whether he is going to provide in the proposed Bill some social security measures such as pension, unemployment allowance and wasteland.

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* Not Recorded.

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the moment this proposal gets the approval of the cabinet, we shall try to introduce it. ...*(Interruptions)* The way in which the Honurable member has expressed the concern, we shall take care of that properly.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable Minister has informed that he is going to introduce the bill in this regard. Alongwith it he has informed that almost 7.5 crore agricultural workers are there in the country. Since long they have been given all sorts of facilities but the benefit of those facilities is not reaching to them. There services are not secured and they are also not getting medical and other facilities. I welcome that honourable Minister is going to bring the bill in this regard in the House. I want to know from the honourable Minister that whether he would provide those facilities to agricultural labour which are available to industrial labours, for example, the facility of free dispensaries, accommodation etc.? Whether the Government would work to provide these facilities to them? Whether the Government would also ensure that agricultural workers get these facilities under Land Revenue laws?...*(Interruptions)* Whether the Government would ensure that they get land and whether the Government would give assurance in this regard?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Sir, as the honourable Member has asked that how this law will be made more effective and whether it would apply to industrial workers also and whether the agricultural labour would also get these facilities. I shall like to inform him that we have got the laws for industrial workers. The laws are helpful for agricultural labourers...*(Interruptions)*. Similarly, the State Governments have declared their laws regarding minimum wages, therefore, it is State Government's responsibility to ensure implementation of provisions of minimum wages. In order to implement all these laws.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats. This time, I will take serious action against all of you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, once again I am appealing to all of you to please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: It is the responsibility of Government of India to protect the interests of agricultural labourers...*(Interruptions)* In the present system we will try to include all these provisions in the laws likely to be enacted that agricultural labourers can get social protection....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask a question about central law. ...*(Interruptions)* Prior to this, any Government, whether it may be of Congress or...*(Interruptions)* may be of United Front...*(Interruptions)* then you were criticising it while sitting in opposition and now you are deferring it. ...*(Interruptions)* the big land lords in the villages...*(Interruptions)* the persons like chief of Ranbir Sena will have the ownership, they will occupy the land and they will be represented...*(Interruptions)* it is very difficult to enact law for agricultural labourers. I do not hope that the Ministry will convene any meeting in this regard...*(Interruptions)* It will be very difficult to enact a law for agricultural labourers till the land is forcefully occupied. Several times, discussion has been held in this regard but nothing was happened...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the Minister whether instead of holding discussion, they would like to prepare a time-bound programme and introduce a Bill regarding agricultural labourers in this very session?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker Sir, as I said that a long discussion has held in this regard and a demand is being made that a legislation should be brought for agricultural labourers so that their safety and protection can be ensured. While expressing their concurrence with this aim, several times an option has been articulated in the conference also. Expressing their views continuously in this regard, it is being said that there should be a Union law.

Keeping the above points in mind, we have tried to bring such law. We have discussed this proposal with all Ministries. After taking their opinion, we have asked to bring it in cabinet. I believe that it will remove the apprehension of hon'ble Member. We want to bring it at the earliest. We are committed for it and as soon as it is passed, we are in favour of bringing it at the earliest.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Mr. Speaker Sir, after the 50 years of independence, many Land Reforms Laws were enacted and implemented. There are about eight crores agricultural labourers in our country. Out of these agricultural labourers, more than 90% belong to Dalit and

tribals and of deprived classes. The Government have enacted many laws for agricultural labourers but nowhere they are being implemented...*(Interruptions)*. Even today handful people have land. The incident which took place in Jahanabad, Bihar, was also attributed to this. Our unorganised agricultural labourers are exploited ...*(Interruptions)* Whether Government would like to make efforts to provide land to those agricultural labourers who have no land? If the Government can not do this then, as per suggestion made by Baba Saheb Ambedker, can the Government not take steps to provide safety to these agricultural labourers under that law...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Jogendra Kawade, what is your supplementary question?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: My supplementary question is that whether Government have any proposal to nationalize the land under the land reforms laws being enacted by Government or not. If nationalization of land gives relief in this regard, whether the Minister and Government propose to matterialize all land of the country?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: As hon'ble Member has expressed his concern, it is right that most of the labourers of the country belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes are working as agricultural labourers. We know that the subject of Land Reforms is under the State Governments and State Governments are aware as to how should they provide land to agricultural labourers. We have received no suggestion so far in this regard. If we receive any such suggestion, we will take decision only after eliciting opinions in this regard.

*[English]*

**Non-Payment of Salaries in PSUs**

*124. *SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI MADAN PATIL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers of women Public Sector Undertakings in Bihar have not been paid their salaries for the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the delay in payment of salaries causing starvation among them; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure payment to these workers?

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) There are 12 central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) having registered offices in the State of Bihar. A list of these CPSUs along with the number of workers employed is given in the statement enclosed. According to information available with the Government, there are no defaults in payment of wages and salaries for the last five years in any of the above mentioned CPSUs.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

***Statement***

| Sl.No. | Name of CPSU | No. of Employees Employed |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. | 134792 |
| 2. | Bharat Refractories Ltd. | 3728 |
| 3. | Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd. | 2018 |
| 4. | Central Coalfields Ltd. | 80407 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 5. | Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd. | 3831 |
| 6. | Engg. Projects (I) Ltd. | 638 |
| 7. | Heavy Engg. Corpn. Ltd. | 9653 |
| 8. | Metallurgical & Engg. Consultants (I) Ltd. | 3287 |
| 9. | Projects & Development (I) Ltd. | 2310 |
| 10. | Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd. | 2321 |
| 11. | Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corpn. Ltd. | 56 |
| 12. | Uranium Corpn. of India Ltd. | 4312 |

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the hon'ble Member is saying that the balance amount of salary has not been paid in 12 Central Public Undertakings. I must tell him that all sorts of payments have already been made in the Central Public Undertakings in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*. There are 12 Central Public Undertakings whose registered offices are situated in Bihar State. The list of Central Public Undertakings alongwith the number of workers employee therein is given in the Annexure. As per information available with the Government no lapse has been committed in payment of wages and salaries during the last five years in any of the above mentioned Central Public Undertakings. I am giving the information of the 12 Undertakings ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Singh, are you following the procedure in the House? You are speaking without following the procedure in the House?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: The following are the names of the undertakings: 1. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. 2. Bharat Refectories Ltd. 3. Bharat Wages and Engineering Co. Ltd. 4. Central Coalfields Ltd. 5. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. 6. Engineering Projects (I) Ltd. 7. Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. 8. Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (I) Ltd. 9. Projects and Development (I) Ltd. 10. Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. 11. Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Ltd. 12. Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. So 12 Undertakings are functioning here and no arrears of salary are pending against any of these undertakings.

SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister whether regular payment is not made to workers in the Central Public Sector?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the information available no arrears of salary to workers is outstanding.

SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Whether Government has taken the decision of disinvestment in Ashok Hotel Corporation at Ranchi-Bihar which is one of the 12 undertakings?, If so, the reasons therefor?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: This question is not related to the Ministry of Labour.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether

the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act has been violated by the Public Undertakings. According to the Act, previous month's salary should be paid by the 10th of each month but salary has not been paid in time at many occasions during the last five years. Whether the hon'ble Minister would take action after conducting an inquiry against the management and people of these organisations who have violated the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: The corporations about which information has been sought by the hon'ble Member have got their own Rules. I have information available with me relating to Bharat Coking Corporation Ltd. and Central Coalfields only and according to that some arrears of E.S.I. and Gratuity are still outstanding. The action has been taken to make the payment.

**Foreign Airlines**

*125. +SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign airlines have applied for increasing their destinations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the applications received during 1998 and till February 1999;

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the routes allotted or proposed to be allotted to them?

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) to (d) The names of countries from whom requests have been received from 1.1.1998 onwards for additional air seat capacity and/or points of call in India for their designated airlines or for conclusion of Air Services Agreement with India, where they did not exist earlier, are given below:—

1. Austria
2. Belgium
3. Bulgaria
4. Canada
5. Fiji
6. Germany
7. Oman
8. Qatar
9. U.A.E.
10. Iran
11. Israel
12. Jordan
13. Kuwait
14. Luxembourg
15. Lithuania
16. Yugoslavia
17. Burkina Faso
18. Djibouti
19. Vietnam
20. Syria
21. U.K.
22. U.S.A.
23. Brunei
24. Malaysia
25. Mauritius
26. Hongkong
27. Sri Lanka
28. Thailand
29. Kyrghyzstan

30. Uzbekistan

31. Republic of Korea

32. Madagascar

33. Bahrain

34. Cyprus

35. Eritrea

36. Zimbabwe

37. Sudan

The international air traffic rights are exchanged after bilateral negotiations at Government level on the basis of reciprocity and equality of benefits to the designated carriers of both sides keeping in view the requirements of trade, tourism and travel. Effective from 1.1.1998, bilateral negotiations have so far been held with Madagascar, Belgium, Luxembourg, Bahrain, Thailand and Israel. The Agreements reached with these countries are as follows:—

(i) A new Air Services Agreement has been concluded with Madagascar which will permit the designated airlines of each side to operate 2 frequencies not exceeding 400 seats/week to one point of call in each other's territory. (Mumbai for the designated airlines of Madagascar and Antananarivo for the designated airlines of India).

(ii) A new Air Services Agreement has been concluded with Luxembourg which will permit the designated airline of each side to operate to the national capital of each other's territory. No Agreement has been reached on the air seat capacity/frequency of operation.

(iii) The designated airline of India and Israel shall be permitted to operate an additional frequency with the existing seat entitlement between India and Israel. The operation of this additional frequency by the designated airline of Israel shall be subject to a new commercial agreement with Air India.

(iv) The Air Services Agreement with Bahrain was reviewed and updated. Flexibility of operating 1% excess over the seat entitlement of 9000 seats/week under the Indo-Gulf bilateral was also agreed.

(v) No Agreement could be reached on exchange of additional traffic rights with Belgium and Thailand.

In addition to the above, the Government has also approved grant of following additional traffic rights to foreign airlines during the year 1998:—

(i) Operation of a second frequency to/from Delhi by the designated airline of Kyrghyzstan subject to provisions of the Commercial Agreement with Indian Airlines.

(ii) Increase in the operations of Malaysian Airlines to/from Chennai from 6 frequencies/1622 seats per week to 7 frequencies/2100 seats per week under a Commercial Agreement with Air India.

(iii) Increase in the entitlements under India-Singapore Air Services Agreement from 15 B747 to 21 B747 units/week in a phased manner subject to a Commercial Agreement between Air India and Singapore Airlines. Singapore Airline was also granted Trivandrum as an additional point of call.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know through you from the Government that since the agreements have been made with Madagascar, Belgium, Luxembourg, Bahrain, Thailand in January 1998 whether these countries have started operating flights after January 1998.

*[English]*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, we have the agreements and the negotiations are already going on with the designated airlines of both the countries and very soon this will be implemented...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, previously the aircrafts of Russia and India had collided resulting in loss of many lives. You were going to implement the ACAS system to avoid air accidents of Indian and Foreign aircrafts in the Indian air space. It was stated that system will be implemented by January 1999.

Whether this system has been implemented or not? If not the reasons for delay? What would be the

percentage of the Indian employees in the foreign companies which are going to start air service here.

*[English]*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, actually this supplementary question does not relate to the main question. However, I would like to say that as a safety measure, implementation of the ACAS by 31st December has been made mandatory to all domestic and international flights. It has been strictly implemented. We have taken this decision.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I understand that there are some applications pending with the Government of India from the Gulf countries for operating international flights to Trivandrum. Trivandrum is an International Airport. I think the Government has not taken any decision...*(Interruptions)* Is the Government aware that some foreign Airlines have applied for permission to operate international flights to Trivandrum? What is the difficulty in giving permission.

I also understand that the facilities in the International Airport at Trivandrum are nearing completion. So, the facilities have to be provided for twenty-four hour operation...*(Interruptions)* There are a number of applications pending with the Government for getting permission.

I understand that the application from the Gulf Air as well as the Singapore Airlines are pending with the Government. Will the Government take immediate action in these matters?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. For Trivandrum, already the Singapore Airlines have been given another point of call. Therefore, it will be operating in Trivandrum also...*(Interruptions)*

Regarding other facilities to the Trivandrum International Airport, though it does not relate to the main question, yet I would like to say that already the Secretary, Civil Aviation had visited Trivandrum. The matter is under the consideration of the Airports Authority of India. We will be at it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the details of average of foreign and domestic flights? The steps being taken by the Government for correct proportion of flights.

*[English]*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Regarding the bilateral entitlement, we are using only 40 per cent of our entitlement whereas the various foreign Airlines are using 60 per cent of their entitlement. Therefore, to increase the utilisation of our entitlement, to make it effective, we have to upgrade the aircraft equipment with Air India which is under the consideration of the Government of India...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Thank you.

**Safe Transportation of Goods**

*126. *SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profit earned by the Railways from freight traffic during 1997-98 has declined in comparison to the profit earned during 1995-96;

(b) the quantity of goods transported and the freight revenue earned during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 so far and projections made for 1999-2000;

(c) the steps being taken for safe transport of consignments to minimize the claim cases; and

(d) the amount paid by the Railways as compensation against claims during the above period, year-wise?

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

***Statement***

(a) No, Sir. The profit earned by the Railways from freight traffic during 1995-96 and 1997-98 is as under:—

| Year | Profit (In crores Rs.) |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 5004.80 |
| 1997-98 | 5766.38 |

(b) The quantity of goods transported and the freight revenue earned during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and

projections made for 1999-2000 are:

| Year | Quantity of Goods transported (Revenue-Million Tonnes) | Freight Revenue (In crores Rs.) |
|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 409.02 | 16668.17 |
| 1997-98 | 429.38 | 19866.38 |
| 1998-99 | 343.40 (upto Jan. '99) | 16369.58 (upto Jan. '99) |
| 1999-2000 (Budget Estimate) | 450.00 | 22341.00 |

(c) For safe transportation of goods and prevention of claims, Railways take the following measures:—

(i) Escorting of goods trains by Railway Protection Force and armed personnel on vulnerable sections.

(ii) Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/sections.

(iii) Based on criminal intelligence, raids and searches are conducted in the premises of criminals/receivers of stolen property in order to bring them to book.

(iv) Close coordination between RPF, GRP and local police is maintained at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.

(v) Proper marking and labelling of packages to avoid their loss/over carriage.

(vi) Use of metal tape on wagons to avoid misdespatches and prevent them from becoming unconnected.

(vii) In order to ensure expeditious tracing and connecting of the consignments which could not reach the destination within a reasonable time "Not Received Cells" have been set up on zonal railways.

(d) Compensation against claims paid by the Railways during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as under:—

| Year | Amount (In crores Rs.) |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 28.05 |
| 1997-98 | 27.59 |
| 1998-99 | 18.83 (upto December '98) |

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, for the Railways, freight is the main revenue earner and it heavily subsidises passenger traffic...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Lady Member is putting a supplementary question. Please respect the Lady Member. Please go to your seat. Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik to put the supplementary question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, I am putting my supplementary question. For the Railways, freight is the main revenue earner and it heavily subsidises passenger traffic...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please go to your seat. Please take your seat. This is not good.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: But the freight traffic has been registering a slow growth. The total revenue earning freight traffic recorded a decline of 2.2 per cent during the first eight months of the current fiscal year as compared with the five per cent increase during the corresponding period last year.

The commodities which contributed to the decline of freight traffic include iron, steel, cement, foodgrains, coal and raw materials for steel plant. Now, the decision to increase the freight rates is also contrary to the strategy laid down in the Status Paper. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how the Government will deal with such a situation for improvement and also the situation when the railways have lost freight traffic to roads, not due to cost or convenience factor, but due to the fact that the railways do not have additional capacity on the routes on which the traffic lies.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I once again appeal to you to go back to your seats. You can raise this matter during Zero Hour.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the performance of this year and reasons for decreasing in loading has been mentioned in this years. Railway Budget which has been laid in this House. So far as the capacity of Railways and the movement of traffic is concerned, it is not getting the required traffic. Particularly the programme traffic of Railways has been reduced. So far as the question of other traffic is concerned, it has increased in comparison to that of last year. But in programme traffic, there is a considerable reduction in bulk movement of core sector. As I have already informed this House and as has been mentioned in the Budget, there is no fault of Railways in this regard.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, with regard to part (c) and part (d) of the question, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the target period to settle the railway claims for compensation by the Railway Claims Department and also by the Refund Branch in respect of demurrage and wharfage charges. I would also like to know the policy of refund in cases of demurrage and wharfage charges.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time limit of 10 days has been fixed but it has been seen that the claims settlement of 1997-98...*(Interruptions)* has been made. If you see separately, you will find...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, what is your point of order? Please go to your seat first.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no point of order during question hour.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please go to your seat. What is your point of order? You can raise your point of order only from your seat.

*[Translation]*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he knows that there is no point of order during question hour.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him. Please go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, this is not good. You are a senior parliamentarian.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You don't get angry...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. But the Members of your Party are still sitting here near the Table. Please ask them to go back to their seats.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We are calling them back, you don't get angry...*(Interruptions)*

**11.45 hrs.**

*At this stage Shri Pradeep Kumar Yadav and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You are persuading us, try to persuade them also.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, what is your point of order?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: My point of order is that we want your ruling in regard to Article 356 of the Constitution of India...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order? You have to quote the rule first.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has to quote the Rule Book, not the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please quote the rule first.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please quote the rule first.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: So far as the rules are concerned, if any article of the Constitution is not being complied with and the questions is raised, then Mr. Speaker kindly hear the things and gives his ruling. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please quote the rule first.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please quote the rule first

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: So far as the ruling are concerned, if any article of the Constitution is not being complied with and the question is raised, then Mr. Speaker kindly hear the things and gives his ruling...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please quote the rule first.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You quote the rule position.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: In sub-section 3 of Article 356 it has been clearly mentioned that every declaration given under this Article...*(Interruptions)* You have listened till now but they don't want to listen to it now...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You should not read from the Constitution. You should quote the relevant rule first.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Do not disturb the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik will ask the supplementary question now.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, for the Railways, freight is the main revenue earner...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RITA VERMA: She does not know any rule...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The point of order is that it is written in Rule 376 of Rule of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha that when Constitutional provisions are not observed, in that case Government or any Member...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, there is no point of order during Question Hour. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you are a member of the Panel of Chairmen. You must know the procedure. It is not correct on your part to disturb the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order during Question Hour. Please take your seat.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Government have imposed Article 356 in Bihar and dismissed the elected Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, there is no point of order. Please take your seat.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You give your ruling after hearing me. The Government should follow the Constitutional limitation to bring this motion in both the Houses. You have brought it in Lok Sabha and here this motion has been passed with majority but they are not bringing it in Rajya Sabha...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, for the Railways, freight is the main revenue earner and the Railways heavily subsidise passenger traffic. But the freight traffic has been registering a decline recently. The total revenue earning freight traffic recorded a decline of 2.2 per cent during the first eight months of the current fiscal year as compared to 5 per cent increase during the corresponding period in the previous year...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, nothing has been violated. It is within the purview of the Government to put it before the Rajya Sabha at the convenient time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik says.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, I am again asking my supplementary question because I could not hear the reply of the hon. Minister. Kindly allow me to put my supplementary question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are a senior Member. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik says.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, I am asking the question because I could not hear the Minister's reply. So, at least, please allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are a senior Member. Please understand that now it is the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister will speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, the total revenue earned from freight traffic has recorded a decline of 2.2 per cent during the first eight months of the current fiscal year as compared to the five per cent increase during the corresponding period of the previous year. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik says.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: We know that the commodities like iron, steel, cement, coal and raw materials for steel plants have contributed to such a decline. ...*(Interruptions)* The foodgrains have also contributed to the decline leading to the price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Constitution is being violated. ...*(Interruptions)* We want to know whether the Rajya Sabha has been informed or not.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very valid question whether the message has been sent to the Rajya Sabha or not. This is to be answered by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha or by your office.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Shekhar, the Minister has already answered in the beginning.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, please.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not about the jurisdiction of the Government. It is about the jurisdiction of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. No sooner a Bill is rejected or passed in this House, a message should be sent to the other House. I want to know only one thing. Has a message been sent by the office of the Speaker to the Rajya Sabha or not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, such questions are never asked to the Speaker.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why not?

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour. You must understand it.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: We should know about it.

MR. SPEAKER: After the Question Hour, please.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you should not bring forward new procedures in this House. This is the Question Hour.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I know about it. That is why I am raising the question. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Chair complete the Question Hour. Please understand it.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: It is a matter of Constitution.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Sir, a very senior Member of this House, Shri Chandra Shekhar, has raised a very pertinent issue which does not pertain to the Government at all. So, the Government does not have to reply at all. The response has to come from the Chair. You are the custodian of the Bill which has been passed here. Now, the Bill having been passed, it is the responsibility of your Secretariat to ensure that it is transmitted to the other House with a message. The only thing we want to know is: has your office done it?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gujral, after the Question Hour, please.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; I am not allowing anybody.

**11.53 hrs.**

*At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other hon'ble Members come and stood near the Table*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is a very pertinent question. *...(Interruptions)* Has the message gone to the Rajya Sabha or not? We must know about it. *...(Interruptions)* The House should be informed about it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, the question has been raised by very senior Members. I can very respectfully submit that it does not relate to this House. This is not a Bill. After passage of a Bill in one House, it has to be informed to the other House. As it is not a Bill, I do not think that is mandatory on the part of the Lok Sabha Secretariat to reply to the other Secretariat. *...(Interruptions)* It has to be passed in both the Houses separately. *...(Interruptions)* One House has nothing to do with the other House. *...(Interruptions)* Both the Houses are separate and sovereign. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The House should be informed whether a message has gone to the Rajya Sabha or not. We must know about it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.30 p.m.

**11.55 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past One of the Clock.*

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[Translation]*

**Loss Incurring Routes**

*121. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loss incurring routes being operated by Indian Airlines at present;

(b) whether there is a proposal to allow private airlines to operate on such routes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The details in this regard are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Operators are free to operate on any route in their commercial judgement subject to the compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines. With a view to achieving better regulation of air transport service and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions in the country Route Dispersal Guidelines have been framed. These guidelines stipulate all scheduled operators to deploy in the North-East, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Category-II routes), at least 10% of their deployed capacity of Trunk Routes (Category-I routes); 1% of the capacity on Category-II routes is to be deployed exclusively within Category-II stations; and 50% of the capacity provided on Category-I routes is the be deployed on routes other than Category-I and Category-II routes (Category-III routes).

***Statement***

| Sector | Service No. Domestic Sectors |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. Mumbai-Vadodara | IC-689-690 |
| 2. Chennai-Coimbatore-Calicut | IC-985-986 |
| 3. Guwahati-Agartala | IC-705-706 |
| 4. Calcutta-Guwahati | IC-703-704 |
| 5. Chennai-Bangalore-Pune | IC-917-918 |
| 6. Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Calcutta | IC-725-726 |
| 7. Calcutta-Imphal-Guwahati | IC-713-714 |
| 8. Calicut-Chennai | IC-937-938 |
| 9. Chennai-Tiruchirappali | IC-933-934 |
| 10. Chennai-Mumbai | IC-671-672 |
| 11. Mumbai-Bhavnagar | IC-635-636 |
| 12. Calcutta-Agartala | IC-741-742 |
| 13. Calcutta-Agartala | IC-743-744 |
| 14. Chennai-Bangalore | IC-911-912 |
| 15. Mumbai-Bhuj | CD-149-150 |
| 16. Chennai-Bangalore-Mangalore | CD-559-560 |
| 17. Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar-Delhi | CD-485 |
| 18. Calcutta-Tezpur-Dimapur-Calcutta | CD-215 |
| 19. Chennai-Tirupati-Hyderabad | CD-519-520 |
| 20. Mumbai-Rajkot | CD-145-146 |
| 21. Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal | CD-255-256 |
| 22. Leh-Chandigarh | CD-483-484 |
| 23. Mumbai-Cochin | CD-165-166 |
| 24. Mumbai-Udaipur | CD-193-194 |
| INTERNATIONAL SECTORS | |
| 25. Calcutta-Yangoon-Singapore | IC-727-728 |
| 26. Kathmandu-Varanasi | IC-751-752 |
| 27. Chennai-Singapore | IC-557-558 |

*[English]*

**Divestment of Equity from State Run Hotels**

*123. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to divest its equity from State run hotels which have proved unprofitable; and

(b) if so, the names of such hotels, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government have approved the disinvestment by ITDC in Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation and Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation.

**Child Labour**

*127. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to his notice that young children are being employed in various fields like Agarbatti manufacturing, tailoring shops, fire crackers factories, kirana shops, beedi manufacturing etc.;

(b) if so, the total number of such children employed in various places as mentioned above;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken any concrete steps to check the menace of child labour in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) According to the census data of 1991 on child labour the number of working children in the country is of the order of 11.28 million. Industry-wise, number of working children are not maintained.

The concern for children and the problem of child labour continues to be an area of great concern and article of faith & commitment for successive Governments employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in certain occupations and processes (including Agarbatti manufacturing, fire and crackers industry beedi manufacturing etc.) under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. Through a Notification dated 27.1.99 the Schedule has been substantially enlarged to add six more occupations and 33 processes to the schedule bringing the total to 13 occupations and 51 processes respectively. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable for prosecution. All the State/UT Governments have an enforcement machinery to enforce child labour related provisions of the laws. The Central Government monitors implementation of the provisions of the Act through periodical returns.

Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects. Under the scheme of NCLP, special schools have been set up with provisions for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care etc. So far, 76 child labour projects have been sanctioned in the child labour endemic States for coverage of 1.5 lakh children.

*[Translation]*

**Advisory Commission on Labour Rules-Acts**

*128. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted or have decided to constitute a Commission to advise on labour laws, labour related problems and present labour rules-Acts;

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

(c) the composition of the Commission and the details of the terms of reference thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) It has been decided to set up the Second National Commission on Labour comprising of a Chairman and two full time Members. There will be 07 part-time Members to represent Government, Industry and Workers etc. The tenure of the Commission will be 24 months from the date of its Constitution. The terms of Reference of the Second National Commission on Labour include the following:—

(i) to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector; and

(ii) to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the un-organised sector;

While drafting the framework for the above, the Commission is also required to study the ways of improving the effectiveness of measures relating to Social Security, Occupational health and Safety, Minimum Wages and linkage of wages with productivity and in particular the safeguards and facilities required for women and handicapped persons in employment. It will also take into account the effects of emerging economic environment.

*[English]*

**Code of Conduct for Journalists**

*129. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to formulate a Code of Conduct for journalists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a meeting of the experts is likely to be called before the Code of Conduct is finalised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Restriction on Serials**

*130. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that certain serials on National Network deeply influenced the children for committing crimes;

(b) whether the Government consider to restrain such serials which are superstitious in nature and have got criminal impact on children; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Government as well as the Prasar Bharati have received certain representations in this regard.

(b) and (c) Matters relating to selection, continuation etc. of programmes come within the purview of Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous body, and Government do not decide upon these. Prasar Bharati have reported that as per their guidelines, no programmes which promote superstitious beliefs or involve or incite children in any act of violence either as victims or as perpetrators, are telecast on Doordarshan.

*[Translation]*

**Norms for Foreign Channels**

*131. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have laid down any norms to exercise a check on the foreign channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the channels which have violated these norms during the last two years; and

(d) if no such norms have been laid down, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The transmission done by foreign satellite channels is currently uplinked from outside the country and as such fall outside the ambit of Indian laws. Currently, there is no broadcast law to regulate foreign satellite channels and with a view to regulate these channels, Broadcasting Bill, 1997 was introduced in Lok Sabha in May, 1997. However, with the dissolution of the 11th Lok Sabha, that Bill has lapsed. Most of the

satellite channels, including the foreign satellite channels, reach the viewers in India mostly through cable operators. These cable operators are Governed by Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 which prescribes codes for programme and advertising. These codes do not cover programmes of foreign satellite channels which can be received without the use of any specialised gadgets or decoder. Action has now been initiated for amending certain provisions of this Act with a view, *inter-alia*, to bring these programmes of "free-to-air" foreign satellite channels also within the ambit of the prescribed programme/advertising code of the cable law when transmitted through a cable operator.

*[English]*

**Bio-Chemical Lab for ESI**

*132. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether four ESI Occupational Diseases Centres at Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai are running only on papers;

(b) whether the necessary bio-chemical labs required for such Centres are conspicuous by their absence;

(c) whether there is no trained staff available for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such state of affairs?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The need to set up Occupational Diseases Centres on zonal basis with a view to diagnosing the cases of such diseases at an early stage was perceived in 1987 and a Committee was set up to give its recommendation with regard to provision of various facilities and equipments required for such centres.

The Committee recommended setting up of four Occupational Diseases Centres on zonal basis *i.e.* North, South, East and West and to develop a reference system from the neighbouring States. Accordingly, four Centres were set up at Delhi, Chennai, MGM Hospital, Mumbai and Calcutta.

The Zonal ODCs, in addition to providing services in the general specialities are also providing services for chest diseases, dermatology, ENT and eye. The necessary modern equipments required to diagnose such cases have been provided in all the four Occupational Diseases Centres. Also, diagnostic facilities in the form of Pathology Lab, Bio-Chemistry Lab, Pul Function Test Lab, Ultrasonography Lab, X-ray etc. have also been provided. To man the services, the required specialists, medical officers and paramedical staff has also been provided.

**Cancellation of Wagon Orders**

*133. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the lowering down of railway freight traffic by 12% in the first nine months of the current financial year, Indian Railways have decided to cancel sizeable portion of the wagon orders;

(b) if so, the details of original orders placed for wagons, unit-wise;

(c) the extent to which these have been cancelled; and

(d) the extent to which the Railways have incurred the losses due to the cancellation of orders?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) In the first nine months of the current financial year, loading of Railway freight was lower by about 7% from the target and about 2.5% from the corresponding period of the last year. In view of receipt of lower rates against fresh tender opened on 30.12.1998 and due to decline in traffic loading affecting requirements of wagons, minus option clause available in the 1998-99 contracts was exercised after allowing generally for six-weeks work-in-progress keeping in mind outstanding Railway Board orders placed earlier. The quantities were reduced by 30% where outstanding quantities, after considering six weeks work-in-progress, were more than 30% or upto the outstanding quantities, so worked out duly considering work-in-progress, where these were less than 30%.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Keeping in view the lower rates received, the question of loss due to cancellation of wagon orders does not arise.

***Statement***

*Details of original 1998-99 wagon orders placed and quantities cancelled wagon manufacturing unit firm-wise*

| S.No. | Name of the firm | Quantity ordered (in Vehicle units) | Quantity cancelled (in Vehicle units) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | M/s. Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd., Muzaffarpur | 526 | 60 |
| 2. | M/s. Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd., Mokameh | 487 | 146 |
| 3. | M/s. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., Calcutta | 658 | 40 |
| 4. | M/s. Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Howrah | 697 | 209 |
| 5. | M/s. Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Burnpur | 730 | 219 |
| 6. | M/s. Jessop & Co. Ltd., Calcutta | 199 | 45 |
| 7. | M/s. Southern Structurals Ltd., Chennai | 173 | 52 |
| 8. | M/s. Hindustan Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Calcutta | 1400 | —* |
| 9. | M/s. Texmaco Ltd., Calcutta | 1329 | 85 |
| 10. | M/s. Modern Industries, Sahibabad | 327 | — |
| 11. | M/s. Cimmco Birla Ltd., Bharatpur | 668 | 128 |
| 12. | M/s. BESCO Ltd., Calcutta | 800 | 240 |
| 13. | M/s. Titagarh Wagons Ltd., Calcutta | 600 | 180 |
| DEVELOPMENTAL ORDERS | | | |
| 14. | M/s. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd., Kolar Gold Field. | 60 | 18 |
| 15. | M/s. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd., Mumbai | 87 | 26 |
| 16. | M/s. Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd., Calcutta | 30 | 9 |
| | Total | 8771 | 1457 (16.6%) |

*A quantity of 119 Nos. (297.5 FWs) wagon frozen, being a new design of wagon.

**Commercialisation of Railway Land**

*134. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to commercial utilisation cf Railway land and air space in the States;

(b) if so, the details of land and air space available with Railways in each State;

(c) the details of the funds to be raised by these means and utilised by the Railways;

(d) whether Railways proposed to use spare land commercially all over the India; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (d) The Government has recently approved setting up of MRVC (Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation). The proposal *inter-alia* envisages commercial development of railway land and air-space in Mumbai for raising resources to undertake Railways works. The Ninth Five Year Plan also provides for Railways taking recourse to Commercial development of land and air-space on land belonging to Railways as one of the non-tariff measures for resource generation. The Government has therefore, the intention to extend commercial development of railway land/air-space to all parts of the country.

(b), (c) and (e) As regards Mumbai, the details of the land available for commercial utilisation and the likely generation of funds therefrom would be worked out by the MRVC, after its formation. As regards other parts of the country, no details have so far been worked out.

**Certification of Films by CBFC**

*135. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of films cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification during 1997 and 1998;

(b) whether some of these films do not fulfil the requisite norms;

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

(d) the measures the Government have taken or propose to take to enforce the norms strictly?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The number of Indian and foreign films (feature films, short films and other films) cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification during 1997 and 1998 is as follows:—

| | | 1997 | 1998 |
|---|---|---|---|
| (i) | Theatrical films (35 mm etc. format) | 2,064 | 2,177 |
| (ii) | Video films | 1,295 | 1,029 |
| | Total: | 3,359 | 3,206 |

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All films intended for public exhibition in India are certified by the Central Board of Film Certification in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. Improvement in its implementation is an ongoing process. Some of the measures taken in this respect are:—

(i) Scrutiny of songs and trailers of films to be telecast on Doordarshan.

(ii) Provision for 50% of the members of Examining Committee and Revising Committee to be women to bring greater gender awareness into the process.

(iii) Issue of specific clarifications by the Board about interpretation of the frequently violated guidelines to ensure proper application of the guidelines.

(iv) Showing of names of members of the Examining Committee/Revising Committee/Film Certification Appellate Tribunal on whose recommendation the film is cleared for public exhibition on the certificates granted to the film, introducing greater accountability.

**Delegation of Powers to Zonal Managers**

*136. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to delegate powers to Zonal General Managers to charge flexible rates for carrying freight;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are considering to reduce classification of various commodities and to convenient rate norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Under Section-30 and 31 of the Railways Act, 1989, the Central Government have been delegated powers to fix rates for freight traffic. Under Section 32 of this Act, the Railway Administrations (Zonal Railways) have been given powers to quote station to station rate and lump sum rate. The Ministry of Railways have prescribed norms to be followed by the General Managers of the Zonal Railways while quoting station to station rate, lump sum rate etc. so as to ensure uniformity, and cohesion in exercise of these powers. Powers being exercised by the General Managers are given below:—

(i) Quotation of reduced Station to Station rates on commercial considerations subject to fulfilment of the stipulated conditions except for certain specified commodities.

(ii) Grant of freight concession of upto 10% on non-programmed imported coal traffic originating on Southern and Western Railways subject to fulfilment of the stipulated conditions.

(iii) Grant of 10% discount on incremental Traffic under the Volume Discount Scheme for the second half of the year 1998-99 in respect of Cement, Iron & Steel, Iron Ore, Sponge Iron and Clinker subject to fulfilment of the stipulated conditions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Cancellation of Flights by Indian Airlines and Air India**

*137. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents in which Indian Airlines and Air India have cancelled its scheduled flights during July, 1998 to 15th February, 1999;

(b) the total loss suffered on this account, Airlines-wise and sector-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The total number of flights cancelled by Air India and Indian Airlines during the period July, 1998 to 15.2.99 and the estimated loss suffered are as under:—

| | No. of flights cancelled | Estimated Loss (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|
| Indian Airlines | 1404 | 2089.40 |
| Air India | 79 | 237.00 |

(c) Technical delays and cancellations are investigated, analysed and appropriate remedial action taken. Special attention is paid to identify and rectify repetitive snags. Effective coordination is ensured amongst various departments so that delays do not result in cancellations. There is continuous follow-up with vendors and aircraft manufacturers for upgradation of technical know-how and for improvement in the reliability of components.

**Action Plan for Growing Air Traffic**

*138. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has chalked out an Action Plan for total overhaul of the international airport network in the country to cater to the needs of the growing traffic;

(b) if so, the main points of expansion are likely to be taken up;

(c) whether the Airports Authority of India has taken a decision to invest about Rs. 20,000/- crores for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the source from where the funds are proposed to be raised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b)

Upgradation/modernisation of existing international airports is a continuous process and Airports Authority of India (AAI) has drawn up plans, both long-term and short-term, for this purpose. The main thrust of the development will be on construction of new terminal buildings, lengthening and strengthening of runways, expansion of apron area and modernisation of the existing terminal buildings to provide better facilities to passengers. Development of Cargo Complexes is also envisaged to cater to the increasing cargo traffic.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Policy on Airport Infrastructure permits private participation/investment in the development of airports. Foreign equity participation is permissible upto 74% with automatic approvals and upto 100% with special permission. In the first phase, it has been decided to corporatise the existing airports at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Calcutta and the proposed new airport at Bangalore. These airports have been selected because they handle a major chunk of the traffic to/from India and massive investments are required to restructure the airports to make them world class. Corporatisation will bring about effective changes in the management. It will also contribute to the overall increase in the productivity and will be able to attract investments to improve the standards of service/facilities. The AAI is in the process of appointing Financial and Legal Consultants who will advise on the various aspects of corporatisation of the five airports referred to above.

**Foreign Capital in Film Production**

*139. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow foreign investment in film production and other allied activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this decision will help inflows of foreign investment; and

(d) the extent to which it would help in modernisation of the film industry and export of films?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Foreign investment in the film sector for various activities like production, distribution, construction of multiplexes etc. is already permissible on a case to case basis.

**Telecasting Services in Remote Areas**

*140. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate staff has not been provided for the smooth functioning of VLPT and LPT centres in the remote areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to provide adequate staff for its smooth functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) VLPTs of Doordarshan are unmanned installations and as such, need no staff to operate them. For some of the LPTs which also include some located in remote areas in the country, it has not been possible to provide staff for want of sanction of new posts. For some other LPTs, only partial staff sanctions have been issued. To solve this problem, the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance has been requested to make an urgent study of the staffing norms of various Doordarshan installations including LPTs to workout their overall staff requirement. On receipt of recommendations of the SIU, necessary action will be taken for creation of requisite number of posts so that all the LPTs are suitably manned.

**Vacant Posts of Judges**

*81. SHRI E. AHAMED:
DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA:

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

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has recently criticised the executive for its lukewarm response to fill up the vacancies of judges in the country;

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

(c) the total number of vacancies of judges in various High Courts and Supreme Court of India as on date and the steps contemplated/being contemplated to fill up the same;

(d) the time by which all the vacancies of judges in various High Courts and Supreme Court of India are likely to be filled up;

(e) whether recently there was a controversy/debate regarding giving due consideration to the representatives from the weaker sections, women and minorities while appointing the judges to the Supreme Court of India and High Courts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTARY SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (d) Government have seen the Press reports to the effect that the Chief Justice of India has made certain observations about non-filling up of the vacancies of Judges. No communication has, however, been received by the Government of India from the Chief Justice of India in this regard. As on February 24, 1999, there was 1 vacancy of Judge in the Supreme Court of India and 138 vacancies of Judges/Additional Judges in various High Courts of the country.

No sooner the Advisory Opinion on the scope and extent of consultation in the appointment of Judges was given by the Supreme Court on October 28, 1998, appropriate steps to fill up the vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts were initiated in consultation with the concerned Constitutional authorities. Seven vacancies in the Supreme Court and 36 vacancies in various High Courts have been filled up after the receipt of the Opinion. Four vacancies are likely to be filled up shortly. While it is not possible to indicate a time-frame by which all the vacancies are likely to be filled up, proposals for filling up more vacancies in various High Courts have been received.

(e) and (f) There is no controversy/debate among the concerned Constitutional authorities in the matter of appointment of Judges as appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government have, however, from time to time addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts requesting them to locate suitable persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women for appointment as High Court Judges.

**Bill on Sexual Harassment of Women**

*82. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to bring out a legislation in accordance with judgement of Supreme Court upholding the dismissal from job of any person resorting to sexual harassment of women at the workplace; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Since the guidelines/norms laid down by the Supreme Court of India have the force of law under article 141 of the Constitution of India and the existing civil/penal laws and certain labour legislations contain adequate prohibitive provisions to protect women from sexual harassment at work places, it is felt that there is no necessity for enacting a separate legislation on the subject.

*[Translation]*

**Sub-Standard quality of Electricity Equipments**

*83. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA BAINDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantum of power goes waste due to sub-standard quality of electric equipments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact any law to punish the manufacturers of sub-standard electric equipments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) A large quantum of power goes waste owing to energy inefficient electric equipment and appliances. The Government is formulating

a legal framework for establishing an apex level central body for laying down standards and norms of energy consumption for equipment and appliances, energy labelling and for energy audit to promote efficient use for energy. Violation of prescribed norms and standards could invoke penalties. The Government also encourages various programmes which promote awareness in respect of energy conservation and development of improved technologies for energy efficiency.

**Subsidy on L.P.G.**

*84. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have hiked the prices of L.P.G. cylinders so as to bring down the staggering subsidies;

(b) if so, whether the administrative price mechanism system is being followed for determination of prices of all the petroleum products in the domestic market;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the system of subsidy can be done away with after adopting the system of price determination on the basis of market forces; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the time by which the Government propose to switch over to the system of price-determination on the basis of the market forces?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) to (e) Pursuant to the Government decision to dismantle Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in phases, announced in September, 1997, the process of phased dismantling of APM has been initiated with effect from April 1,1998. The phased programme envisages that subsidy on LPG (Domestic) and SKO (for Public distribution system), will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% and 33.33% of the import parity price by 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget on full deregulation from the year 2002 onwards. The ex-storage point price of LPG (Domestic) was increased by Rs. 14 per cylinder (Rs. 985.92 per MT) exclusive of duty, sales tax and other levies effective mid-night of 31st January/1st February, 1999.

The prices of MS, HSD, SKO (for Public Distribution System), LPG (for domestic use) and ATF are administered and the price of HSD is fixed on the principles of import parity pricing up to the ex-storage point level. The prices of other petroleum products like Naphtha, FO, LSHS, Bitumen, Paraffin Wax etc. have been decontrolled with effect from April 1, 1998 and oil companies have the freedom to fix the prices on market considerations. The reforms are phased for completion by 2002.

*[English]*

**Pricing of Petroleum Products**

*85. DR ASIM BALA:
SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:

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

(a) the present policy of the Government in regard to revising the prices of petroleum products;

(b) whether the prices of diesel and petrol in India are higher in comparison to other countries;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to rationalise the prices of the petroleum products especially petrol and diesel;

(d) the number of times the price of diesel was increased or decreased during the current financial year till date and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to decrease the rate of petrol and diesel in tune with the fall in their prices in the International Market;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to decontrol the petroleum products and to fill the gap of oil pool account?

THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) to (g) Presently, the consumer prices of MS, HSD, SKO (Public Distribution System - PDS), LPG (for domestic use) and ATF are administered by the Government. The prices of other petroleum products like Naphtha, FO, LSHS, Bitumen, Paraffin Wax etc. have been decontrolled effective April 1, 1998 and are fixed by oil companies on market considerations. The prices of MS and ATF help

to cross subsidise the concessional price of SKO (PDS) and LPG (Packed Domestic).

The prices of Petrol/Gasoline and Diesel prevailing in India and in certain other countries are given below:

Rs./Ltr.
(December, 1998)

| Country | Petrol/ Gasoline | Diesel |
|---|---|---|
| France | 46.50 | 25.46 |
| Germany | 37.32 | 23.38 |
| Italy | 46.58 | 28.60 |
| Spain | 33.41 | 21.68 |
| UK | 50.02 | 39.19 |
| Japan | 34.89 | 28.48 |
| Canada | 14.62 | 14.28 |
| USA | 11.65 | 11.09 |
| India (New Delhi- as on 9.1.99) | 23.94 | 8.89 |

Rupees Dollar exchange rate is taken as Rs. 42.50 to work out the above prices.

The ex-storage point price of Diesel (HSD) is presently fixed on import parity basis. It has, therefore, been revised from time to time as follows:

Rs./KL

| W.E.F. | Ex. Storage point price (excluding excise duty etc.) | Change |
|---|---|---|
| 07.11.97 | 7918.04 | (-) 456.83 |
| 25.12.97 | 7996.84 | (+) 78.80 |
| 01.03.98 | 7839.24 | (-) 157.60 |
| 04.04.98 | 7645.47 | (-) 193.77 |
| 20.05.98 | 7536.89 | (-) 108.58 |
| 09.01.99 | 6722.37 | (-) 814.52 |

*[Translation]*

**Workload on Central Government Hospitals**

*86. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether over-crowding is the main problem being faced by the Central Government Hospitals;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey/study to ascertain the seriousness of the problem;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to take any steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (e) The Government are aware of the problem of overcrowding in Central Government hospitals. While the number of hospitals in the States/ Union Territories has increased from 2694 (1951) to 13692 (1993), the number of dispensaries in the States/Union Territories from 5306 (1951) to 28321 (1993) and the number of beds from 117179 (1951) to 834650 (1993) established by Central Government, State Governments and private sectors, this increase has not kept pace with the increase in population leading to overcrowding in Government hospitals which cater to the needs of less affluent sections of the society.

2. 'Health' is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Governments to provide adequate medical facilities in the States keeping in view the felt needs of the people and investing adequately in health sector.

3. The National Health Policy had laid adequate emphasis on the promotive and preventive aspects of health care with a view to reducing the total disease burden in the country. Overcrowding in Central Government hospitals is also due to lack of referral systems where patients could be screened at the primary health centres, sub-district and district level hospitals. A major programme for strengthening the sub-district and district level hospitals has been taken up by the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab and West Bengal

with World Bank assistance and it is proposed to cover more States in the subsequent phases of this project with a view to ensuring *interalia* that there is proper screening of patients and facilities are provided at different levels of health infrastructure to prevent over-crowding in Government hospitals.

**Export of Foodgrains from Indian Ports**

*87. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains exported from Indian Ports during the last two years;

(b) whether the export of foodgrains is being delayed; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by the Government for timely export of foodgrains from the ports?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) The quantum of foodgrains exported from Indian Ports during the last two years (1996-97 & 1997-98) is given below:—

| | |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 37.29 Lakh Tonnes |
| 1997-98 | 22.89 Lakh Tonnes |

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Demurrage Costs to be Paid by Oil Companies**

*88. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

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

(a) whether the failure of Indian Oil Corporation to undertake timely repairs of its storage tanks has proved to be a very costly proposition to the country;

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

(c) the demurrage cost incurred per day as a result of keeping ships waiting and total amount due as on date on the count; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such lapses on the part of oil companies in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Out of total 1932 tanks at marketing terminals, installations and Depots of Indian Oil Corporation, only 51 tanks are at present out of service for repair and maintenance.

(c) The demurrage rate varies from ship-to-ship and the prevailing market conditions including the exchange rate. The provisional demurrage amount for the period April-December, 1998 works out to Rs. 374.27 crore (average per day Rs. 1.36 crore at the average exchange rate of Rs. 41.72/US$.)

(d) Import of Petroleum Products is planned having regard to the processing schedule of refineries, the monthly demand pattern within the country and the need to maintain strategic inventory levels. The oil industry incurs demurrage partly due to non-availability of berth/ ullage and partly due to requirement of keeping some inventory floating in the High Seas. With a view to optimise utilisation of available port infrastructure and to achieve reduction in the detention of the tankers, a number of steps have been initiated by the oil industries. These *interalia*, include commissioning of two virtual jetties at Kandla, offshore literage of product import tankers at Kandla, commissioning of Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline/ augmentation of tankage at coastal locations, commissioning of second SBM at Vadinar etc.

*[Translation]*

**Express Highways and Golden Quadrilateral Projects**

*89. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features and the estimated cost of the proposed express highways projects of North-South, East-West and the Golden Quadrilateral connecting four metros;

(b) the sources through which the required funds are proposed to be raised;

(c) whether the Government propose to involve private investment both indigenous as well as foreign, in these mega projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the expected time of completion of these projects alongwith their present status?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) The proposed project named as National Highway Development project is not an exclusive express highway project. It consists of development of about 16,300 Kms. of National Highways along the Golden Quadrilateral Connecting 4 metros, namely, Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai as also the North-South and East-West Corridors connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Saurashtra respectively. Certain other heavily traffic National Highway routes are also part of it as spurs. As per preliminary assessment, this will involve construction of approx. 9400 Kms. of expressways along new alignments, widening of approx. 1400 Kms. and 5500 Kms. to 6 and 4 lanes respectively at a total cost of approx. Rs. 1,24,000 crores at 1999 prices.

(b) The sources for financing the projects are as under:—

(i) Budget allocation.

(ii) External loan assistance from bilateral/ multilateral agencies.

(iii) Private Sector participation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) So far bids on BOT basis have been invited from private sector for Jaipur-Kishangarh Section of NH-8. and bidders have been shortlisted for the Tumkur-Neelamangala Section of NH4 and Hosur-Krishagiri Section of NH-7.

**IDVC Project**

*90. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to wind up Integrated Disease Vector Control (IDVC) project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the employees who have been working therein for the last couple of years are likely to be absorbed in some other Government Department(s);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether keeping in view the fact that Malaria has not been completely eradicated the Government propose to continue the project; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (g) The Science & Technology Project on Integrated Disease Vector Control (IDVC) of Malaria was initiated at Malaria Research Centre in 1985 as an extramural Project. The project jointly funded by ICMR and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, was approved for continuation till the end of 8th Five Year Plan. The Project was continued during 1997-98 and has been extended for a further period of one year till 31st March, 1999.

The issue of permanency of staff as well as continuation of this Project was considered by Dr. Harcharan Singh Committee and later by Dr. Pattanayak Committee which reviewed the progress and achievements of the IDVC Project. The recommendations were forwarded to Prof. Rudrappa Committee which had accepted the recommendations of Dr. Pattanayak Committee for re-organisation of IDVC as a permanent activity of Malaria Research Centre, Delhi. These recommendations have been considered by the Governing Body in its recent meeting held on 28.1.99. On receipt of the recommendations of the Governing Body and Scientific Advisory Board of ICMR, a decision on future continuation of the Project will be taken by the Government.

**Development Works in Telecommunications and Postal Sectors**

*91. SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of development works executed in the Telecommunications and postal sectors in Madhya Pradesh particularly in the tribal areas, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the revenue earned by the Government from these States and the amount spent for the development works during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether telecom and postal services provided in these States are inadequate as compared to other States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to improve the services in the said sectors in these States during 1999-2000;

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

(g) whether these services are proposed to be made available to each and every village in these States; and

(h) if so, the time by which same is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (h) The details in respect of Telecommunication are given in attached Statement-I and the details in respect of Department of Posts are given in attached Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

(a) The information in respect of Telecommunications for important development parameters is given in Annexure-1.

(b) The information in respect of Telecommunications is given in Annexure-2.

(c) and (d) Telecom services in these States are adequate as compared with some of the other States of the country. The teledensity of Maharashtra and Karnataka are more than the national average. The Tele-density of the remaining three States are more than in States of Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and most of N.E. States.

(e) and (f) Increased targets are set in the Annual Plan 1999-2000 to improve the telecommunications services during 1999-2000. Targets and other details are given in Annexure-3.

(g) and (h) The Telecommunication services are proposed to be made available to each and every village in these States by the end of 9th Five Year Plan.

***Statement-II***

(a) The Developmental works of the Department of Posts are implemented through allocation of targets for various Postal activities under Annual Plans to Postal Circles. Details of such works implemented in the Postal Circles of Madhya Pradesh particularly in tribal areas are at Annexure 4, while those of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan during the last 3 years are at Annexure-5.

(b) The revenue earned by the Government from these States and amount spent for the development works during the said period, State-wise are at Annexure-6.

(c) The average area served per post office and average population served per post office in these five States are broadly in line with the national average except in the case of Madhya Pradesh where it is below the national average. The average area served and the average population served per post office in these five States and the national average are given below:—

| | Average Area Served per post Office | Average Population Served per Post Office |
|---|---|---|
| Karnataka | 19.52 | 4555 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 39.3 | 5861 |
| Maharashtra | 24.9 | 6372 |
| Rajasthan | 33.09 | 4244 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 14.62 | 6903 |
| National (All India) Average | 21.42 | 5502 |

(d) to (h) Constant efforts are made to improve the services. While targets are being proposed for various Postal activities as per details given in Annexure-7, which are to be executed during 1999-2000, Postal Circle-wise allocation of targets will however be done at the beginning of next financial year. Post Offices are opened subject to justification as per the norms laid down for the purpose.

***ANNEXURE I***

*Details of Development Works Executed in Telecommunications Sector*

| Sl.No. | Name of State | Name of Item | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Madhya Pradesh | (i) Net Switching Capacity | 89983 | 99572 | 111382 |
| | | (ii) Direct Exchange Lines | 80596 | 75770 | 102642 |
| | | (iii) Village Public Telephones | 2026 | 7355 | 3878 |
| | For Tribal Areas of Madhya Pradesh | | | | |
| | | (i) Net Switching Capacity | 4487 | 14153 | 2562 |
| | | (ii) Direct Exchange Lines | 6051 | 8376 | 4465 |
| | | (iii) Village Public Telephones | 781 | 798 | 797 |
| 2. | Karnataka | (i) Net Switching Capacity | 137873 | 216909 | 278530 |
| | | (ii) Direct Exchange Lines | 139694 | 189608 | 254378 |
| | | (iii) Village Public Telephones | 3178 | 4120 | 3389 |
| 3. | Maharashtra | (i) Net Switching Capacity | 494942 | 486804 | 479768 |
| | | (ii) Direct Exchange Lines | 397005 | 440760 | 489147 |
| | | (iii) Village Public Telephones | 3530 | 4701 | 2775 |
| 4. | Uttar Pradesh | (i) Net Switching Capacity | 185270 | 308608 | 414727 |
| | | (ii) Direct Exchange Lines | 151336 | 216912 | 314064 |
| | | (iii) Village Public Telephones | 3036 | 9702 | 10815 |
| 5. | Rajasthan | (i) Net Switching Capacity | 127823 | 111788 | 153788 |
| | | (ii) Direct Exchange Lines | 100672 | 113518 | 147632 |
| | | (iii) Village Public Telephones | 2122 | 5051 | 3269 |

***ANNEXURE-2***

(Rs. in crores)

| Sl.No. | Name of State | 1995-96 | | 1996-97 | | 1997-98 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Revenue Earned | Amount spent for development works | Revenue Earned | Amount spent for development works | Revenue Earned | Amount Spent for development works |
| 1. | Madhya Pradesh | 426.26 | 398.43 | 491.14 | 307.87 | 591.55 | 329.81 |
| 2. | Karnataka | 821.12 | 512.33 | 974.36 | 479.80 | 1169.59 | 653.46 |
| 3. | Rajasthan | 381.58 | 309.85 | 453.22 | 337.41 | 552.09 | 386.00 |
| 4. | Maharashtra (Including Goa) | 2914.52 | 1207.30 | 3415.13 | 1334.99 | 3885.51 | 1407.40 |
| 5. | Uttar Pradesh | 657.31 | 539.68 | 817.90 | 667.04 | 1016.01 | 1018.84 |

***ANNEXURE-3***

1. Targets set for the Telecom Circlos Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh (East), (West) and Rajasthan Telecom Circle in respect of provision of new Telephone connections during 1998-99 and for 1999-2000 are given below:—

| Name of Circle | Target | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 110000 | 116000 |
| Karnataka | 200000 | 300000 |
| Maharashtra | 300000 | 350000 |
| Uttar Pradesh East | 133000 | 250000 |
| Uttar Pradesh West | 139000 | 193000 |
| Rajasthan | 163000 | 180000 |
| All India | 3600000 | 4550000 |

2. In addition the following steps will also be taken to improve the services.

1. Replace life expired and technologically obsolete switches with digital switches.

Under this programme all the electromechanical exchanges will be replaced by electronic exchanges in the country by December 1999. The electromechanical exchange capacities existing in the Telecom Circles under consideration are given below:

| Telecom Circle | Electromechanical Capacity as on 31.1.1999 |
|---|---|
| Madhya Pradesh | 20000 |
| Karnataka | 59000 |
| Maharashtra | 61400 |
| Uttar Pradesh East<br>Uttar Pradesh West | 5000 |
| Rajasthan | 10000 |

2. Provide telephone on demand by the year 2002.

3. Provide telephone facility in all the villages by 2002.

4. Provide STD facility to all the Exchanges.

5. Computerise trunk services in all the SSA Headquarters.

6. Use of Optical Fibre technologies extensively in the network.

7. Introduction of better and reliable technologies for providing village telephones.

8. Provide reliable media for all exchanges.

9. Introduce computerised billing and accounting in all the divisions.

10. Modernise fault repair service.

11. Computerise Directory inquiry services in all the SSAs.

12. Accord priority for telecom facility in senstive border areas, Tribal Areas and Hilly areas and Industrial Growth centres.

***ANNEXURE-4***

*Madhya Pradesh*

| | Development Works | 1995-96 Tribal | | 1996-97 Tribal | | 1997-98 Tribal | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | |
| 1. | Opening Post Office | 6 | 1 | 26 | 8 | 41 | 17 |
| 2. | Installation of Multi Purpose Counter Machines | 30 | | 18 | | 80 | |
| 3. | Modernisation of Post Office | 19 | | 21 | | 9 | |
| 4. | Installation of Very Small Aparture Terminals | 4 | | 1 | | 0 | |
| 5. | Installation of Extended Satellite Money order stations | 15 | | 3 | | 10 | |
| 6. | Supply of Stamp Cancelling Machines | | | | | 18 | |
| 7. | Supply of Stamp Cancelling Machines | | | | | 3 | |
| 8. | Computerisation of mail offices | | | | | 1 | |

| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | Modernisation of mail offices | | | 2 |
| 10. | Computerisation of Registration Sorting | | | 1 |
| 11. | Construction of Operative Building | 10 Post Office buildings, 4 Sub Post Master's Quarters and 21 Staff Quarters were constructed during the period of which 2 post Offices (Ambagarh Chowki and Korba regions) and 1 Sub Post Master Quarter at Ambagarh Chowki are in tribal area. | | |
| 12 | Construction of Administrative Office Buildings | | | |
| 13. | Construction of Staff Quarters | | | |
| 14. | Rural Postal Life Insurance Work | Computerisation done | | |
| 15. | Training of officials | 464 | 834 | 523 |

***ANNEXURE-5***

*Postal Sector*

| Sl.No. | Developmental Works | Karnataka | | | Maharashtra | | | Uttar Pradesh | | | Rajasthan | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 1. | Opening of Post Offices Installation of Multi purpose counter | 3 | 27 | 29 | 8 | 46 | 38 | 2 | 47 | 63 | 6 | 18 | 34 |
| 2. | Machines | — | 69 | 102 | — | 95 | 120 | 65 | — | 80 | 58 | — | 75 |
| 3. | Modernisation of Post Offices | 24 | 22 | 9 | 69 | 62 | 27 | 27 | 44 | 58 | 17 | 14 | 9 |
| 4. | Installation of Very Small Aparture Terminals | 3 | — | — | 4 | — | — | 3 | 2 | — | 3 | — | — |
| 5. | Installation of Extended satellite Money Order Stations | 11 | — | 10 | 12 | 3 | 30 | 14 | 9 | 30 | 15 | — | 10 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6. | Supply of Electronic Franking Machines | 1 | — | 20 | 14 | — | 20 | — | — | 20 | 1 | — | 10 |
| 7. | Supply of Stamp Cancelling Machines | 18 | 1 | — | 37 | 12 | 3 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| 8. | Computerisation of Mail Offices | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 9. | Modernisation of Mail Offices | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 10. | Computerisation of Registration Sorting | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| 11. | Construction of operative office building | 2 post offices and 2 Sub Post Masters Quarters have been built during the period 5 projects are under construction | | | 23 post office buildings and 15 staff quarters have been built during the period. 19 operative office buildings, 2 Administrative office and 4 Staff Quarters are under Construction | | | 6 post office buildings and 49 Staff Quarters have been Constructed during the period | | | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| 12. | Construction of Administratjve Office Building | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 13. | Construction of Staff Quarters | | | | | | | | | | 9 | 1 | 4 |
| 14. | Computerisation of Postal Life Insurance Work | Upgradation of system | | | Upgradation of system | | | Upgradation of system | | | | | |
| 15. | Rural Postal Life Insurance Work | Computerisation done | | | Computerisation done | | | Computerisation done and work decentralised | | | Computerisation done | | |
| 16. | Training of officials | 975 | 13885 | 697 | 1774 | 1479 | 1041 | 226 | 395 | 387 | 275 | 414 | 395 |

***ANNEXURE-6***

*Revenue Receipts*

(Rs. in thousands)

| Name of the State | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Karnataka | 722136 | 773521 | 978216 |
| Maharashtra | 2196359 | 2212078 | 2842320 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 366078 | 379291 | 511683 |
| Rajasthan | 359832 | 374409 | 481829 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 874190 | 876094 | 1131014 |

*Capital Expenditure*

(Rs. in thousands)

| Name of the State | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Karnataka | 24596 | 34213 | 36779 |
| Maharashtra | 83243 | 27795 | 45373 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 20447 | 13838 | 12772 |
| Rajasthan | 3190 | 16802 | 9359 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 42753 | 31278 | 36048 |

***ANNEXURE-7***

*Annual Plan 1999-2000, Details of all Activities*

| | Activity | Physical Target |
|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | Expansion of Postal Network | |
| 1.1 | Opening of Extra Departmental Post Offices | 500 |
| 1.2 | Opening of Departmental Sub Post Offices | 50 |
| (a) | Urban areas | |

| 1 | | 2 |
|---|---|---|
| (b) | Rural Areas | |
| (c) | Tribal Areas | |
| 1.3 | Provision of Infrastructural equipment to EDBOs | 500 |
| 1.4 | Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana (yet to be approved) | 500 |
| 2 | Upgradation of technology | |
| 2.1 | Upgradation & Expansion of VSAT network | |
| (a) | Installation of ESMOs | 210 |
| (b) | Installation of VSATs | 60 |
| (c) | Facility for centralised upgradation of software | |
| (d) | Modernisation of money transfer system | |
| 2.2 | PC based Counter machines including 100SB LANs | 1000 |
| 2.3 | Modernisation of POs | 60 |
| 2.4 | Consumables & other recurring expenditure | |
| (a) | Consumables for MPCMs/VSATs/AMPCs/SBCO and Savings Work | |
| (b) | Software refinement/consultancy | |
| 2.5 | Mechanical equipment | |
| (a) | Stamp cancelling machines | 100 |
| (b) | Electronic Franking machines | 100 |

| 1 | | 2 |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | Material management | |
| 3.1 | Computerisation of PSDs | |
| 4 | Human Resource Development | |
| 4.1 | Training | |
| (a) | In-service Training for Group 'A' officers | 30 |
| (b) | In-service Training for Group 'C' officials including Supervisors | 1800 |
| (c) | Decentralised training for EDBPMs | 18000 |
| (d) | Computer training including SBCO/SB branch | 1225 |
| 4.2 | Refresher training for SB/SC work | 2500 |
| 4.3 | Infrastructural development including buildings in training centres | for 6 centres |
| 5. | Modernisation of mail processing | |
| 5.1 | In-house computerisation | |
| (a) | Mail office modernisation | 15 |
| (b) | Upgradation of Operational Equipment for sorting | |
| | (i) Provision of OCR facility in AMPCs | 2 |
| | (ii) Culling, facing and cancelling machine in AMPCs | 2 |
| | (iii) Automatic Integrated Mail Processing System | 1 |
| (c) | Upgradation of operational equipment for delivery | 34 |
| (d) | TMO computerisation | 4 |

| 1 | | 2 |
|---|---|---|
| (e) | HRO/DOs computerisation | 5 |
| (f) | Registration Sorting Office computerisation | 4 |
| (g) | Modernisation of registration delivery system | 10 |
| (h) | Upgradation/Expansion of Mailnet | 5 |
| (i) | International postal system project (Track and Trace-EMS) | |
| (j) | Computerisation of International Mail operations (A/Cs at HRO and DAA section of Directorate) | |
| 5.2 | RMS Vans | |
| (a) | Fabrication of new Air brake mail vans | 10 |
| (b) | Modification of existing RMS Vans and their conversion in air brake | 2 |
| 5.3 | Mail Motor Service | |
| (a) | Purchase of MMS Vehicles and body building | 4 |
| (b) | Body building on Chasis purchased earlier | 8 |
| 6 | Business Development & Marketing | |
| 6.1 | In-house computerisation | |
| (a) | Computerisation of PPCs in Nodal Offices & Networking | 22 |
| (b) | Computerisation of SPCCs | |
| | (i) Computerisation of Speed Post booking offices | 30 |
| | (ii) Switching over to window based platform | 8 |
| 6.2 | Mechanisation of pick up and delivery | 10 |
| | Modernising business office for Speed Post | 1 |

| 1 | | 2 |
|---|---|---|
| 6.3 | Refresher training for staff working in premium products | 100 |
| 6.4 | Promotion of premium products including Speed Post | |
| (a) | Promotion | |
| (b) | Advertisement | |
| (c) | Advt., Sales & Publicity (Dte.) | |
| 6.6 | Payment for professional services | |
| 6.7 | Mass mailing inserting and sealing equipment | 2 |
| 7 | Computerisation of Savings Bank in Post Offices* (taken up under Upgradation of Technology at 2.2, 2.4 & under Human Resource Development at 4.1) | |
| 8 | Postal Life Insurance | |
| 8.1 | Upgradation of computer systems | 10 |
| 8.2 | PLI-payment for professional services | |
| (a) | Training in marketing/sales promotion/publicity to officials | 20 |
| 8.3 | RPLI-payment for professional services | |
| (a) | Training in insurance to Departmental officials & EDAs | 5000 |
| 8.4 | Market Surveys | |
| (a) | Incentive for insurance operation and medical fee | |
| 8.5 | Advertisement, sales and publicity | |
| 9 | Modernisation & Development of Philately | |
| 9.1 | Computerisation | 6 |
| 9.2 | Tools and equipment | 4 |
| 9.3 | Publicity | |

| 1 | | 2 |
|---|---|---|
| 9.4 | Training | 80 |
| 10 | Postal Buildings and Staff Quarters | |
| 10.1 | Heritage building maintenance | |
| 10.2 | Construction of post offices/mail offices | 15 and 1 |
| 10.3 | Construction of Staff quarters | 30 |
| 10.4 | Construction of administrative offices | 1 |
| 10.5 | Petty expenditure on maintenance | |
| 11 | Streamlining of Administrative and Financial Management | |
| 11.1 | In-house computerisation | |
| (a) | Computerisation of Cash Certificate Work in Postal Account Offices | 7 PAOs |
| (b) | Computerisation of Branches of Directorate | 4 |
| 12 | Public Grievances | |
| 12.1 | Customer Care Centres | 55 |

*[English]*

**Setting up of Power Trading Corporation**

*92. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Power Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the modalities worked out therefor especially with regard to its administrative set up; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The modalities and administrative set up etc. have not been finalised.

(c) Efforts are being made to set up the Power Trading Corporation at the earliest.

**Report of Group on Telecommunications**

*93. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the Report of the Group on Telecommunications (GOT) on the restructuring of licence fee and draft of New Telecom Policy;

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

(c) if not, the time by which the GOT is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The Report of Group on Telecommunications (GOT) is expected by the end of March, 1999.

*[Translation]*

**Losses to SEBs**

*94. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the State Electricity Boards in the country are in a very bad shape and reeling under debt-burden;

(b) if so, the liabilities on the State Electricity Boards as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have tendered any advice and assistance to the State Governments to ameliorate the condition of their Electricity Boards;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all the State Governments have set up regulatory commissions for rationalising the power structure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) A Statement indicating the surplus/deficit (with subsidy and without subsidy) during 1997-98 and the debt liabilities as on 31.3.1998 is attached.

(c) and (d) Irrational tariff is one of the primary factors for the grim financial position of the SEBs. With a view to rationalising the tariff structure, the Central Govt. enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 which, *inter-alia*, provided for constitution of SERCs by the State Governments. The Act also provides for giving subsidy to the SEBs by the State Govt. concerned in the manner to be determined by the concerned SERCs. The State Governments were also advised to take steps to corporatise and commercialise generating companies, transmission companies and distribution companies so that they are able to operate on commercial principles. Further, the Central Govt. is giving an additional interest subsidy of 1% (onward above subsidy of 4%) on the loans extended by Power Finance Corporation during 1998-99 for the projects covered under the Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme for those SEBs/State Governments who set up SERCs by 31st March, 1999.

(e) and (f) Orissa, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh have constituted SERCs. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have notified the SERCs. Other States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Goa have constituted the Selection Committees for selecting Chairperson and Members of the SERCs. Andhra Pradesh has enacted the APERC Act, 1998 which, *inter-alia*, provides for constitution of SERC. Karnataka has drafted the Electricity Reforms Ordinance. Uttar Pradesh has also drafted its Electricity Reforms Bill. Both, the Karnataka Ordinance and Uttar Pradesh Bill provide for creation of SERCs. Other States have also evinced interest towards reforms in general and setting up of SERCs in particular.

***Statement***

*Details of the Surplus/Deficit (with subsidy and without subsidy) during 1997-98 and debts liabilities of the SEBs as on 31.3.1998*

(Rs. in crores)

| Sl.No. | Name | Profit/Loss | | Debts Liabilities |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | With Subsidy | Without Subsidy | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | APSEB (A) | 121.55 | -1134.46 | 5231.59 |
| 2. | *ASEB (U) | -358.72 | -411.05 | 3458.74 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | *BSEB (U) | -327.40 | -327.40 | 3495.02 |
| 4. | GEB (U) | 119.48 | -1273.52 | 6691.76 |
| 5. | *HSEB (A) | 47.75 | -593.98 | 2158.23 |
| 6. | HPSEB (A) | 29.45 | 29.45 | 1373.78 |
| 7. | KEB (U) | 58.47 | -331.51 | 1885.54 |
| 8. | KSEB (U) | 24.61 | -285.05 | 3668.13 |
| 9. | *MPEB (U) | 126.62 | -210.91 | 6062.90 |
| 10. | MSEB (A) | 342.27 | 36.61 | 10261.00 |
| 11. | MESEB (U) | -43.00 | -52.00 | 551.29 |
| 12. | PSEB (U) | 49.40 | -555.27 | 9454.03 |
| 13. | RSEB (U) | 65.35 | -625.37 | 4519.58 |
| 14. | TNEB (U) | -67.70 | -317.75 | 4701.48 |
| 15. | *UPSEB (A) | 170.80 | -1385.97 | 18346.37 |
| 16. | *WBSEB (A) | 18.25 | -227.27 | 2425.35 |

*Based on Annual Accounts of the Boards for the year 1996-97 as the Accounts for 1997-98 have not been received.

(A) — AUDITED

(U) — UNAUDITED

*[English]*

**Shortage of Blood**

*95. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ban imposed on the professional blood donors has led to acute shortage of blood and delay in providing blood to the needy in the country; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to tide over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Although occasional and seasonal shortage of blood is encountered in some hospitals and Blood Banks in the country, no serious shortage has been reported.

(b) All State Governments and Union Territories have been asked to take action to promote voluntary donation. The other measures *interalia* include the following:—

— Encouragement is given for voluntary blood donation through media campaigns and development of targeted IEC material to promote one to one communication to motivate donors.

— Blood banks have been asked to maintain data of donors so that they can be contacted during emergencies and honoured appropriately for their contribution.

— The National Council of Science & Technology have initiated a pilot intervention project for generating voluntary blood donation in 50 selected cities.

— First October is celebrated as the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day throughout the country.

— Measures are being also taken to provide component separation facilities. One plasma fractionation centre has also been set up.

*[Translation]*

**Cultivation of Invaluable Plants**

*96. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to promote cultivation of invaluable plants like sandal, red sandal, poplar and neem trees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States considered suitable for such plantations;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to include interest among the people to grow these trees?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) No specific scheme has been formulated for promoting exclusive cultivation of plants like sandalwood, red sanders, poplar & neem by this Ministry. However, these plants are planted in the plantations along with other species as per site conditions. Around one million hectares of total afforestation is carried out annually in the country.

(c) Red Sanders and sandalwood is endemic to the States of South India. The neem is grown throughout the country except a few States of North-East region. Poplar is best grown under irrigated conditions.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Afforestation is done by the State Governments out of their own resources, Central assistance and assistance from external agencies. The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages that village and community lands not required for other productive usage should be taken up for development of tree crops and fodder resources through technical assistance by the Government. The revenue generated through such programmes should

belong to the panchayats and in all other cases such revenue should be shared with the local communities in order to provide an incentive to them for growing such produce. The Policy also envisages that as far as possible, forest based industry should raise the raw material preferably by establishment a direct relationship with individuals. Industry should support the individuals by inputs including credit, technical advice, harvesting and transport services.

*[English]*

**Restructuring of DoT**

*97. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
DR. RAVI MALLU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the DoT;

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

(c) its likely impact on the telecom services consumers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to separate the operations and maintenance of telecom services from policy-making and licensing functions of the Department, to provide operational flexibility in view of the private sector participation in telecom sector.

(c) It is hoped that the proposed restructuring would further improve and expand telecom services in the interest of consumers.

**Capacity of Refineries**

*98. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of refineries functioning in the country and refining capacity thereof;

(b) whether refineries are working as per their installed capacity;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to made full utilisation of their capacity;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up new refineries in the country in the year 1999; and

(e) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon separately and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY RAMAMURTHY): (a) Presently there are 15 operating refineries in the country. Petroleum Sector has been de-licensed from June, 1998. As a result now oil companies are free to maintain their installed capacities flexible depending on demand/supply scenario.

(b) and (c) In the past overall capacity utilisation has been in excess of the installed capacities.

(d) and (e) During the year 1999, two new refineries, namely Numligarh Refinery at Numligarh, Assam at an estimated cost of Rs. 2489 crores and Reliance Petroleum Refinery at Jamnagar, Gujarat are likely to be commissioned. The project cost anticipated for the Reliance Refinery and its marketing/despatch terminal is about Rs. 13400 crores.

*[Translation]*

**Promotion of Indian Systems of Medicine**

*99. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take fresh steps to promote the Indian systems of medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of medical practitioners of Ayurvedic and Allopathic systems of Medicines that complete training annually in the country;

(d) whether the Government propose to open some more colleges of Indian systems of medicine in the country; and

(e) if so, the details and the proposed location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) The Government has already set up a new Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM & H) in March, 1995 for the development and promotion of these systems including Yoga and Naturopathy in the country. The Department has taken various steps in the direction of strengthening and upgradation of the educational institutions pertaining to the ISM & H, standardization of drugs of the ISM & H, enhancing the availability of the raw materials, such as, medicinal plants, research and development, actual involvement in the health care delivery. The details are as follows:—

1. Financial assistance is provided for upgradation of the facilities in the educational institutions both at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

2. Re-orientation training is provided to in service teachers, physicians, researchers as part of continuing education programme and to update and upgrade their skills.

3. Premier national level institutes have been established in these systems of medicine, such as, National Institute of Ayurveda at Jaipur, National Institute of Homoeopathy at Calcutta, National Institute of Unani Medicine at Bangalore, National Institute of Naturopathy at Pune, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga at Delhi and Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth at Delhi.

4. Pharmacopoeial Committee have been set up for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy for developing Pharmacopoeial standards for drugs of these systems. Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian medicine and the Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeial Laboratory have been set up at Ghaziabad for standardization of drugs and testing of drugs pertaining to ISM & H.

5. Emphasis is given on development and cultivation of medicinal plants used in ISM & H. A scheme for development of agro techniques and cultivation of medicinal plants is being implemented by the Department.

6. CGHS dispensaries have been set up for ISM & H.

7. Research in ISM & H is supported through various Central Councils of Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, Unani System of Medicine, Homoeopathy, Yoga & Naturopathy.

8. Special Clinical Research Centres of Unani System of Medicine in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy in Safardjang Hospital in Delhi have been set up and are functioning as OPDs.

9. Assistance has been provided to NIMHANS, Bangalore for setting up of a Department of Ayurveda for mental diseases.

10. A scheme for assisting International Exchange Programme/Seminars/Workshops on ISM&H has been implemented.

11. Funds are also provided for extra mural research projects through research institutions; and

12. A scheme has been introduced to assist programmes related to information, education and communication to create awareness about these systems.

(c) The average number of students of Indian Systems of Medicine, including Ayurveda graduating annually is about 6,000 and that of Allopathic System of Medicine is about 16,000.

(d) and (e) Health, being the State subject, it is for the State Governments to encourage setting up of Indian Systems of Medicine Colleges in the country. There are at present 172 colleges of Ayurved in the country. The emphasis of the Ministry is on quality enhancement rather than increasing the number of colleges. However, the Central Government has initiated steps to set up National Institute of Siddha at Chennai as a model teaching institution.

*[English]*

**Disposal of Plastic Waste**

*100. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether the Government have been deeply concerned with the problem of disposal of plastic waste;

(b) if so, whether any study about the extent of environmental degradation caused by the plastic waste in rural and urban areas was conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute has developed a cheap method to turn plastic waste into bio-degradable waste; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) The Ministry had constituted a National Plastics Waste Management Task Force in 1996. The Task Force reviewed the extent of environmental degradation and related issues caused by widespread use of plastics and consequent generation of waste. As per the report, the plastics waste generated in the country is estimated to be 1 to 4 percent of the total 80,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste generated everyday in the country. The Task Force has formulated an action programme in consultation with the plastics industry which also includes self regulation by plastics manufacturers. As per the recommendation of the Task Force, the Government has published Draft Rules entitled Recycled Plastics Usage Rules, 1998 on 20.11.98 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 inviting objections from the public within a period of sixty days. These draft Rules envisage prohibiting the use of carry bags or containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying and packaging of foodstuffs. The Rules also prescribe a minimum thickness of 25 microns for carry bags made of recycled plastics and 20 microns for carry bags made of virgin plastics.

(d) and (e) The Central Tuber Crop Research Institute has developed a technology to blend upto forty percent starch with low density polyethylene. The granules so obtained can be processed to obtain various plastic products. Under solid burial conditions and in the presence of water and oxygen, the films made of starch mixed plastic have been observed to biodegrade within a period of 4 months to 5 years depending on the composition of the material and presence or absence of an accelerator. This technology is still to be commercially utilised. The rights and responsibilities concerning transfer of this technology have been entrusted to the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi.

*[Translation]*

**Growth Rate of Agriculture**

*101. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the growth rate of agriculture in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the main reasons for decline in the growth rate of agriculture;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any special measures for the growth of agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The annual growth rates in gross domestic product for agriculture sector for the years 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given as under:—

| Year | Annual Growth Rate (%) |
|---|---|
| 1994-95 | 5.3 |
| 1995-96 | -0.1 |
| 1996-97 | 9.6 |
| 1997-98 | -1.3 |

The growth of agricultural sector has been fluctuating in the recent past mainly due to variant behaviour of the climate and weather conditions in different parts of the country. However, the agricultural sector has been maintaining a long term growth over the years.

(c) and (d) To accelerate the growth in agriculture sector, the Government is implementing various crop-specific development programmes relating to cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, jute and horticulture crops. Besides, the Government is providing price and market support to the farmers as well as expanding the network of irrigation facilities to more areas etc. In the National Agenda for Governance, the Government has set the priorities for doubling food production in next 10

years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

*[English]*

**Restructure of NCDC**

*102. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert group has recommended financial and administrative restructuring of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to widen its activities and strengthen its financial base;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the expert group; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Expert Group has made the following recommendations:—

(i) Re-loaning of the principal repayable by NCDC to the Central Government and the process may continue for atleast 3 years.

(ii) Assistance from the Central Government in a few account heads in place of existing numerous heads and sub-heads.

(iii) Exemption from payment of income-tax to be restored as given earlier from 1984-85 to 1988-89.

(iv) Annual interest instalment payable by the Corporation to the Central Government to be re-deployed as grant in NCD Fund for next 5 years until total grant of Rs. 500 crores is provided.

(v) Interest rate on Central Government loans may be reduced from 12% to 8.5%.

(vi) NCDC may be allowed to borrow funds from the banks as per their requirement upto a limit of Rs. 100 crores per annum.

(vii) NCDC may explore the possibility of mobilising funds from the World Bank/ECB and raising deposits from the cooperative sector.

(viii) The proposed National Cooperative Bank should have proper linkages with the NCDC for raising sufficient resources at competitive rates from the cooperative sector.

(c) The Government has taken the following action on the above recommendations:—

(i) The proposal for providing Central Government assistance in few account heads was sent to Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for consideration. The Planning Commission did not agree with the proposal to avoid imbalances in various segments of the cooperatives sector.

(ii) Exemption of payment of income tax has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance.

(iii) NCDC has been permitted to borrow funds from commercial/cooperative banks as per their requirements upto the limit of Rs. 147.5 crores per annum but the facility of SLR bonds has been withdrawn by the RBI.

(iv) World Bank has been requested to consider the proposal for providing assistance to the NCDC.

(v) The Government has constituted a Steering Group under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group.

**Advisory Council on Trade and Industry**

*103. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation for agriculture at present is 5.1 per cent, which is inadequate to meet the growing requirements of funds in this sector;

(b) whether the Advisory Council on Trade and Industry has suggested that the allocation be raised tc 7.1 per cent; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The public outlay for agriculture including that for irrigation and flood control, which directly benefits agriculture, is 11.4 percent during the 9th Five Year Plan.

(b) The Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Trade and Industry has suggested to increase the plan allocation of agriculture in the 9th Plan from 5.1 per cent to 7.1 per cent.

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

**Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas**

*104. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether poverty in both rural and urban areas of the country has come down significantly between 1987-88 and 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether after 1993-94 it continued to rise;

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

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The estimates of poverty in rural areas has come down from 39.09 per cent in 1987-88 to 37.27 per cent in 1993-94. The estimates of poverty in urban areas during the same period has come down from 38.2 per cent to 32.36 per cent.

(c) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and State level using quinquennial National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 based on the NSS quinquennial consumption expenditure data of the 50th Round. The next quinquennial survey on consumer expenditure data is being conducted during the year 1999. As such, the estimates of poverty after 1993-94 are not yet available.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is a three pronged action against poverty. These are; (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting the minimum needs, alleviation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society etc., and (iii) direct programmes and asset building for the poor. In the Ninth Plan, the Basic Minimum Services (BMS) programme has been introduced to ensure access to all the people living in both rural and urban areas to seven basic services in a time bound manner. Besides, Special Action Plans, covering specific aspects of social and physical infrastructure, agriculture, information technology & water policy, have been evolved in the Ninth Plan in order to provide actionable time bound targets with adequate resources, which will also help the poor. The wage and self-employment schemes for the poor are proposed to be streamlined and rationalised in order to make them more effective.

**Terrorism in SAARC Countries**

*105. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether member countries of SAARC have worked out any action programme to combat terrorism;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) SAARC countries signed a Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism in November, 1987. This came into force in August 1988 following ratification by all member States. A SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk has also been established in Colombo. Meetings of Police Officials take place periodically to review the implementation of the Convention. Some SAARC member States are still to enact enabling legislation to give effect to Convention.

**Indians in Gulf Jails**

*106. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians released from the jails in various Gulf countries due to the efforts made by Indian Government during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the number of Indians still remaining in the jail in Gulf countries for alleged offence; and

(c) the action taken for the release of the remaining Indians in various jails?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) A total of 35,220 Indians, during the last three years, were released from jails in various Gulf countries *inter-alia* due to the efforts made by the Indian Government. Country-wise details of Indians released are as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | United Arab Emirates | 33483 |
| 2. | Bahrain | — |
| 3. | Iraq | 7 |
| 4. | Kuwait | 1103 |
| 5. | Oman | 22 |
| 6. | Qatar | 263 |
| 7. | Saudi Arabia | 334 |
| 8. | Yemen | 8 |
| | Total | 35220 |

2. 2605 Indians still remain in jails in the Gulf countries.

3. On receipt of information about the detention of an Indian national, our diplomatic Missions/ Posts abroad immediately seek consular access. The Consular Officer visits the detainees and ascertains the reasons of arrest/ detention. Where necessary, the Missions take up the matter at higher levels of the receiving State for speedy trial, review/remission of sentence. In some in cases, legal help and the facility of translators/interpreters is also provided.

**National Water Authority**

*107. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Water Authority with a statutory role for facilitating the establishment of a National Water Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for proper utilisation of water resources in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government of India has set up National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 to carry out studies on diversion of water from surplus basin to deficit areas by interlinking major rivers. NWDA have completed prefeasibility studies of identified links. Five feasibility reports are also completed.

**World Bank Assistance for Milk Products**

*108. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to seek World Bank assistance for raising the production of milk and milk products in the country to bridge the gap between demand and supply;

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

(c) whether the Government plans to make stringent laws for private dairy industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir

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

**Economic Priorities**

*109. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prof. Amartya Sen, Nobel laureate has urged the Government to reset economic priorities;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made by Dr. Sen; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) In a newspaper item entitled "India must reset its economic priorities: Sen" published in "The Hindu" dated the 11th December, 1998, it has been reported that Prof. Amartya Sen has suggested that India must reset its economic priorities to make them "people oriented rather than commodity related."

(c) Suggestions made by individuals and associations are kept in view while formulating appropriate policies by the Government. However, growth with social justice and alleviation of poverty have been and continue to be the basic objective of Indian economic policy and planning. The Ninth Plan document articulates the Government's overall Development Strategy.

**Implementation of National Agenda**

*110. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policies and programme of National Agenda implemented so far;

(b) the details of the difficulties being faced by the Government in implementation of policies and programme of National Agenda; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Government has initiated policies and programmes to achieve the goals listed in the National Agenda for Governance. In this context, Special Action Plans (SAPs) have been evolved in the following priority areas.

(a) Doubling food production and making India hunger free in 10 years.

(b) Expansion and improvement of social infrastructure —drinking, water, housing, education, health care and sanitation — provision of drinking water for every settlement in the country within 5 years.

(c) Rapid expansion and improvement of physical infrastructure—power, oil, petroleum and renewable sources of energy, roads, transport, ports, airports, telecommunications and financial services.

(d) Unveiling a National Water Policy so that no water goes waste and our water resources are cleaned up.

(e) Make India a global Information Technology power and one of the largest generater and exporters of software in the world within 10 years.

These SAPs have been integrated to the Ninth Five Year Plan which was recently approved by the National Development Council. The Ninth Plan has also earmarked gross budgetary support of Rs. 21,946 crore during the Plan period for the implementation of Programmes and Schemes under the SAPs.

**Alloy Bars**

*111. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Three alloy bars disappear from high security ISRO centre" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 30,1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to stop recurrence of such act in such a high security establishments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Valiamala near Thiruvananthapuram imported 103 pieces of aluminium bars from France. Out of these 3 bars were found to be missing from the Stores premises on 23.01.1999. A Police complaint was lodged and the Police have since arrested 4 persons and the stolen property has been recovered on 03.02.1999.

(c) to (e) As soon as the missing of the bars was known, an internal inquiry was ordered into the matter and to suggest remedial measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents. Steps have been taken to raise the height of the perimeter wall in certain areas and to augment lighting around Stores premises. Security surveillance including partrolling also have been strengthened in the area.

**Nuclear Deterrence**

*112. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "China against minimum Nuclear deterrence for India" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 28, 1999;

(b) if so, whether China has opposed any deal to allow India to have minimum nuclear deterrence in return for joining CTBT; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government on such opposition made by China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government have seen press reports cited above.

(c) Government did not subscribe to the UN Security Council Resolution 1172, which therefore, cannot provide a basis for our ongoing dialogue with key interlocutors. We are currently engaged in this dialogue on the basis of a set of proposals made by India which clearly envisage, *inter alia*, the maintenance by India of a minimum credible nuclear deterrent.

**Implementation of Agricultural Schemes**

*113. SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have signed any Memorandum of Understanding with State Governments for the implementation of Centrally Funded and State operated agricultural schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some schemes are to be amalgamated due to their duplication;

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of State Governments; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for better implementation of Centrally sanctioned and State operated schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The progress of implementation of Centrally sanctioned and State operated Schemes is closely monitored through periodical progress reports, review meetings and visit to States by the Area Officers, who have been nominated to oversee the development of agriculture in their respective State/Union Territory.

**Investment in Agriculture**

*114. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to remove the distortions in inputs and farm produce pricing and land holding policies to boost investments in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether any representations have been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) There is generally no control on the prices of inputs. However, the policy of the Government is to provide basic inputs *viz.* fertiliser, irrigation and power at affordable prices through subsidies/concessions. Incentives are also provided for use of quality seeds and location specific high yielding/hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, improved farm implements, etc.

The objective of the Government's pricing policy for agricultural commodities is to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce for increasing production and productivity. The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) are fixed by the Government for 24 major agricultural commodities for Kharif and Rabi crops. The support to commodities not covered under MSPs is provided under Market Intervention Scheme.

No distortions have been reported or observed in the land holding policy of the Government of India and there has been no change in the policy decided in the Chief Minister's conference held in 1972. However, an outlay of Rs. 43.00 crores has been provided under the Land Reforms Schemes for 1999-2000, Budget providing financial assistance to States/UTs to strengthen the land revenue administration, induction of modern technology in the field of survey and settlement, preparation, maintenance, updating and storage of land records including computerisation and training of revenue, survey and settlement of staff.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Linking of Rivers**

*115. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a panel of expert engineers to formulate a scheme for interlinking all the rivers of the country for making proper use of water and providing safeguards against recurrent floods in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which such a panel is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Government of India has set up a high powered Commission, namely, "National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan" on 13th September, 1996. This Commission is composed of high level experts and engineers in various fields of water resources development. The Commission, *inter alia*, is to suggest modalities for transfer of surplus water to water deficit basins by inter-linking of rivers for preparing an integrated water plan for development of water resources for drinking, irrigation, industrial, floods control and other uses.

**Soil Erosion**

*116. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI H.P. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rivers causing excessive soil erosion in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total area of land affected as a result thereof, State-wise;

(c) the measures being taken by the Union Government to check soil erosion in the country; and

(d) the funds provided by the Union Government to each State Government during the last three years, till date and the funds earmarked for the Ninth Five Year Plan for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Soil erosion is a natural phenomena which occurs in almost all rivers of the country with varying intensities. Erosion problem is more predominant in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal in the Ganga basin as also in the State of Assam in Brahmaputra basin.

(b) Statistics of data on area affected by soil erosion are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) Over the years State Governments have been undertaking various measures to prevent soil erosion as part of their flood management activity which is a State subject. Flood Management Works consisting of 906 town protection measures, 16,200 km. of embankments constructed up to the end of Eighth five year plan contribute to check soil erosion in problem reaches of various rivers.

For the chronically river erosion affected basins of the Ganga and Brahmaputra, Central Organisations like Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board have prepared Master Plans for comprehensive flood management which include measures to check soil erosion as well. These have been sent to all basin States for formulating detailed schemes and their implementation.

(d) Funds for undertaking soil erosion works are included in the allocations for flood control sub-sector. State-wise allocation of funds for the year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in Statement-I. Agreed outlays for the Ninth plan are given in Statement-III. Central Government is also providing grants to the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for undertaking specific anti erosion works to protect Kosi and Gandak embankments as detailed below:

(in Rs. crores).

| | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bihar | 11.86 | 2.36 | 2.39 |
| Uttar Pradesh | — | — | 0.48 |

***Statement-I***

*State-wise approved outlays in flood control sub sector for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98*

| Sl. No. | State/UTs | Approved outlay for 1995-96 | Approved outlay for 1996-97 | Approved outlay for 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 30.00 | 22.00 | 17.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 3.22 | 3.85 | 4.48 |
| 3. | Assam | 22.97 | 19.92 | 19.92 |
| 4. | Bihar | 35.15 | 36.35 | 40.00 |
| 5. | Goa | 0.30 | 0.80 | 0.84 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 1.60 | 1.60 | 5.00 |
| 7. | Haryana | 10.00 | 11.00 | 12.10 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 2.04 | 3.70 | 3.90 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Jammu & Kashmir | 13.71 | 14.62 | 15.90 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 9.72 | 10.00 | 7.47 |
| 11. | Kerala | 21.00 | 35.50 | 25.50 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 0.55 | 1.27 | 6.37 |
| 14. | Manipur | 5.01 | 6.96 | 7.10 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 1.60 | 4.43 | 2.00 |
| 16. | Mizoram | Nil | — | 0.00 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 0.20 | 0.19 | 0.20 |
| 18. | Orissa | 8.80 | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| 19. | Punjab | 31.29 | 23.90 | 70.00 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 22.41 | 11.35 | 7.82 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 3.49 | 1.59 | 2.03 |
| 23. | Tripura | 2.04 | 2.04 | 4.64 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 10.73 | 16.70 | 18.15 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 43.00 | 66.35 | 70.23 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26. | A & N Islands | 0.71 | 1.60 | 1.61 |
| 27. | D & N Haveli | Nil | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 28. | Chandigarh | Nil | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 29. | Delhi | 14.15 | 24.00 | 11.00 |
| 30. | Daman & Diu | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.23 |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 1.85 | 1.86 | 2.12 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.00 |
| | Total | 300.73 | 336.77 | 364.95 |
| | Central Sector | 55.97 | 81.78 | 72.15 |
| | Grand Total | 356.70 | 418.55 | 437.10 |

***Statement-II***

*State-wise agreed outlay in flood control sub sector for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)*

| Sl. No. | States/U.Ts. | Flood Control (Rs. in crore) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 127.41 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 69.52 |
| 3. | Assam | 120.24 |
| 4. | Bihar | 400.00 |
| 5. | Goa | 6.46 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 10.00 |
| 7. | Haryana | 60.41 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 20.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 85.00 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 50.00 |
| 11. | Kerala | 88.00 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 4.67 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 2.70 |
| 14. | Manipur | 36.00 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 18.00 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 0.00 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 5.37 |
| 18. | Orissa | 40.00 |
| 19. | Punjab | 409.70 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 51.16 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 30.00 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 0.00 |
| 23. | Tripura | 28.00 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 80.00 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 328.44 |
| | Total | 2051.08 |
| 26. | A & N Islands | 4.23 |
| 27. | D & N Haveli | 0.00 |
| 28. | Chandigarh | 0.00 |
| 29. | Delhi | 120.00 |
| 30. | Daman & Diu | 2.19 |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 17.36 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | 21.50 |
| | Total (U.Ts.) | 165.28 |
| | Total (States+U.Ts.) | 2216.36 |

*[Translation]*

**Productivity of Livestock and Dairy**

*117. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes initiated by the Government during the last three years to increase productivity of livestock and dairying;

(b) the details of achievements made in this regard during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the details of assistance provided by the Government in this regard during the said period, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken for utilizing the new technique developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other Research Institutions in livestock and dairying areas and for developing necessary infrastructural facilities to achieve this purpose; and

(e) the details of schemes likely to be introduced during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) No new scheme was initiated by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying during the last three years.

(d) Before formulation of any new plan scheme, the proposal is sent to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) which is one of the appraisal agencies. ICAR's views and comments are incorporated in the scheme before implementation.

(e) During 9th Five Year Plan the following schemes are proposed to be introduced:

(i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB).

(ii) Establishment of Sheep/Goat Development Board.

(iii) Assistance to State Poultry Farms.

(iv) Creation of Disease Free Zone.

(v) Cattle Insurance.

(vi) Assistance to Cooperatives.

(vii) Formation of new Dairy cooperatives.

(viii) Vidya Dairy.

**Nuclear Test**

*118. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided not to conduct more nuclear test in future; and

(b) if so, whether the country has become self-reliant in the matter as nuclear-power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have declared a voluntary moratorium on further underground nuclear test explosions and remain committed to converting the moratorium into a de-jure obligation. The five nuclear tests conducted in May 1998 have provided an adequate scientific data base for designing the types of devices needed for a credible nuclear deterrent and have made India a self reliant nuclear power.

*[English]*

**Irrigated Land**

*119. SHRI MADAN PATIL:
SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigated land in the country at the end of Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the target for additional irrigation capacity fixed for the Ninth Five Year Plan and achieved till date;

(c) the number of major and medium irrigation projects pending clearance and the number of projects under construction in the country, State-wise;

(d) the details of projects which are likely to be started during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the extent to which the irrigation capacity is likely to be increased after completing these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1995-96 (latest), State-wise details of Net Irrigated Area (NIA) as compared with Net Sown Area (NSA) are furnished in Statement-I attached.

(b) As per Draft Ninth Five Year Plan document brought out by the Planning Commission, the achievement and target for creation of irrigation capacity in the country

are as under:

(In million hectares)

| | Achievement upto end of 1996-97 | Target 1997-2002 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major & Medium Irrigation | 32.96 | 9.81 | (Provisional) |
| Minor Irrigation | 56.60 | 7.24 | (Provisional) |
| Total | 89.56 | 17.05 | (Provisional) |

(c) The State-wise details of Major, medium and Modernisation projects under different stages of appraisal and those under construction pending clearance are given in Statement-II attached.

(d) and (e) As per information available from the States, details of projects likely to be taken up during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the Irrigation Potential likely to be created on their completion are as under:

| Type of project | Number of projects likely to be taken up during IX Plan | Approximate Irrigation Potential likely to be created (Thousand hectares) |
|---|---|---|
| Major Irrigation Projects | 34 | 1918 |
| Medium Irrigation Projects | 85 | 402 |
| Extension/Renovation/ Modernisation Projects | 7 | 7 |
| Total | 126 | 2327 |

***Statement-I***

*State-wise Net Irrigated Area (NIA), Net Sown Area (NSA) and Percentage of NIA to NSA*

(in thousand hectares)

| Sl. No. | States | Net Sown Area (NSA) | Net Irrg. Area (NIA) | % of NIA to NSA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 10637 | 4123 | 38.76 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 185 | 36 | 19.46 |
| 3. | Assam | 2780 | 572 | 20.57 |
| 4. | Bihar | 7321 | 3680 | 50.27 |
| 5. | Goa | 139 | 23 | 16.55 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 9609 | 3002 | 31.24 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7. | Haryana | 3586 | 2761 | 76.99 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 568 | 101 | 17.78 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 734 | 386 | 52.59 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 10420 | 2302 | 22.09 |
| 11. | Kerala | 2265 | 342 | 15.10 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 19752 | 5928 | 30.01 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 17911 | 2567 | 14.33 |
| 14. | Manipur | 140 | 65 | 46.43 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 206 | 45 | 21.84 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 109 | 7 | 6.42 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 211 | 62 | 29.38 |
| 18. | Orissa | 6210 | 2090 | 33.65 |
| 19. | Punjab | 4139 | 3847 | 92.94 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 16575 | 5232 | 31.56 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21. | Sikkim | 95 | 16 | 16.84 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 5342 | 2625 | 49.14 |
| 23. | Tripura | 277 | 35 | 12.64 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 17399 | 11675 | 67.10 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 5462 | 1911 | 34.99 |
| | Total States | 142072 | 53433 | 37.61 |
| | Total UTs | 143 | 75 | 52.45 |
| | Grand Total | 142215 | 53508 | 37.62 |

Note: Figures are as per Land Use Statistics brought out by Ministry of Agriculture for 1995-96 (latest) and are *Provisional.*

***Statement-II***

*No. of Major, Medium and Modernisation Projects Under Appraisal and Construction Pending Clearance*

| S.No. | State | Major | | Medium | | Modernisation | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | U.A. | U.C. | U.A. | U.C. | U.A. | U.C. | U.A. | U.C |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | 11 | 3 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 3. | Assam | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| 4. | Bihar | 8 | 4 | 1 | — | — | — | 9 | 4 |
| 5. | Goa | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6. | Gujarat | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 7 | Haryana | 3 | 2 | 2 | — | 2 | — | 7 | 2 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 1 | — | 3 | 1 | — | — | 4 | 1 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | — | — | 3 | — | 13 | 4 | 16 | 4 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 4 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 5 | 1 |
| 11. | Kerala | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 3 | 3 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 9 | 7 | — | — | — | — | 9 | 7 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 15 | 12 | 25 | 10 | — | — | 40 | 22 |
| 14. | Manipur | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| 15. | Meghalaya | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 16. | Nagaland | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| 17. | Orissa | 5 | 1 | 6 | — | 2 | — | 13 | 1 |
| 18. | Punjab | — | — | — | — | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 3 | — | 5 | 3 | 2 | — | 10 | 3 |
| 20. | Sikkim | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 21. | Tamil nadu | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| 22. | Tripura | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh | 7 | 8 | — | — | 4 | 1 | 11 | 9 |
| 24. | West Bengal | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Total | 67 | 39 | 56 | 18 | 30 | 10 | 153 | 67 |

Note:— U.A. — Under Appraisal
U.C. — Under Construction.

*[Translation]*

**Haj Pilgrims**

*120. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Union Government on Haj pilgrims during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide the same facilities to the people belonging to other religions going abroad on pilgrimage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The total expenditure incurred by the Government of India on Haj in the last three years was as follows:

| Year | Actual expenditure in Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 39,69,23,000 |
| 1996-97 | 81,83,54,000 |
| 1997-98 | 122,93,20,000 |

2. For the welfare of the approximately one lakh Indian Haj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia, during the Haj season, government augments the permanent staff in the Consulate General in Jeddah by deputing upto 400 officials to provide assistance to pilgrims, including a 225-member medical mission. The Consulate also recruits about 500 seasonal staff members locally. The Consulate sets up control rooms at the Haj terminal in Jeddah as also at the main Haj offices in Makkah and Madinah and the ten branch offices and medical centres in Makkah. The Consulate General supervises the movement of pilgrims from one point to the other during the Haj season, though day-to-day responsibility is vested in the local Government and its agents. The Consulate General also assists pilgrims at the Haj air terminal in Jeddah and ensures the welfare and smooth movement of incoming and outgoing pilgrims.

3. Similar facilities are provided by Government for other major foreign pilgrimages. For the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra pilgrims include medical assistance, security and escort cover through the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Uttar Pradesh State Police; communication links between Delhi and places enroute on the Indian side and with China; cost of publicity of the Yatra and partial costs of creation of infrastructure, logistics and facilities on the Indian side. Government also bears the expenses for the aerial evacuation of pilgrims in case of emergencies. A Liaison Officer is attached by Government with each batch of yatris.

4. For the Sikh/Sehejdhari and Hindu Jathas to Pakistan, the Government obtains approval of the Government of Pakistan for the visit of each Jatha; in coordination with various State Governments/Ministries/Authorities, forwards the lists of intending pilgrims to the Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi, for visas; arranges special train services with the Ministry of Railways for the onward and return journeys; expedites release of foreign exchange from Reserve Bank of India as a special case in view of the fact that permission for Jathas is given at short notice and visas are stamped on the pilgrims' passports just one or two days prior to the departure of the Jathas; and attaches a Liaison Officer from the High Commission of India in Islamabad to render assistance to the visiting pilgrims when they contact for any kind of help.

*[English]*

**Profitable Routes Transferred by Indian Airlines**

1237. SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA:
SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has given up some profitable routes during the last one year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Pilotless Aircraft**

1238. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since manufactured/ acquired the sophisticated remote controlled pilotless aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of the supplier country; and

(c) the main features of these aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA), also known as Lakshya, has been designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE). Prototypes for certification have also been produced.

The PTA is fitted with 350 kg. Gas Turbine Engine with a Booster. It is remote controlled from the ground and is fitted with a Tow body.

*[Translation]*

**Irregularity in Konkan Railway Service**

1239. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the irregularity being committed and revenue loss caused in Konkan railway service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring the regularity in Konkan railway service and to increase the revenue;

(d) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation has requested to extend the time limit for payment of fixed bond to be paid in March, 1999; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) It is clarified that there is no Konkan Railway service from Mumbai to Kerala. There are, however, two normal Indian Railway services plying between Kurla Terminus and Ernakulam in Kerala and between Kurla Terminus and Mangalore in Karnataka which passes via Konkan Railway. There is no irregularity being committed and revenue loss caused either on Konkan Railway or in the Indian Railway portion.

The reference regarding irregularity in Konkan Railway service seems to be concerning punctuality in running of trains. It is a fact that during monsoon and the period immediately following it, train services over Konkan Railway had suffered substantially. This was due to the fact that this line had been opened for through traffic with effect from 26-1-1998 and the recently concluded monsoon season was the first monsoon after the section had been opened for through traffic. Since the section is still new, there were a total of 145 incidences of boulder falls and land slides which resulted in temporary dislocation of services as well as imposition of speed restrictions leading to delay in running of trains. After the monsoon period was over, the boulder falls and land slides have removed the constraints and brought down the speed restrictions. With these steps, the train running over Konkan Railway portion during January and February, 1999 has improved considerably and the train are now running well. Steps to increase the revenue include:—

(i) Improving occupancy of trains.

(ii) Introduction of holiday special trains for catering the extra rush.

Regarding freight traffic, whatever traffic was foreseen at the time of drawing up the Project Report of Konkan Railway Corporation has not fully materialised. Even the actual traffic on the Indian Railway system is falling short of the current year's forecast, with the result the prospects of any substantial traffic being available for diversion over the Konkan Railway have become very slim. However, intensive marketing efforts have been consistently made by Konkan Railway Corporation to attract freight traffic. Recently, Roll-on/roll-off service for carrying loaded trucks over the Konkan Railway jurisdiction has been introduced to attract more freight traffic.

(d) The Corporation has not asked for extension in the payment of Bonds to be paid in March, 1999. All those Bond Holders who want to redeem the Bonds in March, will be paid their money. However, as the Corporation proposes to re-issue the Bonds for a further period of 5 years, it has given the option to Bond Holders to continue with the same Bond for another 5 years or to redeem it in case they do not choose to do so.

(e) The total value of the bonds for which this option has been given to Bond Holders is Rs. 140.70 crores.

*[English]*

**Flights on Delhi-Port Blair Sector**

1240. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether earlier there were flights from Delhi to Port Blair;

(b) if so, the time from which these flights were withdrawn alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore these flights to encourage tourism; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines introduced a thrice weekly B-737 service between Delhi/Port Blair via Bhubaneshwar on 20th April, 1989. This was withdrawn from 20th November, 1989 because of poor load factor.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

*[Translation]*

**Installation of TV and Communication Towers in Joint Form**

1241. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the previous Government had decided to install TV and communication towers in collective/joint form;

(b) if so, whether the present Government are following the same policy; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) Utilisation of Department of Telecom's (DOT) tower for TV transmitter antenna is done wherever possible subject to suitability for both Doordarshan and DOT.

*[English]*

**Setting up of New Pepsi Bottling Plant**

1242. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the location of Pepsi Bottling Plants functioning in the country and specially in Maharashtra at present;

(b) whether the Government have granted approval for the setting up of new Pepsi Bottling Plant in Mumbai and also at some other places in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The details of bottling plants owned and franchised by M/s. Pepsico India Holding Limited are given in the Statement attached.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

*List of bottling plants owned and franchised by M/s Pepsico India Holdings Ltd.*

| Sl. No. | Plant | FPO Number | Plant Address |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Mumbai | 730 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, Off. Sion, Trombay Road, Chembur, Mumbai-400 088. |
| 2. | Mumbai-Roha | 7974 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, 100/1 A Road, MIDC Dhatav, Roha, Dist. Raigarh (Maharashtra) |
| 3. | Ahmedabad | 9547 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, Plot No. 71-74, G.I.D.C. Naroda, Dist. Ahmedabad, Gujarat. |
| 4. | Rajkot | 5790 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, 191/P, Bamanbor, Dist. Rajkot-363 520, Gujarat. |
| 5. | Jhagadia | 10598 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, Plot No. 27, G.I.D.C. Estate, Jhagadia (Dist. Bharuch), Gujarat. |
| 6. | Jainpur (Kanpur) | 9886 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, Plot No. A-2, UPSIDC Industrial Area, Jainpur Dist. Kanpur Dehat (U.P.) |
| 7. | Sathariya | 8532 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, Plot A-36, Sathariya Industrial Area, Near Varanasi, Sathariya, Dist. Jaunpur (Uttar Pradesh) |
| 8. | Bazpur | 9886/1 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, A-2, UPSIDC Site II, Industrial Estate, Bazpur-262 401, Distt. Udham Singh Nagar |
| 9. | Sonarpur | 10608 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, JL-47, Barhans Fartabad, Charaktala, 24 Parganas South, Calcutta-700 084. |
| 10. | Panagarh | 7131 | Aradhana Beverages & Foods Co. Limited, Dharala, G.T. Road, P.O. Panagarh Bazar, Panagarh, Dist. Burdwan, West Bengal. |
| 11. | Chennai | 8838 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, No. 6 GST Road, Mamandur Village, Maduranthagam Taluk, Via Madras, Dist. Chengai MGR-603111. |
| 12. | Madurai | 6949 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, National Highway No. 5, 7 Parvai Road, Dist. Madurai North, Tamil Nadu. |
| 13. | Bangalore (Nelamangla) | 6865/1 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, 34th KM Stone, National Highway 4, Village Peppada Begur, Nelamangla, Bangalore-562123. |
| 14. | Bangalore | 6865 | Pepsico India Holdings Limited, Plot No. 23(P), Phase 1, Kumbalgodu Industrial Estate, Bangalore-560074. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15. | Nagpur | 2471 | Universal Drinks Private Limited, Wardha Road, Nagpur-440015, Maharashtra. |
| 16. | Agra | 2380/5848 | Agra Beverages Corporation Limited, 12 Km. Stone, Agra-Delhi Highway, Agra-282007, Uttar Pradesh. |
| 17. | Delhi | 5847 | Pearl Drinks Limited, B-42, Lawrence Road Industrial Area, Delhi-110035. |
| 18. | NOIDA | 9577 | Devyani Beverages Limited, Plot No. 2, Suraj Pur Bypass, Greater Noida, Dist. Bulandshar-201326 (U.P.) |
| 19. | Ludhiana | 7910 | Dhillon Kool Drinks & Beverages Ltd., G.T. Road, Near Ludhiana, Phillaur, Dist. Jalandhar, Punjab. |
| 20. | Raipur | 6493 | Chattisgarh Beverages Private Limited, 26 & 30, Urla Industrial Area, Dist. Raipur, Madhya Pradesh. |
| 21. | Panipat | 8835 | Dhillon Kool Drinks & Beverages Ltd., Karnal-Panipat G.T. Road, Aligaspur, Dist. Panipat (Haryana). |
| 22. | Jaipur | 9898 | Varun Beverages Limited, Khasra No. 282, Gram Balmukandpura, Bahagadur; Tehsil Sanganer, Dist. Jaipur. |
| 23. | Bhopal | 10370 | SMV Beverages Private Limited, Plot No. 28, Sector NEW, Mandi Deep, Distt. Raisen, Madhya Pradesh. |
| 24. | Jaipur | 2226 | Jai Drinks Private Limited, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur. |
| 25. | Patna | 10607 | Lumbini Beverages Private Limited, H-2, EPIP, Industrial Area, Hajipur (Vaishali) |
| 26. | Goa | 7922 | Goa Bottling Co., Arlem, P.O. Salcette, Margaon, Goa. |
| 27. | Jamshedpur | 2225/6883 | Steel City Beverages Limited, Adityapur-Kandra Road, Adityapur, Dist. Jamshedpur-831013, Bihar. |
| 28. | Goa | 2912 | Goa Bottling Co., Arlem, P.O. Salcette, Margaon, Goa. |
| 29. | Dharwad | 5916 | Neclar Beverages Private Limited, ADJ-G.T.C. Belgaum Road, Post Box No. 205, K.C. Park, P.O. Dharwad-580008. |
| 30. | Guwahati | 10850 | North East Pure Drinks Private Limited, Ranipat-Gaon, Guwahati-781017. |
| 31. | Hyderabad | 5035 | Charminar Bottling Co. Ltd., Pothireddypally, Mandal, Sangareddy, Distt. Medak-502295. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 32. | Cuttack | 2229 | Tripty Drinks Private Limited, Jagatpur-754021, Dist. Cuttack, Orissa. |
| 33. | Vishakhapatnam | 8558 | Krishna Mohan Beverages & Construction Pvt. Ltd., Chandrampalem, Madhurawada, Dist. Vizhakapatnam-530040, A.P. |
| 34. | Guntur | 10605 | Pearl Beverages Limited, 302/325, Nadim Palem, (SPO), Yadlapadu-522019, Guntur (Andhra Pradesh) |
| 35. | Nagaland | 5874/76 | Nagaland Beverages Private Limited, New Industrial Estate, Rangapahar Road, Dist. Dimapur-797112 (Nagaland) |

**Techno-Economic Survey in F.P.I.**

1243. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have done any Techno-Economic Survey in regard to scope of food processing industries in the hill districts of Assam;

(b) if so, main features of the report of such survey; and

(c) the amount of fund released for the hill districts of Assam as subsidy or grant to establish food processing industries during the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry has not conducted any Techno-Economic Survey in regard to scope of food processing industries in the hill districts of Assam, namely, Karbi Anglong and North Cachar hills.

(c) The Ministry has not provided any financial assistance as subsidy or grant to establish food processing industries in the hill districts of Assam during the current Five Year Plan.

**Night landing Facility at Agartala Airport**

1244. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether night landing facility has been provided at Agartala airport; and

(b) if not, the date from which the night landing facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Complaints from Private Airlines**

1245. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received from the passengers of Private Airlines during 1998 and 1999; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Complaints relating to denial of seats on confirmed ticket, ill-treatment of the passengers, refund on cancellation of tickets, loss of baggage, sudden cancellation of flights etc. are received from passengers travelling on private airlines. On receipt of such complaints comments of the concerned private airlines are obtained for examination and efforts are made to settle their grievances, wherever possible. Data on number of complaints received from the passengers of private airlines is however not maintained.

**Strike by ATCs**

1246. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure on one Air Traffic Controller (ATC) at present;

(b) the total mandays lost due to Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs) agitation or strike or remaining absent from work;

(c) whether Government propose to frame stringent code of conduct for ATCs for flight safety;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The average pay and allowances of an Air Traffic Controller at the level of Manager is Rs. 15,243/-. In addition, he is entitled to a varying rate of Rating Allowance and stress Allowance upto a maximum of Rs. 13,500/- p.m. and other Perks like LTC, medical reimbursement for self and family, summer/winter uniform and Productivity Linked Incentives.

(b) Though there has been no strike by Air Traffic Controllers; but they resorted to "Go-Slow" and "Work-to-Rule" agitation from 1.2.1999, causing serious disruption of flights at all major airports in the country.

(c) to (e) All the employees of the Airports Authority of India, including the Air Traffic Controllers are covered under the Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Regulations of the AAI.

To deal with the go slow agitation, a contingency plan was prepared by the AAI. A notification under ESMA (Essential Services Maintenance Act) has been issued by the National Capital Territory of Delhi on 16-02-1999 declaring air traffic services as essential services. A notification has also been issued for conferring on certain Central Government officers the power of arrest, investigation and prosecution under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act. Air Traffic Controllers Guild has given an assurance to Delhi High Court on 19-02-1999 that there shall be no disruption of flight schedules. AAI has also taken strict disciplinary action by dismissing six delinquent air traffic controllers. At present, flights are operating normally.

*[Translation]*

**Survey for Rajhara-Jagdalpur Railway Line**

1247. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of survey conducted so far to lay railway track from Rajhara to Jagdalpur;

(b) whether the contract for laying railway track on the said route has been given to some private firm;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government have any plan for afforestation work equivalent to that forest which would be destroyed for rail track; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) 3 nos. of surveys, with the earliest dating back to 1914-16, have been conducted so far.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The project is proposed to be carried out in two phases, *viz.*, the 1st phase (Dallirajahara-Rowghat: 95 kms.) and the 2nd phase (Rowghat-Jagdalpur: 140 kms.), and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Rehabilitation of Child Labour**

1248. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released by the Government for rehabilitation of child labour to each States/UTs during the last three years:

(b) whether a fresh survey proposed to be undertaken to identify child labour; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Under the scheme of National Child Labour Projects, financial assistance is given directly to the child

labour project societies at the district level for running special schools for the rehabilitation of child labour. Under the scheme, State Governments are not provided any financial assistance directly for rehabilitation of child labour. Funds released under various child labour schemes for the last three years are as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 3429.71 lakh |
| 1996-97 | 3383.50 lakh |
| 1997-98 | 1317.76 lakh |

(b) and (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had, in its judgement dated 10.12.96 directed that a survey should be conducted for identification of child labour. The first phase of the survey has already been completed in most of the States/UTs. The number of children working in hazardous and non hazardous occupations in different States/UTs identified in the first phase of the survey is 1,26,665 and 4,28,305 respectively.

**Recruitment in Doordarshan and AIR, Assam**

1249. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of recruitment of technical and other staff for Doordarshan and All India Radio Stations in Assam is lying pending since long time;

(b) whether several Doordarshan Kendras and All India Radio Stations in the State are not functioning properly for want of adequate number of technical and other staff; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken for recruitment of staff for proper functioning of Doordarshan/Akashwani Kendras in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir. The due process for filling of all vacant posts in Doordarshan and All India Radio is already underway.

(b) and (c) A few All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras are running partial transmission with truncated staff. Efforts are made on a continuous basis to obtain staff sanction from the competent authority and fill up the posts as per rules.

**Conversion of AIR Station at Asansol**

1250. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1680 on June 8, 1998 and state:

(a) the time by which AIR station at Asansol to be converted into full-fledged AIR station; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to set-up studio there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) At present, there is no approved proposal for setting up of an AIR Studio at Asansol or to convert it into a full-fledged AIR station.

**Disparity in Pay Scales**

1251. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a disparity in the pay scales of Stenographers working in the Directorates of AIR and Doordarshan and the Stenographers working in various field offices of AIR/Doordarshan;

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

(c) whether the Government feels this disparity is justified even after the formation of the Prasar Bharati; and

(d) if not, the steps envisaged to rectify this disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) The pay scales of various categories of stenographers in Directorates of AIR & Doordarshan are the same as obtaining in various Departments of the Government of India since these posts are cadre posts of Central Secretariat Stenographers Services. The posts of various categories of stenographers in the field offices of AIR & Doordarshan come under the category of posts in the subordinate formations for which different pay scales have been prescribed by the respective Pay Commissions including the 5th Central Pay Commission.

(c) and (d) Since the employees of Doordarshan and All India Radio have not been formally transferred to Prasar Bharati as per the provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, they still continue to be Government servants and, therefore, are still governed by the pay scales applicable to them unless there are any special circumstances in which Government have agreed for a deviation from the same.

**Doubling of Bandel-Katwa Railway Line**

1252. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work for doubling of Bandel-Katwa railway line is expeditiously done;

(b) whether the Government propose to start doubling work of above line immediately after completion of the survey; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

**Window Panes in EMU Trains**

1253. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 80% window panes of the EMU trains running between New Delhi/Ghaziabad and New Delhi/Palwal are missing resulting in great inconvenience to the passengers especially daily passengers during winter and rainy seasons;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide window panes in all the EMU trains and its proper maintenance; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the persons responsible for the maintenance of these EMU trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The deficiency of window panes in EMU trains is basically on account of law and order. These window panes are made of Aluminium and are being frequently pilfered on line by anti-social elements. Efforts are being made to make good the deficiency. In order to reduce the theft, Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic type window panes have already been developed which are considered to have no resale value and are being provided in EMU trains in a phased manner. Being an anti-social activity, Railway Protection Force is also regularly checking the coaches to control the menace.

(c) Does not arise.

**Acquisition of Land for Haridaspur-Paradip Rail Line**

1254. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether land acquisition has been started for Haridaspur-Paradip rail line in Orissa;

(b) if so, the total private/public land acquired for the above line;

(c) whether the compensation has been paid to those persons whose land has been acquired; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Land acquisition is under process and the same is yet to be over.

(c) and (d) Till date a total amount of Rs. 5.00 crore has been deposited by the Railways with the State Government towards payment of the compensation.

**Criteria for Fixing Rates of Eatables**

1255. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any criteria for fixing up the rates of all eatables, tea, coffee, cold drinks, etc. at New Delhi, Delhi and Nizamuddin railway stations; and

(b) if so, the rates fixed for each eatables which are being sold at catering/vending stalls, at New Delhi and Nizamuddin railway stations for the year 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The criteria for fixing the tariff of eatables are based on cost of raw material, preparation, packing and other overhead costs which include staff costs, transport, Sales Tax and other expenses. The rates of Standard meals/ breakfast and tea/coffee are fixed by Railway Board and for the other a-la-carte items such as fast food items and hot/cold beverages sold through Automatic Vending Machines over Delhi, New Delhi and Nizamuddin Railway stations are fixed by Northern Railway.

(b) A statement is attached.

***Statement***

| S.No. | Item | Tariff |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| *Standard items fixed by Railway Board* | | Rs. |
| 1. | Tea in cups (150 ml.) | 2.00 |
| 2. | Coffee in cups (150 ml.) | 3.00 |
| 3. | Tea in pots (285 ml.) | 4.00 |
| 4. | Coffee in pots (285 ml.) | 5.00 |
| 5. | Mineral Water 1 litre bottle (chilled) | 10.00 |
| 6. | *Standard Breakfast (in casseroles)* | |
| | Vegetarian | 12.00 |
| | Non-vegetarian | 15.00 |
| 7. | Janata Khana (in card-board box) | 5.00 |
| 8. | Economy Meals (in casserole) | 10.00 |
| 9. | *Casserole Meals* | |
| | Vegetarian | 20.00 |
| | Non-vegetarian | 24.00 |
| 10. | *Standard Thali meals* | |
| | Vegetarian | 16.00 |
| | Non-vegetarian | 22.00 |

| S.No. | Item | Static Unit |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| *A-la-carte item fixed by Northern Railway* | | |
| 1. | Chicken curry 260 gms | 28.00 |
| 2. | Mutton Roghan Josh 275 gms | 26.00 |
| 3. | Mutton/Fish curry 225 gms | 22.00 |
| 4. | Mutton cutlets (2 pieces) | 20.00 |
| 5. | Fish Fried with chips 135 gms | 22.00 |
| 6. | Egg curry 240 gms. | 14.00 |
| 7. | Omellete (2 eggs) | 8.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 8. | Egg fried (2 eggs) | 8.00 |
| 9. | Eggs poached with one slice bread (2 eggs) | 8.00 |
| 10. | Mutter paneer 200 gms. | 15.00 |
| 11. | Allu mutter/cholley curry 225 gms. | 8.00 |
| 12. | Vegetable cutlets 2 pcs. 150 gms. | 10.00 |
| 13. | Vegetable pullav/Biryani 450 gms. | 15.00 |
| 14. | Rice boiled basmati 450 gms. | 8.00 |
| 15. | Corn flakes 235 gms. | 7.00 |
| 16. | Fruit Salad with cream 110 gms. | 10.00 |
| 17. | Jam/marmalade 25 gms. | 3.00 |
| 18. | Butter portion 10 gms. | 2.00 |
| 19. | Bread slice large (2 pieces) | 1.25 |
| 20. | Palak Paneer 200 gms. | 12.00 |
| 21. | Squash 250 ml. | 5.00 |
| 22. | Sharbat 250 ml. | 4.00 |
| 23. | Kheer Rice/Sewia 140 gms. | 7.00 |
| 24. | Custard 140 gms. | 7.00 |
| 25. | Stuffed Parantha 100 gms. | 3.00 |
| 26. | Salad 150 gms. | 4.50 |
| 27. | Boiled egg each | 3.00 |
| 28. | Idli with sambhar (50 gms, Idli and 60 gms. Sambhar) | 2.00 |
| 29. | Sada Vada (URD) with Sambhar (25 gms. vada and 50 gms. sambhar) | 2.00 |
| 30. | Masala Vada with Sambhar (vada 30 gms. with 60 gms. sambhar) | 2.00 |
| 31. | Masala Dosa with sambhar 150 gms. | 7.00 |
| 32. | Plain Dosa with Sambhar (Dosa 70 gms. with Sambhar 100 gms.) | 5.00 |
| 33. | Espresso Coffee 150 ml. | 4.00 |
| 34. | Soup with one slice bread 150 ml. | 7.00 |
| 35. | Roast Chicken with boiled vegetable 350 gms. | 32.00 |
| 36. | Muttom Roast with Vegetable and Mint Sauce 350 gms. | 28.00 |
| 37. | Shami Kabab (2 pieces) 50 gms. | 15.00 |
| 38. | Dry Vegetable 165 gms. | 8.00 |
| 39. | Boiled vegetable 200 gms. | 8.00 |
| 40. | Chapati 25 gms. | 0.75 |
| 41. | Dal 165 gms. | 5.00 |
| 42. | Potato chips 100 gms. | 6.00 |
| 43. | Curd 100 gms. | 2.50 |
| 44. | Parantha 50 gms. | 1.50 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 45. | Jodhpuri Piyaj Ki Kachori 100 gms. | 6.00 |
| 46. | Rajmah Curry 200 gms. | 5.00 |
| 47. | Shikhanjavi 250 ml. | 3.00 |
| 48. | Rumali Roti 50 gms. | 1.25 |
| 49. | Bread Slice small each | 0.50 |
| 50. | Hamburger Non-vegetarian (65 gms.) | 10.00 |
| 51. | Paneer pakora 120 gms. | 10.00 |
| 52. | Hamburger Vegetarian (50 gms) | 8.00 |
| 53. | Vegetable sandwitch (2 pieces) | 6.00 |

*[Translation]*

**Doubling of Bhopal-Indore Railway Line**

1256. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the laying of double railway line between Bhopal and Indore was started alongwith the latest position thereof;

(b) the total cost thereof and the amount spent thereon as on date; and

(c) the time by which the above line is likely to be doubled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Bhopal-Ujjain-Indore is a 263 kms. BG line in Ratlam Division. Out of this, a double BG line already exists for section between Ujjain-Maksi and Bairagarh-Bhopal. Doubling of single line section on Ujjain-Bhopal section was taken up in 1998-99. Out of the total 183.46 kms., 103.54 kms. has been doubled and balance 79.92 kms is single line section. doubling work is approved on this length except a stretch of 13.15 kms. between Shujalpur and Akodia. Of this, Maksi-Pirumrod (7.46 kms) is being opened in March, 1999 and other sections will be opened progressively as per availability of funds in the coming years.

Indore-Ujjain (80 kms) is a single line section. The traffic on this section has not yet reached the level to warrant its doubling at present.

(b) Total cost of the sanctioned work is Rs. 155.01 crores and expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 74.14 crore.

(c) This work will be progressed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

*[English]*

**Delay in Running of EMU Trains in Kharagpur Division**

1257. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints against the inordinate delays in running of local EMU trains in Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All out efforts at both Headquarters and Divisional level are being made to ensure punctual running of EMU trains on Kharagpur Division. Active liaison with the State Government is also maintained to take remedial measures.

*[Translation]*

**Construction of Over-bridges**

1258. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budget provision was made during the Eighth Five Year Plan for construction of Over-bridge

in Mehar Nagar and under bridge near Kotwali in Satna Nagar under Jabalpur Railway Division;

(b) if so, the reasons for not constructing the above bridges during the said plan; and

(c) the time by which the above bridges are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) (i) Road Over Bridge at Maihar at Km. 1142/14-15 is being processed as a deposit work of PWD and it is understood that PWD is considering to get the work executed on BOT (Build, Operate & Transfer) concept.

(ii) For Satna under Bridge Rs. 61.97 lakh were provided during Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) (i) For Maihar General Arrangement Drawing has been approved by State PWD only on 8.12.1998. Detailed Estimate is under preperation.

(ii) For under bridge at Satna, estimate has to be revised due to change of designs. Acceptance of revised Estimate by State PWD is still awaited.

(c) (i) Work at Maihar Road Over Bridge will be started after acceptance of Estimate by State Government and cost is deposited by PWD with Railways.

(ii) Road Under Bridge at Satna is likely to be completed by December, 2000.

*[English]*

**Expansion of Railway Network**

1259. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated action plan to develop, strengthen and expand Rail Traffic - both passenger and goods in terms of traffic growth projections in the country, especially in the Western region;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of on-going and new projects and modernisation/upgradation of infrastructure network etc.; and

(c) the details of action plan finalised/under consideration for Western region in general and Maharashtra in particular for the current year and the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Expansion of Rail Traffic is planned taking an integrated view of the need for rail transport in the country. However, a number of works taken up in current year as well as works proposed to be taken up will help to develop, strengthen and expand Rail traffic - both passenger and goods in terms of traffic growth projections in the Western Region of the country.

(b) Following projects are in progress which will help in the upgradation of Rail infrastructure in the Western Region:—

**Gauge Conversion**

(1) Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur

(2) Agra Fort-Bandikui

(3) Pipar Road-Bilara

(4) Rewari-Sadulpur

(5) Luni-Barmer-Munabao

(6) Sri Ganganagar-Sarupsar Canal

(7) Bhildi-Samdari

(8) Ghandidham-Bhuj

(9) Ghandidham-Palanpur

(10) Rajkot-Veraval

(11) Surendranagar-Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension to Pipavav

(12) Bhildi-Viramgam

(13) Neemuch-Ratlam

(14) Wankaner-Maliyamiyana

(15) Dharangdhara-Kuda

(16) Miraj-Latur

(17) Solapur-Hotgi-Gadag

**Additional Lines**

(1) Borivli-Virar: Quadrupling

(2) Mumbai Central-Santa Cruz: 5th & 6th Line

(3) Makshi-Bhopal: Patch Doubling

(4) Kurla-Thane: 5th & 6th Line

(5) Seawood-Uran

(6) Belapur-Palvel

(7) Thane-Turbhe-Nerul-Vashi: Part of corridor No. 2 in Navi Mumbai

(8) Diva-Vasai Road: Doubling

(9) Daund-Bhigwan

**New Lines**

(1) Panvel-Karjat

(2) Amravati-Narkher

(3) Ahmadnagar-Beed-Parli Vaijnathdham

(4) Baramati-Lonand

(5) Kopargaon-Shirdi

(6) Kapadvanj-Modasa

(7) Diva-Kalyan: 5th & 6th Line

**Railway Electrification**

(1) Udhna-Jalgaon

**Others**

(1) Automatic signalling on Virar-Dahanu Road section.

(2) Train Describer system in Church Gate-Virar section.

(3) Train Describer system in Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai-Kalyan section.

(4) Conversion from DC to AC in Mumbai suburban.

(c) Following major works have been sanctioned in the Western Region in the current year in general and in Maharashtra in particular:—

(1) 5th & 6th Line between Diva and Kalyan in Maharashtra.

(2) Remodelling of Nagpur Yard in Maharashtra.

Following major works are under consideration in the Western Region and in Maharashtra in particular. Depending upon their need, feasibility and availability of resources, they may be taken up during the Ninth Plan period.

(1) Doubling of Bhigwan-Solapur section in Maharashtra.

(2) Doubling of Hotgi-Gulbarga section in Maharashtra.

(3) Doubling of Delhi-Ahmedabad section.

(4) 3rd Line between Virar and Ahmedabad.

(5) New Line between Veraval and Kodinar.

(6) New Line between Kodinar and Pipavav.

(7) New Line between Porbada and Porbada Port.

(8) Linking of Ghandinagar to Ahmedabad-Delhi main line.

(9) Gauge Conversion of Bhuj-Naliya section.

(10) Gauge Conversion of Udaipur-Ahmedabad section.

(11) Gauge Conversion of Pratapnagar-Chhota Udaipur section.

(12) Gauge Conversion of Kalol-Katosa section.

(13) Gauge Conversion of Wansjaliya-Jetalsar section.

(14) Gauge Conversion of Mehsana-Taranga Hill section.

**Missing of Containers**

1260. SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether around 1453 import containers are missing from CONCOR ICD, Tughlakabad, during the period 1993 to 1998;

(b) if so, the approximate duty evaded on this account during each of the last five years;

(c) whether the CONCOR ICD took loan from IFCI at the interest rate of 24% p.a. for purchasing the terminal operating equipments where as the same loan was transferred to private contractors at the interest rates of 16% to 18% p.a. for the purchase of the same equipments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) There has not been any case of missing of container from CONCOR ICD/Tughlakabad during the period 1993 to 1998.

(c) and (d) CONCOR had availed of one loan from IFCI in the year 1991 at 23% (not 24%) interest towards purchase of two rubber tyred gantry cranes which are currently installed in the terminal at Tughlakabad. These were imported from Singapore for which the company was required to pay in foreign exchange. It was on the direction of the Government of India in relation to the import licence for this equipment that CONCOR approached IFCI for sanction of foreign currency loan. CONCOR did not avail of the IFCI loan due to shortage of funds but only as the means of obtaining foreign exchange, on the direction of the Government, to pay for the equipment.

There is no question of CONCOR subsequently loaning these funds to anyone for financing procurement of similar equipment since both the gantry cranes have been procured and are currently deployed in Tughlakabad. Further, no advance has been sanctioned by CONCOR for purchase of Rubber Tyred Gantry Crane.

**Indian Institute of Mass Communication in Karnataka**

1261. SHRI C.P.M. GIRYAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up any branch of Indian Institute of Mass Communication in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Railway Projects in Gujarat**

1262. SHRI JAYASINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals for Rail projects received from Gujarat during each of the last three years;

(b) the action taken on each of the proposal;

(c) the details of the surveys conducted during the said period;

(d) the details of the work undertaken for the improvement and expansion of Rail Network in Gujarat during the said period; and

(e) the reasons for the slow progress in the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Proposals for rail projects are neither formulated nor proposed State-wise. However, suggestions are received from various sources including the State Government, pertaining to projects located in Gujarat.

In the recent past following suggestions have been received from the Government of Gujarat. Steps taken against each of these projects are also indicated.

(1) **Extension of Rajkot-Veraval Gauge Conversion project to Kodinar:** The proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Railways and if found necessary action will be taken up subject to availability of resources.

(2) **Gauge Conversion of Samkhiyali-Palanpur section:** This work has been sanctioned in 1998-99.

(3) **Gauge Conversion of Surendranagar-Rajula section and its extension upto Pipavav:** This work has been sanctioned.

(4) **Gauge Conversion of Bharuch-Dahej section:** This proposal is under consideration as a part of the 3rd line project between Virar and Ahmedabad.

(5) **Gauge Conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj-Naliya section:** Gandhidham-Bhuj Gauge Conversion has been sanctioned. Survey for Bhuj-Naliya section is in progress.

(6) **Gauge Conversion of Naviakhi-Dahisara-Morbi-Wankaner and Dahisara Maliya-Miyana sections:** This is a sanctioned work.

(7) **Gauge Conversion of Dharangdhara-Kuda section:** This is a sanctioned work.

(8) **Gauge Conversion from Porbandar Railway Station to Porbandar Port:** A survey for determining the necessity and feasibility of the work has been sanctioned.

(9) **New Line from Jamnagar Bedi Port to Rosipier:** There is no immediate operational necessity for this line.

(10) **New Line between Kapadwanj and Modasa:** This is a sanctioned work.

(11) **New Line between Bhavnagar and Tarapur:** There is no immediate operational need for this line.

(12) **Provision of an additional B.G. line between Ahmedabad and Mumbai:** Proposal for an additional line between Virar and Ahmedabad is under active consideration of the Ministry of Railways.

(13) **Gauge Conversion of Viramgam-Mehsana section:** This work has been sanctioned.

(14) **Gauge Conversion of Mehsana-Patan section:** This work has been sanctioned.

(15) **Gauge Conversion of Ankleshwar-Rajpipla M.G. line:** Surveys conducted in the past have revealed inadequate traffic prospects. Therefore this work has not been taken up.

(16) **Gauge Conversion of Miyagam-Samaliya section:** This proposal is under consideration as a part of the 3rd line project between Virar and Ahmedabad.

(17) **Gauge Conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar M.G. line:** Survey is in progress.

(18) **Gauge Conversion of Chhota Udaipur-Pratapnagar section:** Survey is in progress.

(c) Following surveys are being conducted in Gujarat:—

(1) Doubling of Delhi-Ahmedabad section.

(2) 3rd Line between Virar and Ahmedabad.

(3) New Line between Veraval and Kodinar.

(4) New Line between Kodinar and Pipavav

(5) New Line between Porbandar and Porbandar Port.

(6) Linking of Gandhinagar to Ahmedabad-Delhi main line.

(7) Gauge Conversion of Bhuj-Naliya section.

(8) Gauge Conversion of Udaipur-Ahmedabad section.

(9) Gauge Conversion of Pratapnagar-Chhota Udaipur section.

(10) Gauge Conversion of Kalol-Katosan section.

(11) Gauge Conversion of Wansjaliya-Jetalsar section.

(12) Gauge Conversion of Mehsana-Taranga Hill section.

(13) Gauge Conversion of Dhola-Mahuva (via Dhasa-Dungar) section

(14) Gauge Conversion of Bharuch-Samni-Jambusar section.

(15) Gauge Conversion of Jambusar-Kavi section.

(16) Gauge Conversion of Bhadrn-Nadiad section.

(17) Gauge Conversion of Miyagam-Samaliya.

(18) Gauge Conversion of Gandhidham-Palanpur section.

(d) Following projects have been undertaken for the improvement and expansion of Rail network in Gujarat:—

**Gauge Conversion**

(1) Ghandidham-Bhuj

(2) Ghandidham-Palanpur

(3) Rajkot-Veraval

(4) Surendranagar-Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension to Pipavav

(5) Bhildi-Viramgam

(6) Wankaner-Maliyamiyana

(7) Dharangdhara-Kuda

**New Lines**

Kapadvanj-Modasa

**Railway Eectrification**

Udhna-Jalgaon

(e) All New Line and Gauge Conversion projects have been prioritised on the basis of their physical progress, operational necessity, National & strategic importance and social desirability. Funds are allotted to these projects according to their relative priority. The progress of these projects are therefore dependent upon their priority.

*[Translation]*

**Employment Exchanges in Rajasthan**

1263. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered in each employment exchange in Rajasthan alongwith the trades for which they have been registered; and

(b) the number of SC/ST persons registered out of them, employment exchange-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Employment Exchange-wise information showing the number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the live register of employment exchanges in Rajasthan as on 30.6.98 (latest available) is furnished in the Statement attached. Information seperately for trades is not maintained.

***Statement***

*Number of Job-Seekers on Live Register and Employment Exchanges in Rajasthan as on 30th June, 1998*

*(In thousands)*

| Name of Employment Exchange | Total | SC Included in Total | ST Included in Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Ajmer | 38.3 | 9.2 | 0.6 |
| Alwar | 50.7 | 9.5 | 4.2 |
| Banswara | 14.0 | 1.0 | 4.5 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barmer | 12.7 | 2.4 | 0.5 |
| Bharatpur | 40.6 | 5.2 | 1.3 |
| Bhilwara | 21.1 | 3.2 | 1.3 |
| Bikaner | 27.6 | 3.3 | 0.2 |
| Bundi | 12.8 | 1.7 | 1.5 |
| Chittorgarh | 21.4 | 3.8 | 1.6 |
| Churu | 20.0 | 2.3 | 0.3 |
| Dungurpur | 12.0 | 0.7 | 4.9 |
| Jaipur | 164.1 | 26.5 | 14.8 |
| Jaipur (P & E) | 28.8 | 1.4 | 0.8 |
| Jaipur (P. H.) | 3.8 | 1.4 | 0.3 |
| Jaiselmer | 5.5 | 1.1 | 0.2 |
| Jalore | 9.0 | 2.3 | 0.4 |
| Jhalawar | 12.4 | 1.8 | 1.2 |
| Jhunjhunu | 37.3 | 6.4 | 0.7 |
| Jodhpur | 42.5 | 7.5 | 0.9 |
| Kota | 34.6 | 6.6 | 2.2 |
| Nagaur | 28.4 | 1.9 | @ |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pali | 17.1 | 4.5 | 0.6 |
| Sikar | 25.6 | 3.9 | 1.0 |
| Sirohi | 9.0 | 2.3 | 0.7 |
| Sri-Ganganagar | 19.3 | 3.2 | 0.2 |
| Swai-Madhopur | 34.2 | 5.7 | 7.8 |
| Tonk | 24.2 | 4.1 | 2.0 |
| Udaipur | 37.7 | 5.9 | 6.9 |
| Rajsamand | 12.8 | N.A. | N.A. |
| Baran | 10.4 | 1.1 | 0.7 |
| Dosa | 20.3 | 2.7 | 2.1 |
| Hanumangarh | 14.7 | 2.7 | 0.1 |
| Ajmer (P.H.) | 1.2 | 0.2 | @ |
| Alwar (P.H.) | 1.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Jaipur (U.E.B.) | 0.3 | @ | @ |
| Jodhpur (U.E.B.) | 1.9 | 0.1 | @ |
| Udaipur (U.E.B.) | 1.0 | @ | @ |
| Bikaner (U.E.B.) | 0.4 | N.A. | N.A |
| Total | 868.8 | 134.8 | 64.6 |

Note: 1. Figures may not tally due to rounding off.
2. @ less than fifty.
3. N.A.—Not available.

*[English]*

**ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries in Punjab**

1264. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial workers covered under ESI scheme at present in Punjab and the percentage of increase in coverage taking place during the last three years; and

(b) the number of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries in that State, District-wise, as on date and those proposed to be set up during 1999?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The progressive coverage of the industrial workers under the ESI Scheme in the State was as under:—

| Year | No. of workers covered |
|---|---|
| 31.3.96 | 3,65,850 |
| 31.3.97 | 4,10,600 |
| 31.3.98 | 4,20,850 |

(b) There are 7 ESI Hospitals and 70 Dispensaries functioning in the State of Punjab. The hospitals are located at Amritsar, Jallandhar, Ludhiana, Mohali, Phagwara, Rajpura and Hoshiarpur. The location of ESI dispensaries is given in the Statement attached. A new 50 bedded ESI hospital at Mandi Govindgarh is at an advanced stage of completion.

***Statement***

| S.No. | Name of Dispensary |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. | Chhehreta |
| 2. | Taran Taran |
| 3. | Amritsar |
| 4. | Goindwal Sahib |
| 5. | Verka |
| 6. | Gidderbaha |
| 7. | Kotkapura |
| 8. | Malout Mandi No. 1 |
| 9. | Malout Mandi No. 2 |
| 10. | Moga |
| 11. | Abohar |
| 12. | Batala |
| 13. | Dhariwal |
| 14. | Pathankot |
| 15. | Dina Nagar |
| 16. | Hoshiarpur |
| 17. | Ualla Khurd |
| 18. | Purhiran |
| 19. | Chehal |
| 20. | Mukerian |
| 21. | Jalandhar No. 1 |
| 22. | Jalandhar No. 2 |
| 23. | Jalandhar No. 3 |
| 24. | Jalandhar No. 4 |
| 25. | Jalandhar No. 5 |
| 26. | Gorwan |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| 27. | Phillour |
| 28. | Bhatinda No. 1 |
| 29. | Bhatinda No. 2 |
| 30. | Bhatinda No. 3 |
| 31. | Mansa |
| 32. | Kapurthala |
| 33. | Hamira |
| 34. | Phagwara No. 1 |
| 35. | Phagwara No. 2 |
| 36. | Ludhiana No. 1 |
| 37. | —do— 2 |
| 38. | —do— 3 |
| 39. | —do— 4 |
| 40. | —do— 5 |
| 41. | —do— 6 |
| 42. | —do— 7 |
| 43. | —do— 8 |
| 44. | —do— 10 |
| 45. | —do— 11 |
| 46. | —do— 12 |
| 47. | Khanna |
| 48. | Bahaduragarh |
| 49. | Rajpura No. 1 |
| 50. | Rajpura No. 2 |
| 51. | Nabha |
| 52. | Patiala |
| 53. | Bhankerpur |
| 54. | Birhind |
| 55. | Dera Bassi |
| 56. | Gobindgarh No. 1 |
| 57. | Gobindgarh No. 2 |
| 58. | Kharar |
| 59. | Rali Majra |
| 60. | Asron |
| 61. | Banah |
| 62. | Mohali No. 1 |
| 63. | Mohali No. 2 |
| 64. | Jitwal Kalan |
| 65. | Barnala No. 1 |
| 66. | Barnala No. 2 |
| 67. | Malerkotla |
| 68. | Ahmedgarh |
| 69. | Sangrur |
| 70. | Akbarpur |

**Permanent Rail Passes to Freedom Fighters**

1265. SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Freedom Fighters holding Railway Passes are also permitted to travel by Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) As per the scheme finalised in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs, Freedom Fighters are not eligible to travel by Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains on Freedom Fighters pass, except for ex-Andaman political prisoners (about 50 numbers) who have been allowed this facility as a special privilege.

(b) The scheme has been finalised by the Ministry of Home Affairs who bear the cost of passes issued to Freedom Fighters. The scheme does not envisage travel by Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains by the Freedom Fighters holding Railway Passes except for ex-Andaman Political prisoners in view of financial implications as well as limited accommodation available on these trains.

**Survey for Mainaguri-Jogighopa Rail Line**

1266. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work has been completed for construction of Mainaguri-Mathabhanga-New Coochbehar-Jogighopa railway line; and

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work of above line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. The survey is in progress.

(b) Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

**Institutes of Hotel Management and Catering Technologies**

1267. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the posts of Principals in the Institutes of Hotel Management and Catering Technologies set up by the Government are transferable;

(b) if so, whether a number of Principals of these institutes have not been transferred for the last so many years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the date by which the amended bye-laws will be adopted by all the Institutes; and

(e) the steps contemplated by the Government in the event when all Institutes do not adopt these stipulated bye-laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) In the existing Bye-Laws, there is no provision for transfer of Principals from one autonomous Institute to other.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Amendment of Bye-Laws to enable transfer of Principals has been suggested. Efforts are being made to generate a consensus to ensure amendments of Bye-Laws by all the Institutions.

**Airport in Sikkim**

1268. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Sikkim has been repeatedly requesting the Government for setting up of an airport in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) There is a request from the Government of Sikkim for development of an airport in Sikkim. This matter would be further considered as and when the project report of

the private agency engaged by the Sikkim Government for construction of an airport at Pakyong is received.

*[Translation]*

**Completion of Survey Work of Fatuha-Shekhpura Railway Line**

1269. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the time by which the survey work of Fathuha-Chandi-Asthawa-Varvigha-Shekhpura railway line is likely to be completed and the construction work undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): Surveys have been taken up for new BG lines from Fatua-Danapur via Dniawan & Punpun and between Daniawan-Shekhpura via Chandi, Bihar Sharif and Barbigha. These surveys are expected to be completed by June, 1999. Further consideration of the projects will be possible once the survey reports become available.

*[English]*

**Proposal to Privatise ESI Hospitals**

1270. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the E.S.I. hospitals;

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

(c) whether the Government have constituted any Committee for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government had constituted on 22nd July, 1998 a four-Member Committee to review medical facilities available in ESI hospitals/dispensaries. The Committee has since submitted its report.

**Promotions of Undeserving Officers in I.A.F.**

1271. SHRI A.C. JOS:
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "The Undeserving Fly high in IAF Study" appeared in 'The Time of India' dated February 2, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps proposed to be taken in this regard and also to take note of such cases in the other two services where the officers have gone to courts to get justice?

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

(b) An Inhouse Committee on Flight Safety was constituted by Indian Air Force to review the aircraft accidents/incidents and recommend measures to enhance flight safety in the Indian Air Force. Air Force authorities have reported that the recommendations regarding training and personnel policies have since been implemented adequately.

(c) The system of selection for promotion in the Services is just and fair and has stood the test of time. However, occasionally some officer who does not get selected, may perceive himself to be wronged. Provisions exist for such officers to represent to the Central Government against their supersession/Annual confidential Reports, by way of Statutory Complaints or the legal process.

*[Translation]*

**Connecting of Bilaspur by T.V. Channels**

1272. ER. SHANKAR PANNU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Madhya Pradesh which have been connected by T.V. Channels 1 and 2;

(b) the reasons for not connecting all the districts of the State including Bilaspur by these channels; and

(c) the time by which these districts are likely to be connected by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) DD-I and DD-II and all the other channels of Doordarshan are available throughout the country via satellite and could be received by using appropriate dish antenna system. All the districts of Madhya Pradesh are, wholly or partially, covered by the terrestrial transmitters of DD-I service functioning either in the same district or in nearby district. DD-II service is available terrestrially by a low power transmitter within its coverage range functioning at Bhopal district of M.P.

(b) and (c) Whereas a Low Power TV transmitter (DD-I) is already functioning at Bilaspur, setting up of TV projects throughout the country, including Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh, is a continuous process which is being carried out by Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan, in a phased manner, depending on availability of resources, and inter-se priorities.

*[English]*

**Purchase of Advanced Jet Trainer**

1273. DR. SANJAY SINH:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since approved the purchase of Advanced Jet Trainers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government has approved the acquisition of Advanced Jet Trainers for the Indian Air Force.

(b) and (c) Commercial negotiations with the shortlisted vendors are in progress. Some additional options are also likely to be considered before an appropriate decision is taken.

**Chinese Base near A&N Islands**

1274. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that China is trying to establish and consolidate its bases and stations in certain islands near Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details of the security threat of such actions to the security of India; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to protect the security and integrity of India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) While China does not have any base of its own near Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Government is aware of the Chinese assistance to Myanmar in the upgradation of the Naval base at Coco Island.

The existence of radar, surveillance equipment and other such sophisticated facilities have security implications for India for which adequate and appropriate measures are being taken.

**Introduction of First Class Coaches**

1275. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the train in which 1st Class coaches have been reintroduced during the last one year;

(b) whether any modification has been carried out in these coaches; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) I Class accommodation has been reintroduced on the following trains:—

1. 3347/3348 Palamou Express
2. 7497/7498 Venkatadri Express
3. 4645/4646 Shalimar Express
4. 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Ranchi Airport**

1276. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether planes have to land at Calcutta airport very often due to non-availability of night landing facilities at the Ranchi airport; and

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government to provide night landing facilities at Ranchi airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Night landing facilities, including the Instrument Landing System are available at Ranchi airport. The State Government has been requested to provide adequate security so that night landing operations can be undertaken by end of March, 1999.

*[English]*

**Working of the ESI Hospitals**

1277. SHRI VAIKO:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps the Government have taken to look into the working of the ESI hospitals for general quality of services rendered and the levels of satisfaction among beneficiaries of the ESI Scheme;

(b) whether a Committee has been constituted to look into the functioning of the ESI hospitals;

(c) the details of the recommendations of the committee;

(d) the Union and the State Government's contribution towards cost of medicare for ESI hospital;

(e) whether there is ceiling on medical care per insured person per annum; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) In July, 1998, the Government had constituted a Committee to review medical facilities available in ESI hospitals/Dispensaries. The Committee has since submitted its report. The recommendations of the Committee relate to enhancement in the ceiling on expenditure on medical care from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 600/ per insured person per annum, vigorous implementation of Action Plan to sanction medical equipments, introduction of Health Record Booklet for each beneficiary, preparation of common formularies and rate contracts for supply of medicines, establishment of Rogi-Kalyan Samities, deterrent penal action for supply of sub-standard drugs, streamlining of the system of local purchases, contractual arrangements for ambulance, cleaning, laundry etc.

(d) The expenditure on medical care under the ESI Scheme is shared between the ESIC and the State Govt. in the ratio of 7:1. The Central Government does not make any contribution to the ESI Scheme.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) At present, the ceiling on medical care under the ESI Scheme is Rs. 500/- per insured person per annum. The ESI Corporation has decided to enhance the ceiling from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 600/- per insured person per annum with effect from 1.4.99.

**Local Radio Stations**

1278. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether there is a need to set up adequate number of local radio stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps that had been taken by the Government in that direction during the Eighth Five Year Plan period alongwith the target fixed and achieved, State-wise; and

(c) the target fixed for the Ninth Five Year Plan period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) During the 8th Plan the Government decided to set up local Radio Stations to make available radio programmes to the people in their dilects and relation to their culture and also to utilise the local talent. 57 local radio stations were proposed to be set up during the 8th plan itself. Out of which 44 have been completed during the 8th Plan itself. Out of remaining 13.2, one each at Hissar

(Haryana) and Raigarh (M.P.) have since been completed and 11 are at various stages of implementation. Statement-11 showing State-wise details is enclosed.

(c) In addition to spill-over projects of 8th Plan, 8 new local radio stations have been sanctioned during the 9th Plan, the details of which are given in Statement-II enclosed.

*Statement-I*

| S.No. | Place | Status |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | Andhra Pradesh | |
| 1. | LRS Kurnool | Achieved |
| 2. | LRS Mercapuram | Achieved |
| 3. | LRS Machhrela | Not-Achieved |
| | Arunachal Pradesh | |
| 4. | LRS Ziro MW | Achieved |
| | Assam | |
| 5. | LRS Halflong | Achieved |
| 6. | LRS Nowgoang | Achieved |
| 7. | LRS Diphu MW | Achieved |
| | Bihar | |
| 8. | LRS Purnea | Achieved |
| 9. | LRS Hazaribagh | Achieved |
| 10. | LRS Daltonganj | Achieved |
| 11. | LRS Chaibassa | Achieved |
| | Gujarat | |
| 12. | LRS Himmat Nagar MW | Not-Achieved |
| | Haryana | |
| 13. | LRS Hissar | Not-Achieved (since completed) |
| | Himachal Pradesh | |
| 14. | LRS Hamirpur | Achieved |
| | Jammu & Kashmir | |
| 15. | LRS Poonab | Achieved |
| | Karnataka | |
| 16. | LRS Hospet | Achieved |
| 17. | LRS Raichur | Achieved |
| 18. | LRS Karwar | Achieved |
| 19. | LRS Bijapur | Achieved |
| | Kerala | |
| 20. | LRS Manjeri | Not-Achieved |
| | Madhya Pradesh | |
| 21. | LRS Raigarh | Achieved |
| 22. | LRS Guna | Achieved |
| 23. | LRS Balaghat | Achieved |
| 24. | LRS Sagar | Achieved |
| 25. | LRS Saraipali MW | Not-Achieved |
| 26. | LRS Mandla | Not-Achieved |
| 27. | LRS Rajgarh MW | Not-Achieved (since completed) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Maharashtra | | |
| 28. | LRS Akola | Achieved |
| 29. | LRS Yeotmal | Achieved |
| 30. | LRS Satara | Achieved |
| 31. | LRS Chandrapur | Achieved |
| 32. | LRS Dhula | Achieved |
| 33. | LRS Nasik | Achieved |
| 34. | LRS Osmanabad | Achieved |
| 35. | LRS Oras | Not-Achieved |
| Manipur | | |
| 36. | LRS Churachandpur | Not-Achieved |
| Meghalaya | | |
| 37. | LRS Jowai | Achieved |
| Nagaland | | |
| 38. | LRS Mokokchung | Achieved |
| Orissa | | |
| 39. | LRS Bolangir | Achieved |
| 40. | LRS Berhampur | Achieved |
| 41. | LRS Rourkela | Achieved |
| 42. | LRS Puri | Achieved |
| 43. | LRS Joranda | Achieved |
| 44. | LRS Soro | Not-Achieved |
| 45. | LRS Rairangapur | Not-Achieved |
| Punjab | | |
| 46. | LRS Patiala | Achieved |
| Rajasthan | | |
| 47. | LRS Sawaimadhopur | Achieved |
| 48. | LRS Jhalwar | Achieved |
| Tripura | | |
| 49. | LRS Kailash Sahar | Achieved |
| 50. | LRS Belonia | Achieved |
| 51. | LRS Dharmanagar | Not-Achieved |
| Uttar Pradesh | | |
| 52. | LRS Bareilley | Achieved |
| 53. | LRS Faizabad | Achieved |
| 54. | LRS Jhansi | Achieved |
| West Bengal | | |
| 55. | LRS Shantiniketan | Not-Achieved |
| Union Territories | | |
| 56. | LRS Daman (D. Diu) | Achieved |
| 57. | LRS Karaikkal (Pondi) | Achieved |

***Statement-II***

| Sl. No. | Place | Target date of completion |
|---|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | | |
| 1. | Kakinada | 2001-2002 |
| 2. | Mehboobnagar | 2001-2002 |
| Gujarat | | |
| 3. | Junagarh | 2000-2001 |
| Kerala | | |
| 4. | Kasargod | 2001-2002 |
| Madhya Pradesh | | |
| 5. | Bailadilla | 2001-2002 |
| Maharashtra | | |
| 6. | Amravati | 2001-2002 |
| Tamilnadu | | |
| 7. | Dharmapuri | 2000-2001 |
| West Bengal | | |
| 8. | Purulia | 2001-2002 |

**Loss Making Sectors of Air India and Indian Airlines**

1279. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loss making sectors operated by Air India and Indian Airlines for the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the losses?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The details are as under:—

| Year | No. of Loss making routes/sectors | |
|---|---|---|
| | Indian Airlines | Air India |
| 1995-96 | 109 | 13 |
| 1996-97 | 120 | 15 |
| 1997-98 | 76 | 12 |

(b) Some of the important steps taken by the two airlines to reduce losses are as under:—

*Air India*

(i) Marketing efforts have been stepped up to generate additional revenue.

(ii) Network rationalisation and consolidation with emphasis placed on route profitability.

(iii) Reduction in expenditure on outside repairs of aircraft by undertaking more in-house repairs.

(iv) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished.

*Indian Airlines*

(i) Closure of off-line stations and reduction in the number of booking offices.

(ii) Ban on recruitment, unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons.

(iii) Drastic cut in the expenditure on office buildings.

(iv) Freeze on capital expenditure unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons.

(v) Reduction in frequencies of loss making routes.

**Air Flights from Delhi to Capitals of North-East**

1280. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to link New Delhi with all the State capitals of North-East; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The status of airlink of capitals of North-Eastern States with New Delhi is as follows:—

| State | Capitals | |
|---|---|---|
| (a) Directly airlinked: | | |
| Assam | Guwahati | |
| Manipur | Imphal | |
| Mizoram | Aizwal | |
| (b) Indirectly airlinked: | | |
| Agartala | Tripura | (*via* Guwahati and Calcutta) |
| (c) Not airlinked: | | nearest airport |
| Arunachal Pradesh | Itanagar | Tezpur/Guwahati |
| Meghalaya | Shillong | Guwahati |
| Nagaland | Kohima | Dimapur |
| Sikkim | Gangtok | Bagdogra |

Operators are free to operate on any route depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines.

Meantime a Task Force has been constituted to examine and make recommendations for improving airport infrastructure and for better air links in the North Eastern region.

*[Translation]*

**Visit of Tourists in Uttar Pradesh**

1281. SHRI ADITYANATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic and foreign tourists visited various Hindu and Buddhist pilgrim places in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the steps taken by Union Government to attract more tourists; and

(c) the revenue earned by the State Government from these tourists during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) According to the statistics available from the State Government, the domestic and foreign tourist visits at Hindu and Buddhist pilgrim places in Uttar Pradesh during 1997 and 1998 are estimated as follows:—

| Year | Pilgrim Places | Number of tourists | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Domestic | Foreign |
| 1997 | Hindu | 29959981 | 347950 |
| | Buddhist | 845692 | 126797 |
| 1998 | Hindu | 32869126 | 381058 |
| | Buddhist | 974175 | 107578 |

(b) The steps taken by the Government to attract more tourists include improvement of infrastructural facilities, strengthening of marketing efforts and sustained human resource development and encouraging private investment. During the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 a sum of Rs. 237.78 lakhs and Rs. 221.10 lakhs respectively was sanctioned to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for the implementation of various tourism development projects to attract more tourists to the State.

(c) The revenue earned through luxury tax by the State Government during 1996-97 and 1997-98 was Rs. 725.39 lakhs and Rs. 807.56 lakhs respectively. The estimates for the pilgrim centres are not available separately.

*[English]*

**Migration of Workers**

1282. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale migration of work force from Orissa; and

(b) if so, the number of people migrated from Orissa to other States during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information made available by the State Government of Orissa, the following number of workers migrated from Orissa to other States through licensed Inter-State Migrant Workmen Contractors during the calendar year 1995 to 1998:

| During the Calendar Year | Number of licensed contractors | Number of Migrant workers drafted |
|---|---|---|
| 1995 | 267 | 8061 |
| 1996 | 307 | 8025 |
| 1997 | 307 | 8061 |
| 1998 | 234 | 6350 |

*[Translation]*

**Criteria for doubling of Railway lines**

1283. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR):
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for doubling of railway-lines;

(b) whether there is any proposal for doubling of metre-gauge railway line between Darbhanga-Nirmapi in Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Doubling of single line sections is taken up when the carrying capacity of the sections gets saturated, freight intensive sections being given priority.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The traffic on this section has not yet reached the level to justify its doubling.

*[English]*

**ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries in U.P.**

1284. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ESI hospitals and dispensaries in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to upgrade or modernise some of the hospitals/dispensaries in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The requisite information is given in the Statement attached.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An amount of Rs. 307.44 lakh has been sanctioned by the ESIC for providing the facilities of Ultrasonography, Semi Auto-analyser, Pulse Oximeter, Cardiac Monitor etc. in various ESI Hospitals of Uttar Pradesh.

***Statement***

| Sl.No. | Name of the State | No. of Dispensaries | No. of Hospitals |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 135 | 9 |
| 2. | Assam | 26 | 1 |
| 3. | Bihar | 56 | 6 |
| 4. | Chandigarh | 2 | — |
| 5. | Delhi | 48 | 3 |
| 6. | Goa | 6 | 1 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 123 | 10 |
| 8. | Haryana | 69 | 5 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 7 | 1 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 149 | 7 |
| 11. | Kerala | 136 | 13 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 64 | 6 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 78 | 13 |
| 14. | Meghalaya | 01 | — |
| 15. | Orissa | 52 | 5 |
| 16. | Pondicherry | 13 | 1 |
| 17. | Punjab | 70 | 7 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 65 | 4 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 160 | 8 |
| 20. | Uttar Pradesh | 145 | 16 |
| 21. | West Bengal | 37 | 13 |
| 22. | J & K | 08 | — |

*[Translation]*

**Development of the Buddhist Tourist Places**

1285. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Buddhist places in the country developed till date and proposed to be developed with the Central assistance, State-wise; and

(b) the funds proposed to be provided for the development of the above places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The Government of India has developed the Buddhist Circuit of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Ajanta and Ellora with the assistance of OECF loan from Japan. In addition, the Ministry of Tourism has also provided Central Financial Assistance for development of tourism infrastructure for the following Buddhist places in the country:

Uttar Pradesh

(i) Piprahwa, Samath, Sravasti, Kushinagar.

Madhya Pradesh

(i) Sanchi

Sikkim

(i) Lachung, Phodong, Pamayantse and Tashiding.

Andhra Pradesh

(i) Nagarjunasagar

Arunachal Pradesh

(i) Tawang Monastery, Tawang

Orissa

(i) Dhauli, Lalitgiri, Udaigiri & Ratnagiri

Maharashtra

(i) Ajanta & Ellora, & Karle

Bihar

(i) Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir & Vaishali

Jammu & Kashmir

(i) Hemis & pethub Monasteries and Choglamser in Leh.

Himachal Pradesh

(i) Tabo/Kaza

The funds sanctioned for the development of these places amount to Rs. 1242.02 lakhs.

*[English]*

**Catering Facilities in Trains**

1286. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the name of Express/ Super Fast trains in which catering service is being provided by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): A Statement is attached.

***Statement***

*Trains running with pantry cars (Departmental)*

| S.No. | Railway | Train No. | Name of Train |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | C.R | 1401/1402 | Panchavati Express |
| 2. | C.R | 1007/1008 | Deccan Express |
| 3. | C.R | 1009/1010 | Sinhagad Express |
| 4. | C.R | 1021/1022 | Indrayani Express |
| 5. | C.R | 2001/2002 | Shatabdi Express |
| 6. | C.R | 2123/2124 | Deccan Queen Express (S.F.) |
| 7. | C.R | 2859/2860 | Gitanjali Express (S.F.) |
| 8. | E.R | 2301/2302 | Rajdhani Express-Via Gaya |
| 9. | E.R | 2303/2304 | Poorva Exp.-Via Patna (S.F) |
| 10. | E.R | 2305/2306 | Rajdhani Express-Via Patna |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11. | E.R | 2381/2382 | Poorva Exp.-Via Gaya (S.F) |
| 12. | E.R | 2391/2392 | Magadh Express (S.F) |
| 13. | E.R | 3029/3030 | Coalfield Express |
| 14. | E.R | 3073/3074 | Himgiri Express |
| 15. | E.R | 3317/3318 | Black Diamond Express |
| 16. | N.E | 2553/2554 | Vaishali Express (S.F) |
| 17. | N.R | 2003/2004 | Shatabdi Express |
| 18. | S.C | 2723/2724 | A.P. Express (S.F) |
| 19. | S.E | 2815/2816 | Puri Express (S.F) |
| 20. | S.E | 2821/2822 | Dhauli Express (S.F) |
| 21. | S.E | 2841/2842 | Coromandal Express (S.F) |
| 22. | S.E | 8001/8002 | Mumbai-Howrah Mail |
| 23. | S.E | 8011/8012 | Ispat Express |
| 24. | S.E | 8013/8014 | Steel Express |
| 25. | S.E | 8237/8238 | Chattisgarh Express |
| 26. | S.E | 8475/8476 | Neelachal Express |
| 27. | S.E | 8477/8478 | Utkal Kalinga Express |
| 28. | S.R | 2605/2606 | Pallavan Express (S.F) (M.G) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 29. | S.R | 2635/2636 | Vaigai Express (S.F) (M.G) |
| 30. | S.R | 2615/2616 | Grand Trunk Express (S.F) |
| 31. | S.R | 2621/2622 | Tamil Nadu Express (S.F) |
| 32. | S.R | 2625/2626 | Kerala Express (S.F) |
| 33. | S.R | 2627/2628 | Karnataka Express (S.F) |
| 34. | S.R | 2639/2640 | Brindavan Express |
| 35. | S.R | 6039/6040 | Varanasi Express |
| 36. | S.R | 6043/6044 | Patna Express |
| 37. | S.R | 6301/6302 | Venad Express |
| 38. | S.R | 6303/6304 | Vanachinad Express |
| 39. | S.R | 6321/6322 | Trivandrum-Guwahati Exp. |
| 40. | S.R | 6333/6334 | Trivandrum-Rajkot Exp. |
| 41. | S.R | 6349/6350 | Parasuram Express |
| 42. | W.R | 2903/2904 | Golden Temple Mail (S.F) |
| 43. | W.R | 2925/2926 | Paschim Express (S.F) |
| 44. | W.R | 2951/2952 | Rajdhani Express |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 45. | W.R | 9021/9022 | Flying-Ranee Express |
| 46. | W.R | 9767/9768 | Jaipur-Madras Express |
| 47. | W.R | 2953/2954 | A.K. Rajdhani Express |
| 48. | E.R | 2309/2310 | Rajdhani Express |
| 49. | N.R | 2401/2402 | Shramjeevi Express (S.F) |

*Trains Running with Pantry Cars (Contractor Operated)*

| S.No. | Railway | Train No. | Name of Train |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | C.R | 1019/1020 | Konark Express |
| 2. | C.R | 1025/1026 | Pragati Express |
| 3. | C.R | 1077/1078 | Jhelum Express |
| 4. | C.R | 2027/2028 | Shatabdi Express |
| 5. | C.R | 2101/2102 | Kurla-Howrah Super Deluxe AC |
| 6. | C.R | 2103/2104 | Kurla-Nagpur Super Deluxe AC |
| 7. | C.R | 2137/2138 | Punjab Mail |
| 8. | C.R | 1063/1064 | MAS-CSTM Exp. |
| 9. | C.R | 1081/1082 | MCST-CAPE Exp. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10. | E.R | 2019/2020 | Shatabdi Express |
| 11. | E.R | 2307/2308 | Howrah-Jodhpur Exp. (S.F) |
| 12. | E.R | 3003/3004 | Howrah-Bombay Mail |
| 13. | E.R | 3005/3006 | HWH-ASR Exp. |
| 14. | E.R | 3151/3152 | SDAH-JAT Mail |
| 15. | N.E | 5205/5206 | Lichhavi Express |
| 16. | N.E | 5011/5012 | Raptisagar Express |
| 17. | N.E | 5045/5046 | ADI-GKP Express |
| 18. | N.E | 5047/5048 | Purvanchal Express |
| 19. | N.E | 5063/5064 | Awadh Express |
| 20. | N.E | 5087/5088 | Amarnath Express |
| 21. | N.E | 5089/5090 | GKP-HYB Express |
| 22. | N.E | 5217/5218 | CLA-MFP Exp. ) |
| 23. | N.E | 5219/5220 | CLA-DBG Exp. ) |
| 24. | N.E | 1015/1016 | Kushinagar Express |
| 25. | N.E | 2133/2134 | Pushpak Express |
| 26. | N.F | 4055/4056 | Brahmaputra Mail |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 27. | N.F | 5602/5603 | GHY-DBRT Intercity Express |
| 28. | N.F | 5609/5610 | Awadh Assam Express |
| 29. | N.F | 5621/5622 | North East Express |
| 30. | N.F | 5645/5646 | GHY-DDR Express |
| 31. | N.F | 5651/5652 | Lohit Express |
| 32. | N.F | 5657/5658 | Kanchanjunga Express |
| 33. | N.F | 5659/5660 | Kamrup Express |
| 34. | N.F | 5905/5906 | Kamrup Expresses (M.G.) |
| 35. | N.F. | 5623/5624 | Cochin-Guwahati Exp. |
| 36. | N.F | 5625/5626 | SBC-GHY Express |
| 37. | N.R | 2435/2436 | NDLS-GHY Express (via Hajipur) |
| 38. | N.R | 1 SB/2 SB | Samdari-Bhildi Passenger (M.G) |
| 39. | N.R | 2005/2006 | Shatabdi Express |
| 40. | N.R | 2011/2012 | Shatabdi Express |
| 41. | N.R | 2013/2014 | Shatabdi Express |
| 42. | N.R | 2015/2016 | Shatabdi Express |
| 43. | N.R. | 2017/2018 | Shatabdi Express |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 44. | NR | 2311/2312 | Kalka Mail (S.F) |
| 45. | N.R | 2421/2422 | Rajdhani Express |
| 46. | N.R | 2423/2424 | Rajdhani Express |
| 47. | N.R | 2425/2426 | Rajdhani Express |
| 48. | N.R | 2471/2472 | Swaraj Express (S.F) |
| 49. | N.R | 2475/2476 | Sarvodaya Express |
| 50. | N.R | 2477/2478 | Sarodaya JAT-Hapa Express |
| 51. | N.R | 2779/2780 | Goa Express (S.F) |
| 52. | N.R | 4057/4058 | Kashi-Vishwanath Exp. |
| 53. | N.R | 4083/4084 | Mahananda Express |
| 54. | N.R | 4245/4246 | Tapti Ganga Express |
| 55. | N.R | 4659/4660 | NDLS-ASR Express |
| 56. | N.R | 4667/4668 | Malwa Express |
| 57. | N.R | 4681/4682 | Ludhiana Express |
| 58. | N.R | 4709/4710 | Bikaner-Churu Link Exp. (M.G) |
| 59. | N.R | 4789/4790 | Bikaner Express (M.G) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 60. | N.R | 4827/4828 | Ranakpur Express (M.G) |
| 61. | N.R | 4893/4894 | Jodhpur Mail (M.G) |
| 62. | N.R | 2427/2428 | ADI-NDLS Rajdhani Exp. |
| 63. | N.R | 2437/2438 | SC-HNZM Rajdhani Exp. |
| 64. | N.R | 2029/2030 | ASR-NDLS Swarna Shatabdi |
| 65. | S.C | 2033/2034 | SC-RJY Shatabdi |
| 66. | S.C | 2713/2714 | Satavahana Express (S.F) |
| 67. | S.C | 2711/2712 | Pinakini Express (S.F) |
| 68. | S.C | 7021/7022 | Dakshin Express |
| 69. | S.C | 7017/7018 | SC-RJT Exp. Extension of Shirdi |
| 70. | S.C | 7061/7062 | Shirdi Express |
| 71. | S.C | 7245/7246 | Ratnachal Express |
| 72. | S.C | 9769/9770 | Jaipur-Purna Express |
| 73. | S.C | 7057/7058 | Cochin-Bilaspur |
| 74. | S.C | 7081/7082 | Ahilyanagri Express |
| 75. | S.C | 7029/7030 | Cochin-Hyderabad |
| 76. | S.C | 2715/2716 | Nanded-Amritsar Express |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 77. | S.C | 2703/2704 | Faluknuma Exp. |
| 78. | S.C | 7617/7618 | Tapovan Express |
| 79. | S.C | 2801/2802 | Purshottam Express (S.F) |
| 80. | S.E | 8001/8002 | Howrah-Bombay Mail |
| 81. | S.E | 8033/8034 | ADI-HWH Express |
| 82. | S.E | 8101/8102 | Muri Express |
| 83. | S.E | 8301/8302 | Hirakud Express |
| 84. | S.E | 8401/8402 | Puri-Okha Express |
| 85. | S.E | 8601/8602 | Tata-PKT-Exp linked with 8101/02 |
| 86. | S.E | 8689/8690 | Bokaro-Alleppey Express |
| 87. | S.E | 8543/8544 | Samta Express |
| 88. | S.E | 8603/8604 | Ranchi/Hatia-Delhi Weekly |
| 89. | S.E | 2021/2022 | Shatabdi Express |
| 90. | S.R | 2007/2008 | Shatabdi Express |
| 91. | S.R | 2023/2024 | Shatabdi Express |
| 92. | S.R | 2429/2430 | Rajdhani Express |
| 93. | S.R | 2431/2432 | Rajdhani Express |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 94. | S.R | 2607/2608 | Lalbagh Express (S.F) |
| 95. | S.R | 2617/2618 | Mangala Express (S.F) |
| 96. | S.R | 2633/2634 | Rajdhani Express |
| 97. | S.R | 2637/2638 | Kudal Nagar Express (S.F) |
| 98. | S.R | 2675/2676 | Kovai Express (S.F) |
| 99. | S.R | 6045/6046 | Navjivan Express |
| 100. | S.R | 6309/6310 | Cochin-Patna Express |
| 101. | S.R | 6315/6316 | Cochin-Howrah Exp. |
| 102. | S.R | 6335/6336 | NCJ/TVC-GIM Express |
| 103. | S.R | 6337/6338 | Cochin-Rajkot Express |
| 104. | S.R | 6339/6340 | NGC-MCST Express |
| 105. | S.R | 6341/6342 | TVC-ERN Express |
| 106. | S.R | 6501/6502 | Ahmedabad Express |
| 107. | S.R | 6687/6688 | Navyug Express |
| 108. | S.R | 6323/6324 | TVC-HWH Exp. |
| 109. | S.R | 6343/6344 | Kerala (ERS)-Nizamuddin |
| 110. | S.R | 6505/6506 | SBC-HNZM (via Hubli) Weekly |
| 111. | S.R | 2677/2678 | SBC-CBE Extension of Kovai Exp. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 112. | S.R | 6331/6332 | Trivandrum-Kurla Exp. |
| 113. | S.R | 6803/6804 | TPJ-HWH Express |
| 114. | S.R | 2009/2010 | Shatabdi Express |
| 115. | W.R | 2473/2474 | Sarvodaya Express |
| 116. | W.R | 2933/2934 | Kamavati Express (S.F) |
| 117. | W.R | 2955/2956 | BCT-JP Express (S.F) |
| 118. | W.R | 9011/9012 | Gujarat Express |
| 119. | W.R | 9305/9306 | Shipra Express |
| 120. | W.R | 9965/9966 | Bhildi Express (M.G) |

*[Translation]*

**Adverse Effect Due to Untrained Workers**

1287. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:
SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an adverse effect on the rate of production in the country due to the large number of unskilled and untrained workers;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been devised to enhance their productivity;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to set up Training Institutes for the benefits of labourers of unorganised sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Productivity varies from industry to industry within a sector and there are differences between units of the same industry. Therefore uniform generalisation cannot be made. However, various studies have made it clear that demand for skilled labourers has risen as a result of technological developments and changes in the organisation of work.

(b) to (e) In order to provide skill training and education which in turn will help increase in productivity, both for workers in the organised and unorganised sector, a number of Ministries and Departments are supervising vocational education and training. Some of these major Departments of Government of India involved in this work are:

(i) Department of Education, Ministry of HRD (ii) Shramik Vidhyapeeths under the Directorate of Adult Education, Ministry of HRD (iii) Directorate General of

Employment & Training under Ministry of Labour (iv) National Science and Technological Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) under Ministry of Science and Technology (v) National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., Ministry of Industry (vi) Khadi and Village Industries Commission under Deptt. of Small Scale Industries, Agro and Rural Industries, Ministry of Industry (vii) Development Commissioner, Handlooms in the Ministry of Textile (viii) Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (ix) Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

*[English]*

**Concession to Senior Citizens in Railways**

1288. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the Government's decision to observe the year 2000 as the 'Year of the Old' Government propose to extend the existing Railway journey concessions for the aged (above 65 years) to 2 tier AC and 3 tier AC travel also;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) 30% concession to senior citizens of 65 years and above is already admissible in all classes, including AC 2-tier and AC 3-tier, with effect from 15th August, 1998

(c) Does not arise.

**Medical Facilities to Retired NCC Officers**

1289. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that medical facilities are denied to retired NCC Permanent Commissioned Officers while it is admissible to the retired defence personnel;

(b) if so, the reasons and basis for this anomaly; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The serving Whole Time NCC officers who are granted NCC Permanent Commission, are entitled to the same medical facilities as are admissible to the Armed Forces officers. The issue of extending medical facilities to the retired NCC Whole Time Officers is under examination.

**Army Jawans Found Dead in Capital**

1290. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two army jawans have been found dead in the capital during the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have constituted any inquiry committee in this regard; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Two Army jawans who had come to the capital as part of Republic Day Parade 1999 Contingent were found dead in two separate incidents. Army Headquarters have ordered separate Courts of Inquiry in both the cases. The Courts of Inquiry are under progress.

**Filling up of Reserved Vacancies**

1291. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies reserved for SC/ ST candidates lying vacant in Class A and B posts; and

(b) the steps taken to fill up them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a)

and (b) As per extent instructions the reservation of SC/ST is based on "Post based roster" system, replacing the earlier "vacancy based roster". In the new system, there is no concept of carry forward of post based slots meant for reserved categories. However, reservation, as due, is provided at the time of filling up of posts in accordance with the post based reservation roster.

*[Translation]*

**Additional Capital for Air India**

1292. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a need has been felt to invest an additional capital of Rs. 500 crores in 'Air India' to overcome its financial crisis;

(b) if so, the scheme formulated for the purpose;

(c) the total capital invested in Air India and the estimated amount of loans taken by it; and

(d) the total amount of interest paid on loans during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission in its VIII Report on Air India has recommended infusion of Government equity of Rs. 1000 crores and induction of strategic partner on the basis of global bids. The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

(c) The total amount invested by the Government towards share capital in Air India is Rs. 153.84 crores. However, Air India had also taken foreign currency loans of Rs. 3649.21 crores towards purchase of aircraft and working capital requirements.

(d) The total amount of interest paid on loans during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 was Rs. 175.66 crores, Rs. 160.22 crores and Rs. 237.45 crores respectively.

*[English]*

**Derailment of Kurla-Howrah Express**

1293. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kurla-Howrah express train was derailed near Jalgaon on Nagpur-Mumbai sector in the first week of December, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of persons killed/injured in the accident;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a derailment of 8029 Dn Kurla-Howrah Express on 03.12.1998 between Mhasawad and Shirsoli stations in Manmad-Bhusaval section on Bhusaval Division of Central Railway.

(b) The accident occurred due to weld failure. The number of persons killed/injured in the accident are:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Killed | = | 9 |
| Grievous injuries | = | 13 |
| Simple injuries | = | 30 |

(c) Yes, Sir. Statutory Inquiry is being conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS)/Central Circle, Mumbai.

(d) As per Preliminary Report of CRS, the accident was caused by fracture of left side rail on Down line at an Alumino-Thermic Weld in non-breathing length of Continuous Welded Track due to fatigue failure of Thermit Joint on account of detectable transverse type flaw.

CRS has categorised the accident as "failure of Railway Equipment".

**Installation of AIR/T.V. Transmitters**

1294. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government since June, 1998 upto 31st January, 1999 to strengthen the AIR and Television transmission in the border areas of the country to combat the anti-India campaign by Pakistan; and

(b) the number of transmitters installed during this period in the border areas, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Apart from schemes already under implementation for coverage of area along Indo-Pak Border, a scheme for setting up High Power Transmitter (DD2) at Jammu has been sanctioned during 1.6.98 to 31.1.99. Setting up High Power Transmitter at Naushera and Poonch is also envisaged. Appropriate programmes are being relayed by both AIR and Doordarshan to counter propaganda across the borders.

(b) A statement is attached.

***Statement***

*Transmitters Commissioned/Installed in Border Distts. of the Country During 1.6.98 to 31.1.1999*

**All India Radio**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | William Nagar | Community Radio Station with 1 KW MW Transmitter each. |
| 2. | Mon | |
| 3. | Nogstoin | |
| 4. | Saiha | |
| 5. | Tuensang | |

**Doordarshan**

| | LPTs | | VLPTs |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Rajauri | 1. | Udaipur (H.P.) |
| 2. | Kailashahar (DDII) | 2. | Khalsi |
| 3. | Miao | 3. | Mulbeth |
| 4. | Teliamura | 4. | Tangtse |
| 5. | Haldwani | 5. | Chushul |
| 6. | Darhal (Mobile) | 6. | Siachen (Base Camp) |
| 7. | Simri Bakhtiarpur | 7. | Rajgarhi |
| 8. | Lunglei (DD II) | 8. | Nandprayag |
| | | 9. | Darak |
| | | 10. | Sagalee |
| | | 11. | Machuka |
| | | 12. | Nichar |
| | | 13. | Singtam |

*[Translation]*

**Publishing of Magazines in Hindi**

1295. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the magazines being published in English only by the Mini and Subordinate offices located in Delhi;

(b) the arrangements being made for publishing these magazines in Hindi also in pursuance of the provisions of the Official Languages Act; and

(c) the date by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) There is no magazine published by the Media Units or organisations under the purview of the Ministry of I & B which are in English only.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Reconstruction of Bridges on Mehsana-Patan Rail Line**

1296. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reconstruction of bridges on Mehsana-Patan railway line is on progress;

(b) if so, the details of work which has been completed; and

(c) the reasons for delay and the time by which the above line is likely to be reconstructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. 6 bridges are being rebuilt.

(b) Out of 6 bridges, 1 bridge has been completed. Progress on the five remaining bridges also varies from 50% to 75%.

(c) All out efforts are being made to complete the work within the target date of December, 1999.

*[Translation]*

**Indo-French Joint Naval Exercise**

1297. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to undertake joint naval exercise by India and France in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) During the recent visit of Raksha Mantri to France from January 11-14, 1999 both countries agreed that cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries will be based upon jointly agreed programmes including joint exercises. No dates have been finalised as yet for joint exercises between the navies of the two countries.

*[English]*

**Duty Free Shop at Ahmedabad Airport**

1298. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has decided to open duty free shop of international standard at Ahmedabad airport; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For this purpose, tenders have been called and the duty free shop at Ahmedabad airport is likely to be opened in the third quarter of 1999.

**Programmes on Delhi's Historical Sites**

1299. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan shown any programme during 1997, 1998 and 1999 on Delhi's historical sites; and

(b) if so, the names, date and time at which they were telecast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

**Foreign Investment in F.P.I.**

1300. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started any new programme to invite foreign investment in Food Processing Industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Government has laid down a liberal policy framework for promotion of foreign investment in food processing sector. Most of the items have been delicensed and are eligible for automatic foreign investment upto 51% of equity. Even for foreign investment beyond 51%, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board considers those cases liberally.

To promote foreign investment in food processing industries, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance under its Plan schemes for preparation of promotional literature, supports participation in international events such as Promotional Missions, Trade Fairs etc. and undertakes a variety of other measures to attract investment.

*[English]*

**Ahmedabad Airport**

1301. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has taken necessary steps for expansion and strengthening the runway of Ahmedabad Airport;

(b) if so, the progress made in that regard so far; and

(c) the date by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Work on extension of runway and expansion of apron has commenced recently and is likely to be completed by December, 2000.

*[Translation]*

**Survey for Bari Sadri-Neemuch Railway Line**

1302. SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request for survey of rail line between Bari Sadri (Rajasthan) and Neemuch (Madhya Pradesh);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**New Collision Avoidance System in Aircraft**

1303. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:
SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India propose to introduce new collision avoidance system in aircraft;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed system;

(c) the country from which the Airports Authority of India have procured the system and the terms and conditions settled; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to be useful for avoiding any accidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation have issued instructions making it mandatory, w.e.f. 1st January, 1999, to instal Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS)-II in all aircraft, operating to/from/through Indian airspace, having certified seating capacity of more than 30 passengers or pay-load capacity of more than 3 tonnes. The aeroplanes having certified seating capacity of 10 to 30 passengers or pay-load capacity of 1 to 3 tonnes have been required to instal ACAS-I on or before 31st December, 2003.

(c) The system is to be installed in the aircraft by the operators. They are free to procure it from any source provided it meets the airworthiness standards laid down by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

(d) ACAS system helps in preventing mid-air collisions by alerting the pilots as soon as two aircraft come dangerously close to each other. The system gives visual and audio warnings, and also advises the crew on the corrective action required to be taken for preventing a mid-air collision.

**Development of Infrastructure Facilities in Tourist Places**

1304. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision for development of infrastructure facilities in some selected Tourist/Religious places in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance sanctioned for each of the above places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

Ministry of Tourism has been emphasising on integrated development of tourist centres and places of pilgrimage by providing the requisite infrastructural facilities in the country. In the case of Tamil Nadu, the following centres have been selected:

| Tourist Centres | Pilgrim Centres |
|---|---|
| Kanya Kumari | Madurai |
| Madurai | Nagapatnam |
| Mamallapuram | Nagaur |
| Ooty | Palani |
| Rameswaram | Velan Kanni |
| Tanjore | Rameswaram |
| Tiruchirapally | Tanjore |
| Tranquebar | Tiruchirapally |
| | Tiruvannamalai |

For these centres, an amount of Rs. 273.38 lakhs have been sanctioned to the State Government from Seventh Plan to 1997-98. During the current financial year, State Government of Tamil Nadu have selected the following tourist/pilgrimage centres for Central financial assistance amounting to Rs. 78.50 lakhs:—

1. Improvement of Walkway and beach near Gandhi Mandapam, Kanyakumari.

2. Construction of infrastructural facilities in National Pilgrim Centre Rameshwaram.

*[Translation]*

**Death of Employees in Khamaria Ordnance Factory, M.P.**

1305. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 31 employees of the ordnance factory, Khamaria in Madhya Pradesh were killed while on duty in the recent past;

(b) whether any special recognition and financial assistance was given to these victims;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason for negligence towards these employees who work continuously under hazardous conditions with patriotic fervour; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to treat them as the martyr like army jawans?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. However, an accident took place in Ordnance Factory, Khamaria on 27.11.1998 in which one employee died after the accident.

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

(d) The names of such deceased employees are engraved on SHAHEED SMARAK STAMBHA constructed to highlight their sacrifices.

***Statement***

The family of the deceased employee has been given the following financial assistance:

(i) Ex-gratia payment of Rs. 5,000/-.

(ii) Rs. 4,135/- from Death Relief Fund.

(iii) Expenditure on specialised treatment Rs. 8,583/-.

(iv) Terminal benefits of Rs. 1,16,335/-.

2. Apart from above, Ordnance Factory, Khamaria has initiated action to grant the following payments/ assistance to the family of the deceased:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Compensation under Workmen's Compensation Act | Rs. 1,78.490/- |
| (ii) | Death gratuity | Rs. 51,240/- |
| (iii) | Family Pension | Rs. 1,715/- + Relief |
| (iv) | Employment assistance to one of the members of family of the deceased employee. | |

*[English]*

**Resource Crunch**

1306. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are facing severe resource crunch;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for the resource crunch being faced by the Railways are as below:

(i) Reduced freight traffic offerings due to a general slowdown of the economy.

(ii) Inadequate budgetary support and no compensation provided to the Railways for public service obligations.

(iii) The tariff policy of the Railways over the years has resulted in unrealistically low levels of passenger fares. This has led to a situation in which the contribution of passenger traffic to the total revenue is not commensurate with the share of passenger traffic in the total transport output.

(iv) Increased Wage Bill due to recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission.

(c) The steps being taken by the Railways to remedy the situation are as below:

(i) The Railways are dependent to a large extent for their freight traffic on the offerings by the core sector which are essentially linked to the state of the economy. Nevertheless, the Railways are taking a number of measures for increasing the freight traffic which include recategorisation of certain commodities, grant of incentives and volume discounts etc. Also, a domestic division has been set up under the Container Corporation of India for taking care of high-rated piecemeal traffic.

(ii) The Railways are highlighting in every forum the need for increasing the budgetary support so as to ensure that adequate funds are provided for financially non-viable but socially desirable projects. The Railways have suggested that such projects of national importance be taken up as "National Projects" with funds being provided for these projects as a special grant. Also, the Railways have been pressing the need for adequate compensation for public service obligations which are costing the Railways in excess of Rs. 2000 crores a year.

(iii) The Railways are taking a direction to correct the distortion in the passenger fares and reduce the extent of cross-subsidisation of passenger traffic by freight traffic.

(iv) To tide over the problem of resource crunch, the Railways are taking a number of steps to mobilize funds from the private sector such as for acquisition of rolling stock through schemes such as Build, Own, Lease, Transfer (BOLT) and Own Your Wagon Scheme (OYWS); in laying of optical fibre cables using Railways "right of way" and leasing out surplus capacity under schemes such as Build, Own, Operate and lease (BOOL); and through commercial development of land and air space.

*[Translation]*

**Gauge Conversion of Ratlam-Indore Railway Line**

1307. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out a programme for gauge conversion of Ratlam-Indore meter gauge line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be converted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. However, a survey for gauge conversion of Ratlam-Indore MG line is already in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Performance of DFF**

1308. SHRI P. SANKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Film Festival (DFF) is functioning without the required number of Directors for the last six years;

(b) whether the budget of D.F.F. has been reduced substantially; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) There is only one post of Director in the Directorate of Film Festivals. The Joint Director is holding current charge of the post. Proposal to fill up the post, on a regular basis, has been sent to the UPSC.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Non-Lethal System from South Africa**

1309. SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to purchase non-lethal system from South Africa to tackle internal strife in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the contract indicating the estimated cost likely to be involved alongwith the schedule of its delivery; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help in stopping the anti-terrorism activities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In order to afford greater protection to our troops, engaged in counter-insurgency operations, procurement of Mine-Protected Vehicles has been contracted with a South African firm for use in areas where land mines and Improvised Explosive Devices are suspected to have been planted.

*[Translation]*

**Development of Religious/Tourist Places**

1310. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH:
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI:
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh propose to develop some religious/tourist places with the Central assistance;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received by the Government;

(c) the time by which the work on these projects is likely to be started and the cost involved therein, project-wise;

(d) the total amount spent on the tourist places that are being developed with the Central assistance during 1998-99;

(e) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for the development of tourism industry in Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (f) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for specific projects identified in consultation with them based on their merits and the availability of funds. 35 projects in 1998-99, have been prioritised for an amount of Rs. 740 lakhs in consultation with the Uttar Pradesh Government. As and when the complete project proposals are received from the State Government, the same are sanctioned and funds released in instalments.

**Yatri Niwas in Uttar Pradesh**

1311. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Yatri Niwas in Uttar Pradesh, Location-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for construction of more Yatri Niwas in the State; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon and the amount released during the year 1997-98 therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) This Ministry has sanctioned Yatri Niwases for Uttar Pradesh at Allahabad, Ayodhya and Chitrakoot.

(b) and (c) Development of Tourism infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, Union Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for specific projects identified in consultation with them depending upon their merits and the availability of funds. For 1997-98, no project for Yatri Niwas was prioritised in Uttar Pradesh. However, for the year 1998-99, the Ministry has prioritised the projects for the construction of Yatri Niwas at Kushinagar, Vrindavan, Gauchar, Chiniyalisaur and Guptkashi.

*[English]*

**Railway Concession to Disabled**

1312. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of granting railway fare concession to disabled has been modified;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which these modifications have helped the disabled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The certificates for grant of concession to Orthopaedically Handicapped/Paraplegic, Blind, Deaf & Dumb and Mentally Retarded persons were revised in May 1998 and acceptance of certificates in old proforma was stopped from 1.1.1999. The major changes made are provision for photograph and address of the disabled person and registration number of the Doctor on the certificate, rationalisation of period of validity of certificate for orthopaedically handicapped/paraplegic persons and increase in period of validity of certificates for others from three years to five years.

Moreover, presently these handicapped and paraplegic persons with their escorts get concession of 75% in First Class, Second Class and Sleeper Class. We have proposed in the Budget for 1999-2000 that this concession will also be available in Air-Conditioned 3 tier and Air-Conditioned Chair Car. In addition, 50% concession will also be given in other Air-Conditioned classes.

*[Translation]*

**Gauge Conversion**

1313. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE:
SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUJ BISEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of gauge conversion of Gondia-Nainpur-Jabalpur and Balaghat-Katangi railway lines;

(b) the amount spent thereon;

(c) the time by which these lines are likely to be converted;

(d) whether survey report for extension of railway line from Katangi to Tirodi has been received; and

(e) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Final Location Survey from Gondia to Padriganj including Balaghat-Katangi has been completed and survey beyond Padriganj is in progress. Geo-technical investigations of all the major and important bridges between Gondia and Padriganj including Balaghat-Katangi have been completed. Formation work and bal-last supply are in progress between Gondia and Balaghat and agency for construction of bridges on this stretch is under finalisation.

(b) Rs. 16.16 lakh till 31-01-1999.

(c) The work will be progressed in the coming years as per its position in the List of Priority of Gauge Conversion projects as approved by the Cabinet and subject to availability of resources.

(d) and (e) The survey is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

*[English]*

**Shortage of Wagons**

1314. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wagon shortages lead to hardship for salt producers in Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. However, no demand has been offered in rake loads. Also it is not possible to accept demand in piecemeal due to operational constraints.

(b) Does not arise.

**Computerised Reservation Centres**

1315. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of computer reservation centres in the country at present, zone-wise;

(b) whether his Ministry has any proposal to introduce computerised reservation centre at Kolar;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The total number of computerised reservation centres in the country is 437. Zone-wise details are: Central 56, Western 44, Eastern 46, South Eastern 35, Northern 82, North Eastern 30, South Central 51, Southern 72, Northeast Frontier 18, Konkan Railway 3.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There are many other stations/locations where reservation workload is higher than Kolar but these facilities are yet to be provided.

**Aircraft Taken on Lease by Air India**

1316. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and type of aircraft taken on lease from outside by Air India during the last three years;

(b) the routes on which these aircraft are being used;

(c) whether these aircraft are giving profit or loss; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The details of the aircraft taken on lease by Air India during the last 3 years are as under:—

| No. & Type of aircraft | Routes operated | Whether earning profit/ incurring loss |
|---|---|---|
| (i) Passenger aircraft on lease:— | | |
| 2 L1011-500 | India-Gulf/ Continent/UK | Incurred loss. |
| 1 A310 | India-Singapore/Australia | -do- |
| 2 A310-300 | India-Nairobi-Gulf-Singapore-Australia South Africa-Continent-UK | Incurred loss. |
| 1 IL-62M | India-Moscow | Earned profit during the first year but started incurring loss thereafter. (Wetlease term express on 31.10.99) |
| (ii) Freighter aircraft on lease:— | | |
| *1 DC-8/73 | India-USA | Incurred loss. |
| *1 DC-8/62 | India-USA/Singapore | Incurred loss. |
| *1 IL-76 | India-Europe | Incurred loss. |

* Wetlease discontinued on 28.8.1996.

In addition to above, Air India wetleased 4 B747 in 1996 and 4 B747 and 4 L1011 in 1998 for Haj operation between India and Jeddah. These operations were on "no profit no loss" basis.

**Functioning of Doordarshan/AIR Stations in J&K**

1317. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for countering the anti-India propaganda from across the Line of Control and International border in J&K;

(b) whether many of the relaying stations of AIR and Doordarshan in J&K especially at Bhaderwah, Poonch, Rajouri, etc., are not functioning properly; and

(c) if so, the steps taken for making these functional especially the station at Bhaderwah?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) The terrestrial network of All India Radio and Doordarshan have been strengthened to improve their coverage in the border areas by commissioning new stations, upgrading the power of some of the existing transmitters and broadcasting/ telecasting suitable programmes including news bulletins that present the facts in their proper perspective. In addition, programmes are also mounted regularly on Doordarshan's International Channel presenting a correct picture on Kashmir.

(b) and (c) The AIR Station at Poonch is functioning satisfactorily. While there is no Radio Station at Rajouri, the Station at Bhadrawah is being set up and the premises have presently been occupied by the security forces. On vacation of the premises and improvement in law and order situation, further works will be taken up. Other Radio Stations in the State are functioning satisfactorily. Further, all the TV Transmitters except VLPT, Kilhotran, which was destroyed by militants, are functioning properly in the State.

**Clear T.V. Reception Facilities in Gujarat**

1318. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the clear T.V. reception in Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad districts of Gujarat;

(b) whether any proposal to cover the Ahmedabad district by metro channel is under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) 2 HPTs, one each for DD-I and DD-II service, and one LPT in Ahmedabad district; and four LPTs in Bhavnagar district are, at present, providing satisfactory TV service within their coverage range.

(b) and (c) An HPT is already functioning in Ahmedabad district for releay of metro channel (DD-II) service.

(d) Does not arise.

**Construction of Railway Station at Rampur**

1319. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a repeated request from the people of Tumkur and surrounding areas particularly from the people of Rampur to provide a railway station at Rampur between Sampige and Nittur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Only one representation was received for opening of a halt station at Rampur between Nittur and Sampige Road stations on Tumkur-Arsikere section. The proposal was examined but not found commercially justified.

**Military Personnel Killed by Insurgents in J&K**

1320. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of military personnel killed by insurgents during the last ten months, State-wise with particular reference to Jammu and Kashmir and Eastern States; and

(b) the quantum of assistance given to the families of the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The number of Army personnel killed by the insurgents during the last ten months from April 1998 to January 1999 is 177. Of this, 151 were killed in J&K and 26 in the North East (Assam-11, Nagaland-5, Manipur & Tripura-10).

2. The widows and the family members of Armed Forces personnel killed in war, war-like operations, counter insurgency operations, in encounters/incidents involving armed hostilities, etc. are entitled to the following benefits at present:—

(i) Liberalised Special Family Pension equal to the last pay drawn by the deceased.

(ii) Death-cum-retirement Gratuity varying from two months pay to maximum of Rs. 3.5 lakhs.

(iii) Family Gratuity ranging from Rs. 450 to 1600 for Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) and Other Ranks (OR) and Rs. 2000 to Rs. 16000 for the officers, depending upon rank.

(iv) Ex-gratia payments ranging from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 7.50 lakhs.

(v) Army Group Insurance of Rs. 8 lakh in case of officers and Rs. 3.75 lakhs in case of JCOs/ ORs.

3. Apart from the aforesaid pensionary benefits, the widows of the Defence personnel are entitled to a number of facilities such as medical treatment from military hospitals, canteen facilities, educational concessions to the wards, rail/air travel concession etc.

4. The State Governments and the Union Territories Administrations also undertake various welfare schemes for the widows and families of the deceased Armed Forces personnel.

**Gauge Conversion**

1321. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ever undertaken any survey for conversion of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon and Bankura-Damodar railway lines into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both the projects have already been sanctioned in the budget at following anticipated cost:

(i) New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon conversion - Rs. 535.88 crores.

(ii) Bankura-Damodar railway conversion - Rs. 100 crores.

All clearances have been received for both the projects and the work is being started on both of them.

(c) Does not arise.

**Wages Settlement**

1322. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the new guidelines issued to the public sector undertakings by the Department of Public Enterprises that wage settlement should now be for a period of 10 years instead of the current practice of five years;

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

(c) whether the major Central trade unions have opposed these new guidelines; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Subject to final approval of the Government, the new guidelines issued on the policy to be adopted for the Sixth Round of Wage negotiations in Public Sector Enterprises states that the pay package and perquisites for officers and non-unionised

supervisors should be affected once in 10 years in order to ensure uniformity.

(c) No representation has been received so far from any major central trade union opposing the new guidelines.

(d) Does not arise.

**Construction of Over/Under bridges in Rajasthan**

1323. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations regarding construction of over/under railway bridges of Rajasthan, especially in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts;

(b) if so, whether the Government have deputed any team of experts to carry out necessary survey and to prepare estimates for the same; and

(c) if so, the time by which the construction of above bridges are likely to be started as to mitigate the problems of school going children, office goers and local population of Barmer town/city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. A few public representations have been received.

(b) Railways have received no formal proposal from State Government for construction of Road Over Bridge. Survey and Estimates are prepared only after receipt of formal proposal from State Government fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites.

(c) Does not arise as no proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge at Barmer town/city has been received from State Government so far.

*[Translation]*

**Selling off ITDC Hotels**

1324. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ascertained the reasons for the poor performance of ITDC hotels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for selling off loss making ITDC hotels or giving them to private agencies on contract basis; and

(d) if so, the names of such hotels, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) During 1997-98, the ITDCs Hotels Division as a whole generated a profit of Rs. 27.38 crores. But 11 hotels out of the 26 hotels owned by ITDC incurred losses due to the following reasons;

(i) General economic recession.

(ii) Currency crises in south East Asian Countries making them cheaper destinations.

(iii) Low turn out of international business travellers.

(iv) Heavy price under cutting by private sector hotels.

(v) Increase in Wage Bill on implementation of 5th Pay Commisson recommendations.

(c) and (d) Disinvestment in ITDC is under consideration of Government.

**Acquisition of Aircraft**

1325. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the flight of 800 seater aircraft keeping in view the increasing number of passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to develop more airports and to construct green field airports in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Two airports are under construction at Tura in Meghalaya under State Plan and Kargil in J&K under Central Plan. New sites for construction of airports of international standard have been identified in Goa and at Devenahalli near Bangalore and near Hyderabad. A new airport of international standards is nearing completion at Nedumbassary in Cochin. The airports at Guwahati, Amritsar and Ahmedabad are also being upgraded to international standards.

*[English]*

**Safety Measures in Industries**

1326. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents occurred in the Industrial establishments in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and till date;

(b) whether the Union Government have issued or proposed to issue instructions to the Industrial establishments in States to provide adequate safety arrangements and to pay adequate compensation to the labourers injured during the accidents and to prevent the recurrence of such accidents;

(c) the number of industrial establishments which have taken the safety measures; and

(d) the results achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) According to the information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the number of accidents in registered factories in Uttar Pradesh during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 (till 31.10.98) are as under:—

| Year | No. of Fatal Accidents | No. of Non-Fatal Accidents | Total No. of Accidents |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 104 | 1665 | 1769 |
| 1997 | 96 | 1224 | 1320 |
| 1998 (31.10.98) | 69 | 678 | 747 |

(b) Adequate provisions for ensuring Safety measures and to prevent industrial accidents are contained in the Factories Act, 1948 and the Uttar Pradesh Factories Rules, 1950. Administrative instructions for ensuring adequate safety measures in factories have also been issued by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to the Regional Assistants/Deputy Directors of Factories (Inspector/Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories) so that standard safety arrangements are in existence and possibility of any accident is avoided. Instructions for avoiding recurrence of similar accidents are also issued to the managements during investigation of accidents by the Regional assistants/Deputy Directors of Factories (Inspector/Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories). Compensation to the labourers injured during the accidents is paid under the Workmens' Compensation Act.

(c) and (d) All establishments covered under the Factories Act, 1948 and the rules framed by the State Government thereunder are required to take safety measures in accordance with the provisions of law and the instructions issued by the State Government from time to time. The contraventions of the provisions relating to safety measures detected during the inspections are brought to the notice of the Occupier/Manager of the Factory through an inspection note. The Occupier/Manager, who fail to comply with the provisions, are prosecuted by filing complaints in the competent court. 63, 60 and 20 prosecutions cases in fatal accidents for breaches relating to safety provisions were filed in the competent courts during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 (upto 31.10.98) respectively.

**Eco-Tourism in Kerala**

1327. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for promoting Eco Tourism in the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any protest against Eco-Tourism has been received by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any studies in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The State

Government of Kerala has identified Thenmala for development as one of the Eco-Tourism projects for which Central financial assistance of Rs. 25.00 lakhs has been prioritised during 1998-99.

(c) and (d) Government is not aware of any such protest nor has any formal protest been received by the Ministry of Tourism.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Tourism have formulated a Policy and Guidelines for Eco-Tourism. These have been prepared in consultation with Tourism Experts and the Ministry of Environment & Forests. These Guidelines have been accepted by the State Governments/Union Territories who have agreed to adopt and implement the same.

*[Translation]*

**Military Exercise Conducted by India**

1328. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the military exercise conducted by the Indian Armed Forces last year was the biggest military exercise of this decade;

(b) whether all the three wings of the Armed Forces participated in these exercises simultaneously; and

(c) if so, the number of army personnel, aircraft carrier and vessles etc. took part in that exercise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The exercise code named 'TRIUMPH' 98 was a tri-service exercise. In the exercise code named 'SHIVSHAKTI', only Army and Air Force participated.

(c) In 'TRIUMPH' 98, Six hundred Army personnel, thirty two ships and submarines including the Aircraft Carrier Viraat of the Navy and 4 Helicopters and 10 Fighters of the Air Force participated.

*[English]*

**T.V./AIR Station in Tribal Areas**

1329. SHRI UPENDRA NATH NAYAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of T.V. centres and Radio stations set-up during 1998-99 in Tribal areas;

(b) whether the Government are planning to Broadcast/Telecast the programme in regional/local languages in Tribal areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) 4 Radio Stations, 3 TV Studios, 1 High Power TV Transmitter, 18 Low Power TV Transmitters and 10 Very Low Power TV Transmitters have been set up in the tribal areas during 1998-99.

(b) to (d) AIR Stations located in tribal areas are already broadcasting programmes in regional language/ tribal dialects. Doordarshan telecasts programmes in regional language during the allotted time slots from regional kendras and on its regional channels obtainable directly from satellite by using appropriate dish antenna system or through cable network. Some programmes based on folk songs/dances of various tribes are also telecast in tribal dialects. But due to constraints of logistics and resources it is not practicable to have regular telecast in languages other than English, Hindi and State's Scheduled language.

**Loss Due to Cancelled Flights from Hyderabad**

1330. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of flights cancelled by Air India and Indian Airlines from Hyderabad Airport due to different reasons during the last one year; and

(b) the total loss suffered by Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Air India cancelled 5 flights and Indian Airlines cancelled 18 flights from Hyderabad during the last one year. The total estimated resultant loss suffered by Air India and Indian Airlines was Rs. 26.53 lakhs and Rs. 33.30 lakhs respectively.

**Acquisition of Frigates**

1331. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press reports captioned (i) "Shipyard misuses credit by India" and (ii) "Calcutta shipyard may lose Naval orders - Mafia delays warship production" appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 3rd February, 1999 and the 'Statesman' dated 11th January, 1999 respectively;

(b) if so, the facts of the cases reported therein;

(c) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken alongwith the latest status report of the projects; and

(d) the time by which Indian Nuclear Submarine is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) A news item alleging misuse of advance payment made to RVZ for construction of three frigates in Russia has appeared in Indian Express. On the basis of a similar news item in the Russian media, the matter had earlier been got enquired into by the Ministry. M/s. RVZ has confirmed the unconditional fulfilment of Contract commitments and has guaranteed that all the sums received from the Indian side for the construction of these ships are used exclusively for this purpose.

GRSE has reported that the interference of anti-social elements indulging in illegal mafia like activities has become a substantial factor in disruption of works resulting in cost and time over-runs in execution of important projects. GRSE sub-contracts a substantial amount of work to local contractors which is a standard practice common to all shipyards. GRSE have reported that criminal and mafia elements are involved extensively in attempts to extort money from these sub-contractors. The major criminal/mafia group are also reported to be having political links. GRSE has been regularly taking up this issue with the State Govt. of West Bengal. Action by State Govt. in eliminating criminal and mafia activities in GRSE will go a long way in enhancing productivity of the shipyard and easing the present bottlenecks. As an internal measures, GRSE have tightened their own security arrangements within the shipyard.

The present status of the Projects under construction at GRSE, Calcutta is as under:

(i) The construction of Fleet tanker is almost complete pending customer sea trial.

(ii) Construction of three Frigates, two Corvettes and four Fast Attack Crafts are at different stages.

*[Translation]*

**Employment to Families of Child Labour**

1332. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether employment is not being provided to the families of child labourers in Uttar Pradesh despite repeated directions of Chief Secretary and Supreme Court's Order;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the child labourers rescued by launching a drive last year have been forced to work as labourers again to earn their livelihood in violation of the Supreme Court orders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Production of Guava and Sugarcane**

1333. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kaushambhi, Allahabad and Fatehpur districts of Uttar Pradesh are rich in production of guava and sugarcane;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set-up any industries to provide protection to these two products particularly;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government does not set up any Food Processing Industry directly in any State. However, financial assistance is provided by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its plan Schemes to encourage the setting up of Fruit and Vegetable Processing Industries, anywhere in the country.

*[English]*

**Survey for Berhampur-Phulbani Rail Line**

1334. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rail lines surveyed in Orissa;

(b) the time by which the work on these rail lines is likely to commence, project-wise;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to provide rail link between Berhampur and Phulbani via Aska; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The survey for new line from Berhampur to Phulbani has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

**Processed Food**

1335. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large variety of processed foods contain genetically modified ingredients;

(b) if so, whether such foods are potentially dangerous from health point of view; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that GM ingredients are not to be used by food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) This is a new technology which is in general, not in existence in food business in India.

**Late Running of Trains**

1336. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost all the long distance trains are invariably running late;

(b) if so, the facts and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the system of fixing responsibility on the concerned officials for late running of trains has been done away with;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the number of officials on whom responsibility has been fixed during the last one year in different zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. To run trains on time is the ultimate aim of Indian Railways. However, the trains do run late sometimes due to alarm chain-pulling, miscreants activities, agitation/bandhs, accidents, bad weather (fog/floods), equipment and human failures, etc.

(c) to (e) Remedial measures including intensive chasing and monitoring at Divisional and Headquarters level is taken. Railway staff wherever found responsible for late running of trains is taken up. 11143 staff were taken up during the last year.

**Child Labour**

1337. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken against exploiters of child labourers in the country;

(b) the State-wise details during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have any scheme for the upliftment of child labourers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce any scheme for the upliftment of child labourers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 occupations listed in the Schedule to the Act. The employment condition of children in other occupations and processes is regulated under the Act. Under the Act, employers violating provisions of the Act are liable for prosecutions. All the States/UT Governments have an enforcement machinery to enforce provisions of the Law. As part of the monitoring process, State/UT Governments furnish periodical information to the Central Government on the implementation of the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. As per the available figures under the Child Labour (P&R) Act, 1986 for the last three years *i.e.* are as follows:—

| Year | No. of Inspection | No. of Violations | No. of Prosecutions | No. of Convictions |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 23349 | 3146 | 543 | 18 |
| 1996-97 | 35886 | 1868 | 458 | 18 |
| 1997-98 | 833427 | 1778 | 1479 | 135 |

(c) to (f) Government of India has been implementing two schemes, namely National Child Labour Project Scheme (NCLP) and Scheme of Grants-in-aid to voluntary organisations. Under the scheme of NCLP, funds are released to the project societies at the district level which run special schools with provision for non formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health check, etc. So far 76 Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for the coverage of 1.5 lakh children. Under the Grants-in-aid scheme, funds are released to the NGOs directly for taking up action oriented projects for the rehabilitation of child labour, 74 voluntary organisations were extended assistance under the Scheme during 1998-99.

**Yatri Niwas**

1338. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Yatri Niwas being run by the Railways at present, zone-wise; and

(b) the details of the profit earned and loss incurred by them in 1998, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Two Yatri Niwases are functioning on Indian Railways, one each at New Delhi on Northern Railway and Howrah on Eastern Railway. The details of profit earned in 1998 in case of these Yatri Niwases are as under:

| Yatri Niwas | Profit |
|---|---|
| 1. New Delhi | Rs. 24.73 lakhs |
| 2. Howrah | Rs. 14.74 lakhs |

At Gorakhpur on North Eastern Railway, a Yatri Niwas is functioning as an extension of Retiring Rooms and hence no separate profit and loss accounts are being maintained.

**Foreign Tourist in Delhi ITDC Hotels**

1339. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the number of foreign tourist who took the hospitality of ITDC hotels in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): During 1997-98, a total number of 74,164 foreign tourists stayed in Delhi based ITDC hotels.

**Use of Defence Airports for Civil Flights**

1340. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some airports of Indian Armed Forces in the country are used for the operation of civil flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the passengers at these airports have to face inconvenience due to security and administrative controls enforced by the officers; and

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

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

(b) A list of such airports is given in the statement attached.

(c) The security and administrative control is exercised by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)/Ministry of Civil Aviation. They have intimated that no such complaints have been received from the passengers.

(d) Question does not arise.

***Statement***

*List of Aerodromes Used by Civil Flights*

1. Agra
2. Bagdogra
3. Bhuj
4. Chandigarh
5. Gwalior
6. Jaislamer
7. Jamnagar
8. Jammu
9. Jodhpur
10. Jorhat
11. Kumbhigram
12. Leh
13. Pune
14. Srinagar
15. Tezpur
16. Cochin
17. Goa
18. Port Blair
19. Vizag
20. Bangalore

*[Translation]*

**Agreement between Government and Pepsi Cola**

1341. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any MOU with Pepsi Cola;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pepsi Cola has adhered to all the conditions according to the MOU; and

(d) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Foreign Collaboration approval was granted to M/s. Pepsico Inc. USA on 19/28th September, 1988, for manufacture of processed potato/grain foods, soft drink concentrates and processed fruit/vegetable products. This approval was subject to the following conditions:

(i) Turnover from soft drink concentrate manufacturing shall in no year exceed 25% of the total turnover of the company for that year.

(ii) The project shall export 50% of its total turnover each year for a period of 10 years from commencement of commercial production of which 40% will be from the companies own manufactured products and 10% from the Select List of products manufactured by others as specified by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

(iii) The foreign exchange inflow shall not be less than 5 times the foreign exchange outflow of the project during the above mentioned 10 years period.

(iv) Foreign brand names shall not be allowed to be used on domestic sales.

For implementing the above approval, a new company called M/s. Pepsi Foods Limited was incorporated under the Company's Act. In July 1993, in terms of post 1991 liberalisation of Industrial Policy and approval granted to the other foreign company in the soft drink sector, the terms and conditions of the approval given to M/s. Pepsi Foods Ltd. were revised as follows:

(i) Conditions relating to turnover from soft drink concentrate and that relating to export of 50% of the total turnover were deleted.

(ii) Condition relating to foreign exchange inflow/ outflow ratio of 5:1 was revised to 3:1.

(c) M/s. Pepsi Foods Limited has not adhered to all the conditions of Foreign Collaboration approval.

(d) For the violation under Foreign Trade (Dev. & Regulations) Act, 1992, a penalty of Rs. 3.00 crores was imposed on M/s. Pepsi Foods Limited by Director General, Foreign Trade.

**Unauthorised sale of Tickets in Railway Stations**

1342. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents relating to sale of tickets by unauthorised persons recorded within the railway premises during the last year; and

(b) the remedial steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) During the year 1998, incidents of sale of tickets by unauthorised persons have come to notice in which 3293 touts and other anti-social elements have been detected and prosecuted.

(b) To check the ticket reservations by touts and other anti-social elements, various teams consisting of staff from anti-fraud squads, Vigilance and Railway Protection Force have been constituted in the Zonal Railways to conduct regular and surprise checks in association with various agencies like Central Bureau of Investigation and local police personnel.

**Funding of Railway Projects**

1343. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any plan to involve the respective State Governments in the funding of various Railway projects undertaken in the States;

(b) if so, whether priority would be given to those projects which has the funding by State Governments; and

(c) whether those State Governments would be given due share in the profits and employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Projects have been prioritised for the purpose of funding on the basis of their operational needs, physical progress, national and strategic importance and on their social desirability. Participation of the State Government per se does not determine the priority of a project but is linked to the speed of execution of projects. However, since State Government make funds available for specific project, execution of such projects is influenced by the participation of the State Government. It also becomes easier to coordinate activities of various State Government agencies.

(c) The profits, if generated, are shared as per the specific agreements with the State Government. Employment opportunities are provided in conformity with

the Constitutional provisions and the directives of the Supreme Court regarding equal opportunities to all in the matter of employment under Central Government. These are finalised as per the terms of agreement entered into between the Central and State Governments within the overall policy.

**Operation by Private Airlines**

1344. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being adopted for granting permission to private airlines to operate on different routes;

(b) the names of private airlines which have been granted permission to operate on long routes;

(c) the reasons for not assigning the short routes to them; and

(d) the income accrued from the private airlines in the country during 1997-98 and 1998-99, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) With a view to achieving better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions in the country, route dispersal guidelines have been framed. These guidelines stipulate all scheduled operators to deploy in the North Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep (Categry-II routes) at least 10% of their deployed capacity on trunk routes (Category-I routes); 1% of the capacity deployed on Category-II routes is to be deployed exclusively within Category-II stations; and 50% of the capacity provided on Category-I routes is to be deployed on routes other than Category-I and Category-II routes (Category-III routes).

At present M/s Jet Airways and M/s Sahara India Airlines are operating scheduled air services. M/s Archana Airways is not operating due to non-availability of operational aircraft.

(d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) collects various airport charges and the Department of Revenue earns revenue by way of Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT). State Governments also collect Sales Tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) ranging from 0% to 30.55%. Details of income accrued to AAI from private airlines during 1997-98 and expected earnings during 1998-99, airport-wise, are given in the attached statement. Collection of IATT is centralised at Delhi and therefore, airport-wise data is not available. IATT collected during 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto 31.12.1998) was Rs. 453.80 crores and Rs. 440.15 crores, respectively.

***Statement***

*Airports Authority of India*

*Revenue accrued to AAI from Private Airlines*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| | | 1997-98 | 1998-99 (RE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 |
| 1. | Agaratala | 0.25 | 0.00 |
| 2. | Agatti | 6.18 | 1.77 |
| 3. | Agra | 6.32 | 4.85 |
| 4. | Ahmedabad | 391.16 | 304.56 |
| 5. | Aizwal * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6. | Akola | 0.10 | 0.00 |
| 7. | Allahabad * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8. | Along * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9. | Amritsar | 2.86 | 3.20 |
| 10. | Aurangabad | 0.42 | 80.19 |
| 11. | Bagdogra | 39.00 | 42.95 |
| 12. | Bangalore | 570.05 | 751.93 |

| | | 1 | 2 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | Baroda | 148.06 | 165.50 |
| 14. | Behala | 0.13 | 15.00 |
| 15. | Belgaum | 5.64 | 8.30 |
| 16. | Bellurghat * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 17. | Bhavnagar | 17.83 | 10.64 |
| 18. | Bhopal | 82.55 | 15.55 |
| 19. | Bhubaneshwar | 8.51 | 12.56 |
| 20. | Bhuj | 24.66 | 66.22 |
| 21. | Bikaner * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 22. | Bilaspur * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 23. | Calcutta | 880.28 | 928.00 |
| 24. | Calicut | 93.20 | 130.02 |
| 25. | Chakulia * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 26. | Chandigarh | 4.63 | 5.30 |
| 27. | Chennai | 1101.28 | 1701.22 |
| 28. | Cochin | 108.56 | 84.05 |
| 29. | Coimbatore | 173.33 | 191.45 |
| 30. | Cooch-Behar * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 31. | Cuddapah * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 32. | Daparizo * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 33. | Dehradun | 1.38 | 3.00 |
| 34. | Delhi (Palam) | 3014.67 | 3843.84 |
| 35. | Dessa * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 36. | Dibrugarh | 37.81 | 34.24 |
| 37. | Dimapur | 0.32 | 0.00 |
| 38. | Donakonda | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 39. | Gaggal | 0.36 | 0.40 |
| 40. | Gaya | 0.06 | 0.08 |
| 41. | Goa | 169.07 | 212.61 |
| 42. | Gorakhpur | 0.19 | 0.18 |
| 43. | Guwahati | 217.67 | 227.37 |
| 44. | Gwalior | 1.23 | 3.00 |

| | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 45. | Hassan * | 0.00 | 0.00 | 61. | Kailasahar | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 46. | Hubli | 0.13 | 0.00 | 62. | Kamalpur | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 47. | Hyderabad | 387.09 | 437.53 | 63. | Kandla | 2.50 | 3.39 |
| 48. | Imphal | 0.30 | 0.00 | 64. | Kanpur | 1.67 | 2.26 |
| 49. | Indore | 177.48 | 122.61 | 65. | Kanpur (Chakeri) | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 50. | Jabalpur | 0.82 | 0.29 | 66. | Keshod | 4.07 | 2.64 |
| 51. | Jaipur | 143.01 | 187.71 | 67. | Khandwa * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 52. | Jaisalmer | 0.58 | 0.50 | 68. | Khajuraho | 1.39 | 1.55 |
| 53. | Jammu | 97.01 | 156.85 | 69. | Kolhapur | 1.27 | 0.00 |
| 54. | Jamnagar | 23.90 | 5.12 | 70. | Kota | 0.49 | 0.25 |
| 55. | Jhansi * | 0.00 | 0.00 | 71. | Kowahi * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 56. | Jharsuguda | 0.00 | 0.00 | 72. | Kulu (Bhunter) | 13.73 | 28.71 |
| 57. | Jodhpur | 6.11 | 3.05 | 73. | Lalitpur | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 58. | Jogbani * | 0.0 | 0.00 | 74. | Leh * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 59. | Jorhat | 14.92 | 13.76 | 75. | Lucknow | 180.09 | 219.11 |
| 60. | Juhu | 85.07 | 84.29 | 76. | Ludhiana | 1.02 | 1.35 |

| | | 1 | 2 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 77. | Madurai | 9.16 | 0.00 |
| 78. | Malda * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 79. | Mangalore | 132.88 | 210.70 |
| 80. | Mumbai | 5316.47 | 5677.71 |
| 81. | Muzaffarpur | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 82. | Mysore * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 83. | Nagpur | 126.08 | 133.01 |
| 84. | North Lakhimpur* | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 85. | Panna | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 86. | Pantnagar | 2.04 | 2.55 |
| 87. | Passighat | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 88. | Patna | 76.24 | 80.90 |
| 89. | Pondicherry | 0.02 | 0.00 |
| 90. | Porbandar | 6.87 | 6.25 |
| 91. | Port-Blair | 0.62 | 0.65 |
| 92. | Pune | 155.06 | 236.02 |
| 93. | Raipur | 37.57 | 0.72 |
| 94. | Rajamundry | 2.85 | 2.25 |
| 95. | Rajkot | 53.59 | 75.61 |
| 96. | Ranchi | 1.51 | 1.49 |
| 97. | Raxaul * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 98. | Rupsi * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 99. | Safdarjung | 1.25 | 1.00 |
| 100. | Salem | 0.04 | 0.00 |
| 101. | Satna * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 102. | Shella * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 103. | Shillong | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 104. | Shimla | 3.11 | 4.50 |
| 105. | Sholapur | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 106. | Silchar | 0.07 | 0.00 |
| 107. | Srinagar | 83.44 | 107.10 |
| 108. | Tezpur | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| | | 1 | 2 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 109. | Tezu* | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 110. | Tirupati | 0.47 | 1.45 |
| 111. | Trichrapalli | 0.34 | 0.21 |
| 112. | Trivandrum | 109.39 | 133.46 |
| 113. | Tuticorin* | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 114. | Udaipur | 21.80 | 10.27 |
| 115. | Varanasi | 87.69 | 120.84 |
| 116. | Vellore * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 117. | Vijayawada | 0.05 | 0.00 |
| 118. | Vishakhapatnam | 4.36 | 0.00 |
| 119. | Warangal * | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 120. | Zero * | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Note:—*Depicts non-Operational airports.

*[English]*

**Filling up of Vacancies of SC/ST**

1345. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SCs/STs and OBCs provided with jobs in the Ministry and its subordinate offices and autonomous bodies during the last two years;

(b) the number of SC/ST and OBC posts lying vacant in above offices; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken for not filling up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Modernisation of T-72 MI**

1346. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the T-72 MI, being produced at the HVF Avadi, was to undergo a modernisation programme to give it latest state-of-art features; and

(b) if so, the present status of the project?

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

(b) Modernised tanks are expected to start rolling out from HVF from December 1999 onward having incorporated most of the improvements.

**AIR Station at Sitamarhi, Bihar**

1347. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding setting up of AIR station at Sitamarhi (Bihar); and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal to set up an AIR Station at Sitamarhi in Bihar could not be accommodated in the 9th plan due to resource constraints.

*[Translation]*

**Provision of Foot Overbridge**

1348. SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of bridge No. 50 and 51 on the Mansi Saharsa railway section under Samastipur Railway Division is going on;

(b) if so, whether no provision for foot over-bridges have been made on above bridges whereas the same has been made on bridge No. 49;

(c) whether the Government intends to make any provisions for the same; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) State Govt./Local administration have to sponsor proposal duly agreeing to bear the entire cost of construction and recurring maintenance.

*English]*

**Building Norms for Cantonment Towns**

1349. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "building norms for cantonment towns—Environment, Defence Ministries at loggerheads" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated January 29, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the case reported therein;

(c) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives to solve the problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) There is no conflict between Ministry of Environment & Forests and Ministry of Defence. The restrictions imposed by Southern Command have been appreciated by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. To bring about uniformity of building norms a committee has been constituted during 1998 to look into the matter.

*[Translation]*

**Classification of Sponsored Programmes**

1350. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for classification of the sponsored programmes of Doordarshan;

(b) whether any complaints have been received regarding the violation of the criteria during 1998; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that classification of a programme for commercial purposes is determined keeping in mind the contents of the Rate Card prescribed for the purpose. A sponsored programme is, however, also classified in terms of its programming contents and the timings of telecast.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Development of Kakinada Airport**

1351. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have neglected development/modernisation work at Kakinada airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to develop it?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Since there is no airstrip at Kakinada, the question of neglect or development or modernisation does not arise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Late Running of Trains Between New Delhi-Mumbai**

1352. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trains between New Delhi and Mumbai are running late continuously for the last four years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure running of the trains on scheduled time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Railways try to run trains punctually. However, the trains do run late sometimes due to alarm chainpulling, miscreants activities, agitation/bandh, accidents, bad weather (fog/floods) etc., equipment and human failures. Constant chasing and monitoring is done by both Divisional and Zonal Railway Headquarters. Meetings are held daily and remedial measures taken to improve punctual running of trains.

**Loss of Revenue due to Strike of ATCs**

1353. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of revenue incurred by Indian Airlines due to Air Traffic Controllers strike; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to solve this problem urgently?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Indian Airlines/Alliance Air incurred a loss of about Rs. 1.83 crores due to Air Traffic Controllers agitation during 1st February, 1999 to 19th February, 1999.

(b) A contingency plan was prepared by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). A notification under ESMA (Essential Services Maintenance Act) has been issued by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi on 15.2.1999 declaring air traffic services as essential services. A notification has also been issued for conferring on certain Central Government officers the power of arrest, investigation and prosecution under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act. Air Traffic Controllers Guild has given an assurance to Delhi High Court on 19.2.1999 that there shall be no disruption of flight schedules. AAI has also taken strict disciplinary action by dismissing six delinquent air traffic controllers.

**Encroachment of Railway Land**

1354. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a big chunk of land adjoining Shivaji Bridge Railway Station in New Delhi, owned by Railways, is under encroachment and illegal occupation by a private party for the last many years;

(b) whether due to increase in passenger traffic in suburban sector, the Shivaji Bridge Station is having acute shortage of space for providing basic passenger amenities thereby causing untold problems to daily commuters;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Railway authorities to evict the encroachers and regain possession of land;

(d) whether there is any court cases pending in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Railway had filed cases in the Court of Estate Officer whose orders for eviction have been challenged in the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi and the matter is sub-judice.

(e) The details are given as under.

(i) Suit No. 1756/84 in High Court, Delhi-Union of India V/s M/s Oriental Building and Furnishing Company (P) Ltd.

(ii) Suit No. 4475/92 in the Court of Additional district Judge, Delhi-Union of India V/s M/s Oriental Building and Furnishing Company (P) Ltd.

(iii) Suit No. CM(M) 130/90, in High Court, Delhi-Oriental Building & Furnishing Company (P) Ltd. V/s Union of India.

**Sainik Schools**

1355. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Sainik Schools as on date with latest intake of each of them, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to increase their intake capacity;

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

(d) if not, the other measures including opening of new schools, to increase their intake capacity;

(e) whether the students of Sainik Schools are given priority in Defence services over other schools; and

(f) if so, the percentage of Defence personnel of Sainik Schools as against that of other schools during 1997 and 1998?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The State-wise location of the 18 Sainik Schools in the country with maximum permissible strength of resident scholars based on available capacity is given in attached statement. The annual intake of boys by way of admission in classes VI and IX depends on such factors like the cadets passing out at the end of the academic year, withdrawals, etc.

(b) and (c) It has recently been decided to increase maximum permissible strength of Sainik School Amravathinagar from 600 to 650 by the academic year 2000-2001. There is no proposal to increase maximum permissible strength in case of any other school, at present.

(d) The State Governments which do not have Sainik Schools and those which have more than 5% of total population but have only one Sainik School, have been requested to submit proposals for opening new Sainik Schools.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

***Statement***

*Details of Sainik Schools*

| Sl. No. | Name of the Sainik School | Name of the State | Maximum permissible strength of resident scholars in the school |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Amravathinagar | Tamil Nadu | 600 |
| 2. | Balachadi | Gujarat | 568 |
| 3. | Bhubaneswar | Orissa | 610 |
| 4. | Bijapur | Karnataka | 604 |
| 5. | Chittorgarh | Rajasthan | 520 |
| 6. | Ghorakhal | Uttar Pradesh | 456 |
| 7. | Goalpara | Assam | 670 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8. | Imphal | Manipur | 472 |
| 9. | Kapurthala | Punjab | 617 |
| 10. | Kazhakootam | Kerala | 598 |
| 11. | Korukonda | Andhra Pradesh | 545 |
| 12. | Kunjpura | Haryana | 565 |
| 13. | Nagrota | Jammu & Kashmir | 450 |
| 14. | Purulia | West Bengal | 518 |
| 15. | Rewa | Madhya Pradesh | 483 |
| 16. | Satara | Maharashtra | 598 |
| 17. | Sujanpur Tira | Himachal Pradesh | 466 |
| 18. | Tilaiya | Bihar | 854 |

*[Translation]*

**Appointment of Out-door Booking Agency**

1356. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the parameter/guidelines fixed for appointment of outdoor air booking agents for booking of parcel/luggage and imported vehicles under liberalisation schemes;

(b) whether according to these parameters the Government contemplate to appoint such outdoor booking agents at Raigarh near Mumbai which has been declared an industrial district by the State Government;

(c) if so, the time by which Government contemplate to appoint such agents; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The guidelines for appointment of cargo agents are (a) Availability of suitable warehouse. (b) Requisite number of weighing scales. (c) Own transport arrangement for the movement of cargo booked to an airport and for picking-up the same from shipper warehouses. (d) Telephone connectivity. (e) Qualified/trained staff. (f) Two staff trained in handling of Dangerous Goods.

(b) to (d) No such proposal is under consideration. No request or application has been received for appointment of booking agency at Raigarh near Mumbai.

*[English]*

**War Museums**

1357. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the places where the War Museums have been set up in the country, location-wise;

(b) the details of the expenses incurred on these museums during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up some more such museums in the country; and

(d) if so, the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No war Museum has been set up at the National level.

(c) and (d) Setting up of a National War Museum is contemplated.

*[Translation]*

**Flight on Jabalpur-Raipur Sector**

1358. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government have requested to start air service from Raipur to Jabalpur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places including Jabalpur depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

*[English]*

**Revision of Fee by D.G., Doordarshan**

1359. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Doordarshan, has revised the fee of various categories of casual staff working in various offices of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a fee of Rs. 250/- per assignment per day have been given to the categories of casual having Rs. 5000-8000/- scale on regular side;

(d) if so, whether the fee of casual stenographers coming under the purview of (c) above, have also been given the same fee;

(e) if not, whether any proposal for fee revision of casual stenographers is under consideration of the DG, Doordarshan;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) As reported by Prasar Bharati, fees of casual artists engaged by Doordarshan to meet programme exigencies were revised in September, 1998. The fees ranges from Rs. 150/- to Rs. 400/- per assignment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As reported by Prasar Bharati, the fee of casual stenographers engaged in news rooms at regional units of different Doordarshan Kendras was fixed at Rs. 200/ per day in October, 1997 without relating it to any regular scale of pay.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

**Gauge Conversion**

1360. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to convert Burdwan-Katwa and Ahmedpur-Katwa metre gauge lines into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the time by which these lines are likely to be converted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A survey for gauge conversion of Bardhaman-Katwa has been included in the budget 1999-2000. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available. There is no proposal for converting Ahmedpur-Katwa section at present.

*[Translation]*

**Construction of Habibganj Railway Station**

1361. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works completed and yet to be completed at Habibganj railway station in Bhopal;

(b) the budgetary provision made during 1998-99 and actual amount spent thereon; and

(c) the time by which the construction of Habibganj railway station is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) New Station building at Habibganj has been completed with Passenger Reservation System, Waiting Halls/Rooms, circulating area, platforms and yard for coaching terminal.

(b) 1998-99 Rs. 15.00 lakh.

Expenditure incurred 50 far. Rs. 13.52 lakh

(c) Construction of Habibganj railway station has already been completed.

*[English]*

**Per Passenger Kilometre Earnings**

1362. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the per passenger kilometre earnings of Railways in 1950s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and the 1998-99 financial year; and

(b) the rate of increase, plan-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The earnings per passenger kilometre (pkm) are given below:

| Year | Earnings per pkm (paise) | Year | Earnings per pkm (paise) | Year | Earnings per pkm (paise) | Year | Earnings per pkm (paise) | Year | Earnings per pkm (paise) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1950-51 | 1.48 | 1960-61 | 1.71 | 1970-71 | 2.50 | 1980-81 | 3.97 | 1990-91 | 10.64 |
| 1951-52 | 1.75 | 1961-62 | 1.85 | 1971-72 | 2.55 | 1981-82 | 4.48 | 1991-92 | 11.70 |
| 1952-53 | 1.69 | 1962-63 | 2.01 | 1972-73 | 2.57 | 1982-83 | 5.12 | 1992-93 | 14.37 |
| 1953-54 | 1.67 | 1963-64 | 2.09 | 1973-74 | 2.71 | 1983-84 | 6.06 | 1993-94 | 16.51 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1954-55 | 1.66 | 1964-65 | 2.13 | 1974-75 | 3.27 | 1984-85 | 6.43 | 1994-95 | 17.09 |
| 1955-56 | 1.72 | 1965-66 | 2.28 | 1975-76 | 3.46 | 1985-86 | 7.15 | 1995-96 | 17.87 |
| 1956-57 | 1.72 | 1966-67 | 2.25 | 1976-77 | 3.47 | 1986-87 | 7.56 | 1996-97 | 18.53 |
| 1957-58 | 1.72 | 1967-68 | 2.36 | 1977-78 | 3.52 | 1987-88 | 7.64 | 1997-98 | 19.88 |
| 1958-59 | 1.71 | 1968-69 | 2.48 | 1978-79 | 3.49 | 1988-89 | 9.30 | | |
| 1959-60 | 1.71 | 1969-70 | 2.46 | 1979-80 | 3.72 | 1989-90 | 9.49 | | |

The figures of 1998-99 cannot be furnished unless the year is completed.

(b) Rate of increase, Plan-wise:

| Plan period | Earnings per passenger kilometre (Paise) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | At the beginning of the Plan | At the end of the Plan | %age increase during the Plan |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| I Plan (1951-56) | 1.48 | 1.72 | 16.22 |
| II Plan (1956-61) | 1.72 | 1.71 | -0.58 |
| III Plan (1961-66) | 1.71 | 2.28 | 33.33 |
| IV Plan (1969-74) | 2.48 | 2.71 | 9.27 |
| V Plan (1974-78) (4 Years) | 2.71 | 3.52 | 29.89 |
| VI Plan (1980-85) | 3.72 | 6.43 | 72.85 |
| VII Plan (1985-90) | 6.43 | 9.49 | 47.59 |
| VIII Plan (1992-97) | 11.70 | 18.53 | 58.38 |

**Funds for CSD**

1363. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds released for the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) during each of the last three years and the amount spent by CSD therefrom;

(b) whether any audit of such expenditure was undertaken; and

(c) if so, the shortcomings noticed and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The quantum of funds, released for the Canteen Stores Department (CSD), during each of the last three years and the amount spent by C.S.D. thereagainst, are as under:—

(Rupees in Lacs)

| Financial Year | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Funds Released | 172503.00 | 193920.90 | 234121.30 |
| Amount Spent | 172501.28 | 193919.58 | 234183.70 |

(b) and (c) Regular audit is carried out by Controller of Defence Accounts (CDA), Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) and Director General of Audit respectively, and no serious shortcomings were noticed.

**Administrative Control of Audit Offices, West Bengal**

1364. SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work relating to normal accounting and internal audit was never entrusted to the office of the CDA (EC) despite specific creation of the office on the orders of the Ministry of Defence and CGDA, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have decided to shift the administrative control of all the relevant Audit Offices in West Bengal from CDA, Patna to CDA (EC), Calcutta; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the date of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The post of CDA(EC) was not created to discharge the normal accounting and internal audit functions but to provide services as Integrated Financial Adviser to the GOC-in-C, Eastern Command.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Computerised Reservation Centre at Jalpaiguri**

1365. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has planned to open a computerised reservation centre/counter at Jalpaiguri railway station;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is expected to be commissioned by the end of calendar year 1999.

(c) Does not arise.

**Visit of South African Naval Chief**

1366. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Naval Chief of South Africa paid a visit to India during the month of October last year;

(b) if so, the main agreements reached at; and

(c) the extent to which the South Africa has agreed to provide improved defence hardware to India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Chief of South African Navy visited India from 4-10 October 1998.

(b) This was a goodwill visit and no agreement was signed during the visit.

(c) Defence supplies, cooperation in defence research and production are part of the multi-faceted ongoing defence cooperation between India and South Africa.

**Indo-China Agreement on C.B.Ms**

1367. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI A.C. JOS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in November, 1996 China and India had signed an agreement on CBMs in the military field along the line of Actual Control on the Sino-India border;

(b) if so, the extent to which these agreements have been implemented and eased the tension; and

(c) the total troop reduced by both sides along the Indo-China border so far?

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

(b) The Agreement on CBMs is a step forward in improving relations with China and maintaining peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control.

(c) While Article III of the Agreement includes provision for reduction/limitation of troops of the two countries along the LAC, this cannot be implemented till an understanding is reached on the LAC clarification.

**Agreement between India and France**

1368. SHRI MADAN PATIL:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation in Railways during recent visit of French Transport Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether France has agreed to help India on development of railways;

(d) if so, whether both the countries have agreed to meet again in February 1999 to discuss further prospects of Railway Co-operation between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the French Minister has agreed to help India on the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) No, Sir. No Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Co-operation in Railways was signed. However, a Declaration of Intent for Co-operation in the Rail Sector between India and France was signed on February 1, 1999. Activities to be undertaken under this include:—

(i) Exchange of information on their policies, laws and regulations in this field;

(ii) Exchange programme for experts and trainees;

(iii) Jointly organising symposiums, seminars, conferences on themes of common interest;

(iv) All other forms of mutual co-operation.

The main themes to be covered by this proposed co-operation programme will be as follows:—

(i) Increasing the capacity of railway lines

(ii) Safety measures

(iii) Track maintenance, modernisation including bridge rehabilitation programme

(iv) Signalling Telecommunications

(v) Electrification

(vi) Electric and Diesel rolling stock

(vii) Traction rolling stock

(viii) Information technology

(ix) Training;

(x) Any other area decided by mutual consent.

**Financial Assistance for FPI Units**

1369. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:
SHRI BHARATRAHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of financial assistance released by the Union Government to State Governments Organisations/Cooperatives/Voluntary agencies, etc. for the setting up/expansion/modernisation of Food Processing Units under Plan Schemes, during the current year and each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of investment made by private foreign investors;

(c) the details of proposals for setting up of food processing units received from abroad; and

(d) the production capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Schemes provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid and soft loan to Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Industries etc. for the development of food processing industries including that for setting up/ expansion/modernisation of food processing units. However, these schemes are project oriented and not State specific.

The outlay of Rs. 30 crores is likely to be utilised fully during the current year. During the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98, utilisation of Plan funds has been Rs. 40.87 crores, 35.83 crores and 22.87 crores respectively.

(b) and (c) Out of total investment of Rs. 72,175 crores, approved since liberalisation in July, 1991 till December, 1998 for setting up food processing industries, foreign investment component is Rs. 8809 crores involving 703 cases of foreign collaboration approvals.

(d) Since the Processed Food Sector cover wide range of products entailing adoption of different accounting units for production, the consolidated computation of production capacity is not feasible.

**Pilferage at New Guwahati Railway Yard**

1370. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mass scale pilferage has been noticed recently at new Guwahati Railway Yard;

(b) if so, the amount of loss suffered by the Railways during each of the last three years and the current year so far; and

(c) the details of remedial measures adopted by the Government to curb such pilferages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of cases and value of property stolen during the last three calendar years *i.e.* 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 (upto 31st January) at New Guwahati Railway Yard is as under:—

| Year | No. of Cases reported | Value of property Stolen (In Rs.) |
|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 1 | 5,000 |
| 1997 | 7 | 22,265 |
| 1998 | 8 | 7,015 |
| 1999 (upto Jan. 31st) | 1 | 450 |

(c) The following preventive measures are being taken to curb such pilferages:—

1. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/sections.
2. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the condition of wagon/seals, carrying consignments.
3. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in yards as far as possible.

4. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect criminal intelligence with a view to tracking down offenders.

5. Based on criminal intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of criminals/receivers of stolen property in order to bring them to book.

6. Dog squads are deployed for patrolling in yards.

7. Close coordination between RPF, GRP and local police is maintained at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.

**Doubling of Tumkur-Yashwantpur Railway Line**

1371. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary clearances have been obtained for the doubling of the Tumkur-Yashwantpur railway line;

(b) if so, the time by which the doubling work on above line is likely to be started and completed;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the above project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Preliminary arrangements for taking up the work are already being made. The work would be started shortly and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Survey for Rajnandgaon-Jabalpur Line**

1372. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey work of Rajnandgaon-Jabalpur rail line via Khairagarh, Chhui Khadan, Gandai, Karardha, Bodla and Mandla has been started;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Survey could not be taken up due to other on-going Surveys on hand. However, the Survey for the above line is being taken up from April, 1999.

*[English]*

**Export of Fruits and Vegetables**

1373. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the thrust areas for the export of fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the details of such area and the action plan for the said project, State-wise;

(c) details of infrastructural development of such area; and

(d) details of incentives offered to individual enterprises and companies to set up such food processing units for exports?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been established with the objective of development and promotion of exports of certain agriculture and processed food products including fruits and vegetables.

APEDA provides assistance for feasibility studies, surveys consultancy and data base upgradation. It also provides assistance for infrastructure development, export promotion, market development, packaging and promotion of quality. To encourage exports of the processed foods, Government is providing financial assistance for the setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing plants, for R&D and promotional activities including publicity, market promotion, quality control etc. In addition, in accordance with the general policy of Government for promoting exports, 100% Export Oriented Food Processing units and such units located in the Free Trade Zones, get complete customs duty exemptions on imported capital goods, intermediates, components and raw materials in accordance with the EXIM Policy in force. That policy also provides in general for upto 50% of the production of 100% Export Oriented Unit or a unit in the Free Trade Zone, to be sold in the domestic market. Such domestic sales are normally at higher profit margins than export sales. Furthermore, all profits from export sales are completely free from corporate taxes.

**Upgradation of MIG-21**

1374. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI 'CHELLAMELLA':
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in upgrading MIG-21 aircraft for enhancing their capabilities; and

(b) the time schedule by which the upgradation programme is proposed to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The reasons for delay in upgrading MIG-21 aircraft is because of delay in the supply of systems of non-Russian origin and customs related problems in Russia.

The upgradation programme is now planned to be completed in the year 2003.

**Breakdown in Computerised Reservation**

1375. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the frequent breakdown of computerised Railway Reservation System in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some kind of complaints regarding the computerised Railway Reservation of New Delhi have also been received;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to set up the system in order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. These are mainly attributed to telecommunication link failures, equipment failures and computer system failures. Railways are maintaining constant touch with Department of Telecom (DOT) to rectify telecommunication faults and old equipments are being replaced to reduce the failures and to sustain high degree of efficiency.

**Maintenance and Electrification of Kharagpur-Vishakhapatnam Railway Track**

1376. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the urgent repair, maintenance and electrification of Kharagpur and Vishakhapatnam Railway track;

(b) if so, the whether any steps have been taken in that direction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Between Vishakhapatnam-Kharagpur, 124 Kms. of track has been renewed during 1997-98 and during 1998-99, 161 kms. of track is targetted to be renewed and the progress till January, 1999 is 120 kms.

As regards electrification, section between Vishakhapatnam & Alamanda (38 route km.) has already been energised in March, 1998. Another 85 kms. is targetted to be completed upto 31-3-1999.

**Studio Facalities in Doordarshan Centres in U.P.**

1377. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether studio facilities have been provided in all the Doordarshan Centres set up in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Adivasi area;

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

(c) the details of the Doordarshan Centres where such facilities have not been provided so far, location-wise; and

(d) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) Whereas 106 TV transmitters (HPTs-9, LPTs-68, VLPTs-26, transposers-3) including one LPT at Lakhimpur (in notified Advisai district Kheri), are presently functioning in Uttar Pradesh. Studio facilities are available only at Lucknow, Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Mau, Allahabad & Varanasi. Location-wise details of 106 transmitters are given in the statement attached.

(d) Scheme for establishment of a Studio set-up at Mathura is presently under implementation. There is no approved scheme at present, for providing studio facilities at any other Kendra in U.P.

***Statement***

*Existing TV Network in Uttar Pradesh (As on 15.2.1999)*

*Studio Centres*

Lucknow

Bareilly

Gorakhpur

Mau

Allahabad

Varanasi

*High Power Transmitters*

Agra

Allahabad

Bareilly

Gorakhpur

Kanpur

Lucknow

Mau

Mussoorie

Varanasi

*Low Power Transmitters*

Akbarpur

Aligarh

Amroha

Athdama

Auraiya

Bahraich

Ballia

Balrampur

Banda

Basti

Champavat

Chhibramau

Deoria

Etah

Etawah

Faizabad

Farrukhabad

Fatehpur

Ganj Dundwara

Gauriganj

Gonda

Haldwani

Hardoi

Haridwar

Jagdishpur

Jhansi

Kasganj

Kashipur

Kotdwar

Lakhimpur

Lalganj (Pratapgarh)

Lalganj (Rae Bareli)

Lalitpur

Mahoba

Mahroni

Mainpuri

Mathura

Mauranipur

Muradabad

Muhammadabad

Naini Danda

Nainital

Nanpara

Naugarh

New Tehri

Obra

Orai

Pauri

Pilibhit

Pithoragarh

Puranpur

Rae Bareli

Rampur

Rasra

Rath

Rudauli

Sambal

Shahjahanpur

Sikendarpur

Sitapur

Sultanpur

Tanakpur

Tirwa

Azamgarh (DDII)

Kanpur (DDII)

Lucknow (DDII)

Mau (DDII)

Rampur (DDII)

*Very Low Power Transmitters*

Almora

Bageshwar

Basot

Bhatiari

Chaukhatia

Devprayag

Dharchula

Didihat

Gajja

Ghandyal

Gopeshwar

Joshimath

Kaljikhal

Kam Prayag

Kausani

Manikpur

Mankapur

Musiari

Nandprayag

Pratap Nagar

Rajgari

Ranikhet

Saahiya

Thakurdwara

Tharali

Uttarkashi

*Transposers*

Churk

Mussorie

Srinagar

**Study Opportunities in A.M.S.**

1378. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Post-Graduate study opportunities in service institutions under Army Medical Science (AMS) are squandered by way of offering them to non-service medial graduates, even when AMS personnel fully eligible for such post-graduate studies are available within the service;

(b) if so, the details of such cases recorded during 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(c) the justification attributed thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Post Graduate study opportunities in the Army Medical Corps (AMC) are available at Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, Research & Referral Hospital, Delhi Cantt, Command Hospital (Air Force), Bangalore and INHS Asvini, Mumbai. All Post graduate seats in the Service Institutions are allotted strictly on the basis of merit-cum-choice following a Central PG entrance examination. Service officers who, on study leave, join Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, for super specialisation, however, do not have to go through a written test for admission. Army Medical Corps personnel have prior claim on the PG seats, depending upon the Service requirements. However, PG seats which are not availed of by the Service personnel are offered to other categories like Foreign sponsored candidates, ex-SSC officers and lastly, if any seats remain, they are offered to Civilian Doctors. Thus, the opportunities for the Post Graduate studies available to the Army Medical Corps personnel are not squandered.

Details of year-wise allotment of seats which were not required by the Army Medical Corps and given to non-Service personnel are given in the attached statement.

***Statement***

| Hospital/year | Foreign candidates | Para Military officers | Ex-Service officers | Civilians |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| **AFMC Pune** | | | | |
| 1995-96 | — | 04 | 07 | 13 |
| 1996-97 | — | — | 08 | 16 |
| 1997-98 | 3 | — | 09 | 25 |
| 1998-99 | 4 | — | 05 | 12 |
| **Army Research & Referral Hospital Delhi Cantt** | | | | |
| 1995-96 | — | — | 09 | 22 |
| 1996-97 | — | — | — | 16 |
| 1997-98 | — | — | 05 | 07 |
| 1998-99 | — | — | 11 | 06 |
| **Command Hospital, Air Force, Bangalore** | | | | |
| 1995-96 | — | — | — | 20 |
| 1996-97 | — | — | — | 16 |
| 1997-98 | — | — | — | — |
| 1998-99 | — | — | — | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INHS Asvini, Mumbai** | | | | |
| 1995-96 | — | — | 01 | 34 |
| 1996-97 | — | — | — | 22 |
| 1997-98 | — | — | 02 | 31 |
| 1998-99 | — | — | — | 20 |

*[Translation]*

**F.P.I. Units**

1379. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set-up food processing units in the country in collaboration with Japan or any other country;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached with any country; and

(c) if so, the location of such units to be set-up under the agreement, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. This Ministry does not set up food processing units directly. However, the Government is encouraging and promoting setting up of food processing industries including those with foreign technical/financial/ marketing collaborations.

(c) A list of foreign technical/financial collaboration cases, approved by the Government from July 1991 to December 1998 for food processing industry between Indian and Japanese companies, is given in the attached Statement.

***Statement***

| Sl. No. | Company Name | Collaborator Name | Item Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Innovative Marine Foods Ltd. | M/s. Mitsubishi Corporation, Tokyo. | Frozen Marine products. |
| 2. | Oriental Highseas Fisheries, Ltd. | | |
| 3. | V. Surendrakumar, | Kyoei Trading Co., Japan | Hatchery plant for prawn/shrimps. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | Southern Seafoods Ltd | M/s. Monarch Trading Co. (Japan) Ltd. | Prawns and Shrimps Processed Foods and Prawn Hatchery |
| 5. | Minota Acqua Foods Ltd. | Showa Trading Co. Ltd. | Food Processing |
| 6. | Indo Nissin Foods Ltd. | Nissin Food Products Co. Ltd. | Food Processing |
| 7. | Cepham Milk Specialities Limited | Sophia Bussan Inc. | Casein and Lactose |
| 8. | Naveen Matanabe Agrotech Limited | Kumamoto Shiitake Co. Ltd. | Maitahe, Japanese speciality Mushrooms |
| 9. | Unified Agro Industries India Limited | M/s. Nissho IWAI Corporation | Manufacturer/Exporter of Agro Products and RICE |
| 10. | Snowman Frozen Foods Ltd. | Mitsubishi Corporation | Prawn and Fish |
| 11. | Snowman Frozen Foods Limited | Mitsubishi Corporation Ltd. | For manufacture of Frozen Food items such as Prawns Frozen, Frozen Fish, Crab Frozen & Whole Cooked Lobster with Annual Capacity of 30,00 tonnes |
| 12. | Paper Products Ltd. | Fuji Seal Inc. | Packaging for food items |
| 13. | Flex Industries Ltd. | Sumitomo Bakelite Co. Ltd. | Packing for Food Inds. |
| 14. | Menon Foods Private Limited | Menons Ltd. | Procesed Vegetables |

*[English]*

**Bar Coding Facility for Handling of Cargo**

1380. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India propose to introduce bar coding facility for streamlining the identification and handling of cargo;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal for bar coding facility for streamlining the identification and handling of cargo is at conceptual stage and the scheme is likely to be introduced during the next financial year.

**Casual Labour**

1381. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are safeguarding the interest of Casual Labourers engaged in public sector through private contractors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal for making such experienced/skilled labourers to regular; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Central Government have enacted the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 to protect the interests of contract labour engaged through contractors including Casual Labour. It regulates the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and provides for its abolition in certain circumstances. The Act and the rules made thereunder also provides for the regulation of conditions of work, payment of wages and other amenities relating to welfare and health of contract labour.

(c) and (d) The Act does not provide for absorption of such labour on regular basis. In the aftermath of the judgement of the Supreme Court in Air India Statutory Corporation & Others Vs. United Labour Union & Others, however, the establishments engaging contract labour are under statutory obligation to absorb contract labourers on regular basis wherever the appropriate Government by way of notification under Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 have prohibited employment of contract labour in any job/work/process in that establishment. The criteria to be adopted for absorption of such contract labour on regular basis as per the judgement will be the duration of work, number of employees working on the job etc. In case of retrenchment due to excess staff, the principle of 'last come, first go' will be applied subject to reappointment as and when vacancy arises.

**Development of Kandla Airstrip**

1382. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kandla Airstrip caters to the needs of small aircrafts;

(b) if so, whether there is tremendous scope of tourist traffic to Kandla; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government have taken or contemplating to take to have the feasibility study report for the increase of length of Kandla Airstrip?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India has no plans at present to extend the runway at Kandla airport. Airlines are free to operate to Kandla airport depending on the traffic potential and economic viability of operations.

**Derailment of Jagannath Express**

1383. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 12 coaches of 8410 Dn. Puri-Howrah-Sri Jagannath Express were derailed between New Gadmadhupur and Jenapur stations under the Cuttack-Bhadrak Section on December 10, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons killed/injured in the said accident;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 10.12.1998 at about 2.15 hrs. 8410 Down Puri-Howrah Jagannath Express derailed between new Gadmadhupur-Jenapur stations of Khurda Road Division of South Eastern Railway.

(c) 4 passengers sustained minor injuries.

(d) and (e) This accident has been enquired into by a committee of officers which concluded that the accident occurred due to weld failure of track. Following staff has been held responsible for the accident:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Primary | — | None |
| Secondary | — | Permanent Way Inspector Jajpur-Keonjhar Road |

*[Translation]*

**Gauge Conversion of Udaipur-Ajmer Railway Line**

1384. SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of work already completed regarding gauge conversion of Ajmer-Udaipur rail line and the amount spent thereon so far;

(b) whether this work is not picking up speed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Work on earthwork and minor bridges on first phase between Udaipur and Chittaurgarh has been taken up and about 70,000 cum of earthwork and 4 minor bridges have been completed. An amount of Rs. 1.37 crs. have so far been spent on this work.

(b) The work is being progressed as per priority fixed by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and availability of resources.

(c) Constraint of resources.

(d) No target has yet been fixed.

*[English]*

**Survey for Tirupattur-Hosur Rail Line**

1385. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey for new railway line between Tirupattur and Hosur via Krishnagiri has been undertaken;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work of above line is likely to be started alongwith the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Old Planes**

1386. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Government planes are very old;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on 30th January, 1999, airlines-wise; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to counter this problem?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The average age of the fleet with the national airlines is as under:

| Air India | | Indian Airlines | |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. & Type of Aircraft | Average age | No. & Type of Aircraft | Average age |
| 7 B747-200 | 22 Years | 9 A300 | 19.6 years |
| 2 B747-300 | 10.2 years | 30 A320 | 07.5 years |
| 6 B747-400 | 04.2 years | 12 B737 | 17.5 years |
| 3 A300B4 | 16.4 years | | |
| 8 A310-300 | 11.6 years | | |

These aircraft can continue operating as long as they are maintained in airworthy conditions in accordance with procedures prescribed by the manufacturers and the DGCA.

**Unmanned Air Vehicle**

1387. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Aviation Wing propose to acquire unmanned air vehicle;

(b) if so, the source of its acquisition and details of the agreement made, if any, in this regard; and

(c) the time by which it is expected to be delivered?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) While some such vehicles have been acquired for the Army, ex-import, as far as Army Aviation Wing is concerned, no such proposal is under consideration, for the present.

**Telecast of Regional Films**

1388. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the regional films telecast by the Doordarshan during each of the last three years;

(b) whether some of the regional languages were given less importance during this period; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) The details are given in the attached statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

***Statement***

*Details of Regional Language Films telecast on the National Network of Doordarshan during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998.*

| S.No. | Language | Year | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Assamese | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| 2. | Bengali | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| 3. | Gujarati | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 4. | Kannada | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 5. | Kashmiri | — | — | — |
| 6. | Konkani | — | 1 | — |
| 7. | Malayalam | 5 | 4 | — |
| 8. | Manipuri | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 9. | Marathi | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 10. | Nepali | — | — | — |
| 11. | Oriya | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 12. | Punjabi | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 13. | Sanskrit | — | — | — |
| 14. | Sindhi | — | — | — |
| 15. | Tamil | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 16. | Telugu | 4 | 4 | — |
| | Total | 38 | 39 | 11 |

*[English]*

**Rope Way to High Altitude Posts of Siachin**

1389. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army has prepared a multi-million dollar proposal to link up high altitude posts on the Siachin Glacier rope way;

(b) if so, the main features of the project; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help in preventing infiltration from across the border?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A study to examine the feasibility of connecting some selected high altitude posts by aerial cableway from the logistic bases for the maintenance requirements, is underway. Posts per se are not proposed to be interlinked.

(b) The main features of the project can not be indicated till a project report is made on completion of the feasibility study.

(c) It has no bearing on preventing infiltration.

**Acquisition of Small Aircraft by Private Airlines**

1390. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
SHRI S.S. OWAISI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals have been received by the Government from Sahara Airlines and Jet Airways for acquisition of small aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Jet Airways and M/s. Sahara India Airlines have applied for permission for import of five 64 seater ATR-72-500 and ten 68 seater ATP aircraft, respectively.

(c) The proposals are under consideration of the Government.

**Task Force for North East Airports**

1391. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force is looking after the upgradation of North-East airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the recommendations made by the Task Force for the modernisation of North-East airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Task Force with Secretary, Civil Aviation, as the Chairman and consisting of Members from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Home Affairs, Airports Authority of India, Indian Airlines, North East Council and DGCA has been constituted to examine and make recommendations to facilitate improvement in airport infrastructure and airlinks in the North East Region.

(c) The Task Force in its first phase of inspection of the airports in the North East visited Silchar (Assam), Imphal (Manipur), Aizwal (Mizoram), Agartala (Tripura) on 21st January, 1999. The other airports in the North-East will also be visited by the Task Force before submitting its recommendations by 30th April, 1999.

**Projects for Development of Tourism In Jammu and Kashmir**

1392. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects for the development of tourism submitted by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and cleared by the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) the amount of Central assistance provided for each of such projects;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for bringing back J&K on world tourism map; and

(d) the number of foreign/domestic tourists visited J&K during the last three years.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The details of projects sanctioned to Jammu & Kashmir State during

the last three years is as under:—

| Year | No. of Projects | Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 4 | Rs. 99.09 |
| 1996-97 | 6 | Rs. 88.37 |
| 1997-98 | 10 | Rs. 293.35 |

(c) The measures taken to popularise tourism in Kashmir include (a) extending financial assistance to restore tourist attractions and infrastructure facilities, (b) revival of tourism industry through various relief measures, (c) publicity about Tourism in J&K etc. The Government has set up a Committee on the development of tourism in Jammu & Kashmir. 21 projects have been prioritised for Central financial assistance amounting to Rs. 710.00 lakhs during 1998-99.

(d) The number of foreign/domestic tourists visited Jammu & Kashmir is as under:

| Year | Domestic | Foreign | Pilgrims (Vaishno-Devi and Amarnath) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 3,912 | 22,628 | 44,55,532 |
| 1997 | 10,018 | 21,921 | 45,13,268 |
| 1998 | 1,06,428 | 25,485 | 47,72,017 |

**Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers**

1393. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds available under the anti-poverty programme like IRDP, JRY etc. are also being utilised for the purpose of rehabilitation of bonded labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the existing method for identifying the bonded labour;

(d) the total number of bonded labour identified during the current year till date and freed, State-wise; and

(e) allocation made by the Government under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labours during the last and current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Governments have been advised to suitably dovetail the Centrally Sponsored Scheme with other anti-poverty and employment generation programmes like, IRDP, JRY etc. and treat bonded labour at par with other beneficiaries who are getting benefits under these anti-poverty programmes, in order to ensure effective rehabilitation of bonded labour. Details of funds provided for rehabilitation of bonded labour under IRDP, JRY etc. are not maintained.

(c) The responsibility for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers has been entrusted to the Vigilance Committees constituted by the State Governments under Sections 13 and 14 of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

(d) and (e) State-wise total number of bonded labourers identified, freed, rehabilitated and central assistance allocated, so far under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme are given below:

| Name of the State | No. of bonded labourers identified and released | No. of bonded labourers rehabilitated | Central share released (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 36,289 | 29,553 | 669.90 |
| Bihar | 12,986 | 12,270 | 309.68 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Karnataka | 62,708 | 55,231 | 1383.17 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 12,804 | 11,897 | 146.36 |
| Orissa | 49,971 | 46,808 | 894.01 |
| Rajasthan | 7,478 | 6,217 | 65.02 |
| Tamil Nadu | 39,375 | 39,375 | 320.47 |
| Maharashtra | 1,382 | 1,300 | 8.25 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 27,489 | 27,469 | 517.02 |
| Kerala | 823 | 710 | 15.68 |
| Haryana | 544 | 21 | 0.42 |
| Gujarat | 64 | 64 | 1.01 |
| Total: | 251,913 | 230,915 | 4341.46 |

*[Translation]*

**Computerised Reservation Centre at Hamirpur**

1394. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request for setting up a computerized railway reservation centre at Hamirpur district headquarter in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Computerised reservation facilities are capital intensive and are provided based on certain norms. There are many more important locations where such facilities are yet to be provided.

*[English]*

**Closing of Level Crossings**

1395. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down a large number of unmanned manual level crossings in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government are considering to make any alternative arrangements before closing these level crossings;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Welfare Measure for Mine Workers**

1396. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mine workers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the Welfare Scheme formulated by the Union Government and the States for them and the number of workers who have been benefited State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The number of mine workers in the country, State-wise is given in Statement-I.

(b) Government have formulated a number of welfare schemes for the benefits of workers engaged in Limestone & Dolomite, Iron/Manganese/Chrome Ore and Mica Mines and their family members in the sphere of health, education, housing, recreation and water supply. A list of such schemes is given in Statement-II. Statement-III indicating number of beneficiaries under these schemes is attached. Information relating to welfare schemes formulated by the State Governments for mine workers is not Centrally maintained.

(c) Statement-IV in this regard is attached.

***Statement I***

*Number of Mine Workers in the Country, State-wise*

| Name of the State | Number of Mine Workers |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 17795 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 5 |
| Assam | 6654 |
| Bihar | 268245 |
| Delhi | 1839 |
| Goa | 7714 |
| Gujarat | 36756 |
| Haryana | 6625 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 5694 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 166 |
| Karnataka | 44917 |
| Kerala | 2531 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 400728 |
| Maharashtra | 19087 |
| Meghalaya | 930 |
| Manipur | 18 |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| Nagaland | 57 |
| Orissa | 107626 |
| Rajasthan | 73952 |
| Sikkim | 77 |
| Tamil Nadu | 14997 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 9745 |
| West Bengal | 154000 |
| Total | 1182138 |

***Statement-II***

*List of Welfare Schemes for Mine Workers (Engaged in Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Chrome Ore Mines; Limestone & Dolomite Mines; Mica Mines)*

A. HEALTH:

1. Scheme for reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals.
2. Scheme for treatment of Mine Workers suffering from Mental diseases.
3. Scheme for treatment of Mine Workers suffering from Leprosy.
4. Scheme for Domiciliary treatment of mine Workers suffering from T.B.
5. Maternity benefit scheme for female mine workers.
6. Re-imbursement of actual cost of treatment to mine workers suffering from Cancer.
7. Grant of financial Assistance to mine workers for purchase of Spectacles.
8. Scheme for payment of extra Monetary Compensation for Sterilisation to mine workers.
9. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to mine workers in respect of Heart Diseases.
10. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to mine workers in respect of Kidney Transplantation.
11. Scheme for payment of Compensation in case of Fatal and Serious Accident to mine workers.
12. Scheme for providing artificial limbs to mine workers.
13. Grant-in-aid to Iron Ore, Manganese Ore & Chrome Ore Mines and Limestone & Dolomite Mines Managements for purchase of Ambulance Vans.

B. HOUSING:

1. Financial assistance to mines management for construction of low cost type-I and type-II houses for mine workers near work site.
2. Build Your Own House Scheme; Interest free loan and subsidy to mine workers for construction of their own houses.

C. EDUCATION:

1. Award of Scholarship to School/College going children of mine workers.
2. Composite Scheme for Financial Assistance to the School going children of mine workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.
3. Assistance to mine owners for running Central Library.
4. Assistance for purchase of School buses to the mine managements.
5. Assistance to the mine managements for maintenance of Libraries.
6. Grant-in-aid for recognised schools in the Iron Ore mining areas for purchase of furniture & equipment.

7. Mid-day meals scheme.

8. Payment of incentives on passing final University/ Board examinations from High School onwards.

9. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Re 1/- to female children of mine workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

D. RECREATION:

1. Organising Sports, Social Cultural activities for mine workers.

2. Scheme to provide buses for transportation of mine workers.

3. Establishment of Audio Visual sets/Cinema Vans/ Exhibition of films.

4. Excursion-cum-study tours.

5. Supply of T.V. sets.

6. Setting up of Multipurpose Institutes/Developed Multipurpose Institutes.

7. Setting up of Welfare Centres.

8. Grants to M.P.Is/D.M.P.Is/Welfare Centres.

9. Sports Grounds.

10. Holiday Homes.

E. WATER SUPPLY:

1. Financial assistance to small mine owners for sinking of wells.

2. Financial assistance to small mine owners for execution of water supply schemes.

3. Financial assistance to big mines management for execution of water supply scheme.

***Statement-III***

| Sl. No. | Name of the Region | State(s) Covered | No. of mine workers engaged in Iron Ore/Manganese Ore/Chrome Ore mines, Limestone & Dolomite mines and Mica mines benefited during the previous year |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Allahabad | Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi & Jammu & Kashmir | 3,757 |
| 2. | Bangalore | Karnataka & Kerala | 70,810 |
| 3. | Bhilwara | Gujarat, Rajasthan & Haryana | 2,10,957 |
| 4. | Bhubaneshwar | Orissa | 1,83,852 |
| 5. | Calcutta | West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim, Mizoram, Manipur & Meghalaya | 180 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6. | Hyderabad | Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh | 71,648 |
| 7. | Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh | 1,01,802 |
| 8. | Karma | Bihar | 49,446 |
| 9. | Nagpur | Maharashtra & Goa | 15,059 |

***Statement-IV***

| Sl. No. | Name of the Region | State(s) Covered | Funds allocated for workers engaged in Limestone & Dolomite Mines, Iron/Manganese/Chrome Ore Mines and Mica Mines during the year 1998-99 (Rs. in thousand) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Allahabad | Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi & Jammu & Kashmir | 4,516 |
| 2. | Bangalore | Karnataka & Kerala | 25,539 |
| 3. | Bhilwara | Gujarat, Rajasthan & Haryana | 22,651 |
| 4. | Bhubaneshwar | Orissa | 49,438 |
| 5. | Calcutta | West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim, Mizoram, Manipur & Meghalaya | 4,677 |
| 6. | Hyderabad | Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh | 22,756 |
| 7. | Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh | 33,296 |
| 8. | Karma | Bihar | 36,320 |
| 9. | Nagpur | Maharashtra & Goa | 21,211 |

**Production of A.T.R. Aircraft**

1397. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to enter into a commercial contract with France to co-produce ATR aircraft for Indian Coast Guards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any competitive bidding or alternate choice was evaluated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A formal commercial contract with ATR France is presently being negotiated by HAL for production of ATR aircraft.

(b) to (d) The Technical Committee which was constituted by the Government had evaluated the offers received after sending requests to eight leading manufacturers in the world. Based on this evaluation, two manufacturers were shortlisted. However, only ATR France came forward with comprehensive proposals meeting all the co-production requirements.

*[Translation]*

**Medical facilities to Retired Personnel of Ordnance Factories**

1398. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retired personnel of ordnance factories, Kanpur (U.P.) have been demanding medical facilities; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on their demands?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

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

*[English]*

**Second T.V. Studio at Cuttack, Orissa**

1399. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals and representations to set-up a second TV studio at Cuttack in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard;

(c) whether similar second TV studios have been established in other States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since Cuttack is located near Capital Station, Bhubaneswar, which is already having a Studio set-up, there is no approved scheme to set-up a Studio set-up at Cuttack.

(c) and (d) More than one TV Studio have been set up in many States, including Orissa, depending upon requirement of each State and availability of resources with Doordarshan. State-wise locations of the Studios established in the country are given in a statement attached.

***Statement***

*Existing Studios in the country*

| State | Location |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| Andhra Pradesh | Studio, Hyderabad |
| | PGF, Vijayawada |
| Arunachal Pradesh | Studio, Itanagar |
| Assam | Studio, Dibrugarh |
| | Studio, Guwahati |
| | PPFC, Guwahati |
| | Studio, Silchar |
| Bihar | PGF, Daltonganj |
| | PGF, Muzaffarpur |
| | PGF, Ranchi |
| | Studio, Patna |
| Goa | PGF, Panaji |
| Gujarat | Studio, Ahmedabad |
| | PGF, Rajkot |
| Himachal Pradesh | Studio, Shimla |
| Jammu & Kashmir | Studio, Srinagar |
| | PGF, Jammu |
| Karnataka | Studio Bangalore |
| | PGF, Gulbarga |
| Kerala | Studio, Trivandrum |
| Madhya Pradesh | Studio, Bhopal |
| | PGF, Raipur |
| Maharashtra | Studio, Bombay |
| | PGF, Nagpur |
| Manipur | Studio, Imphal |
| Meghalaya | Studio, Shillong |
| | Studio, Tura |
| Mizoram | Studio, Aizawl |
| Nagaland | Studio, Kohima |
| Orissa | Studio, Bhubaneswar |
| | PGF, Sambalpur |
| Punjab | Studio, Jalandhar |
| Rajasthan | Studio, Jaipur |
| Tamilnadu | Studio, Madras |
| Tripura | Studio, Agartala |
| Uttar Pradesh | PGF, Allahabad |
| | PGF, Bareilly |
| | Studio, Lucknow |
| | PGF, Gorakhpur |
| | PGF, Mau |
| | PGF, Varanasi |
| West Bengal | Studio, Calcutta |
| | PGF, Jalpaiguri |
| | PGF, Shantiniketan |
| *Union Territory* | |
| A & N Islands | Studio, Port Blair |
| Delhi | Studio, Delhi |
| | CPC, Delhi |
| | Studio, Parliament |
| Pondicherry | PGF, Pondicherry |

**Minimum Wages Act, 1948**

1400. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of follow-up action in regard to implementation of the Minimum Wages Act 1948 (11 of 1948);

(b) whether the minimum wages fixed uniform in all the States/Union Territories;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action has been taken against the employer during 1998 for not giving minimum wages;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to increase minimum wages, and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) number of organisations where workers are participating in management?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are enforced in the Central Sphere by the Officers of Central Industrial Relation Machinery and in the States/ Union Territories by the Officers of State Governments/ Union Territory Governments. Violations and irregularities detected during inspections are dealt with as per the provisions of the Act. In the case of less payments the authorities appointed under the Act are empowered to hear and decide the cases and award the claim amount along with compensations. The Act has also a provision for prosecutions in the Court of Law in case of violations of the provisions of the Act.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Details of number of claim cases filed under Central sphere, amount awarded to workmen etc. for the year 1998 are given below:—

1. No of claim Cases pending as on 31.12.1997–3087.
2. No. of Claim Cases filed during the year 1998–3784.
3. No. Claim Cases disposed off–1465.
4. Amount of Claim awarded–Rs. 2523575.05
5. Amount of Compensation awarded–Rs. 10570697.13

(e) Section 3 (b) of the M.W. Act, 1948 provides that the minimum rates of wages shall be revised in intervals not exceeding five years. The appropriate authority is required to revise minimum wages of the scheduled employments accordingly. Under the Central Sphere, revision of 40 scheduled employments, including agriculture is under consideration.

(f) There are 100 enterprises which have either implemented the Scheme for employees participation in Management issued on 30.12.83, or earlier schemes of the Ministry of Labour either at shop floor level or at plant level.

**Adoption of National Media Policy**

1401. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is persistent demand to adopt National Media Policy for electronic media to counter the effect of foreign electronic media;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) In order to formulate a National Media Policy, a Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of MPs was constituted in March, 1994 to prepare a positional/working paper thereon. The Committee submitted its report on 29.3.1996. The report/working paper was placed before the Consultative Committee on 11.9.1996 to consider and take a view on the recommendations/suggestions of the Sub-Committee before the Government can take any decision on it. Before the Committee could make its recommendations, the 11th Lok Sabha was dissolved. With the constitution of the 12th Lok Sabha, the Consultative Committee of this Ministry was reconstituted on 9.7.1998. The working paper on National Media Policy is yet to be considered by this Committee.

**Provision of accommodation to Passengers Delayed Flights**

1402. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines provided accommodation to the passengers held up due to flight delayed due to fog during the months of December, 1998 and January, 1999;

(b) if so, whether that accommodation was booked in the ITDC hotels/private hotels; and

(c) if so, the total cost paid for the accommodation given in ITDC hotels and private hotels separately?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Accommodation was booked in ITDC Hotels, Private Hotels and Centaur Hotels.

(c) The details of cost paid for accommodation during December, 1998 to January, 1999 are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

| | ITDC Hotels including Centaur Hotels | Private Hotels | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Air India | 125.43 | 183.68 | 309.11 |
| Indian Airlines | 253.84 | 187.00 | 440.84 |

*[Translation]*

**Construction of Road Over Bridges in Chennai**

1403. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to construct Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges in Chennai;

(b) if so, whether there is a time bound programme for the completion of the above works; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) (i) Road Over Bridge at Km. 0/19-20 on Chennai beach-Royapuram section as a deposit work. Railway's portion completed and approaches are in progress by the State Govt.

(ii) Road Over Bridge at Km 3/9-10 near Chennai Beach-Royapuram section on cost sharing basis. Railway portion's progress is 60%. Progress on approaches by State Govt. is 40%.

(iii) Road Under bridge at Thilaiganga Nagar as deposit work. Progress of work on Railway's portion is 100%, approaches are being progressed by State Govt.

(iv) Subways for pedestrians on either side of Road Under Bridge No. 33 at Perambur as deposit work. Plan and estimate approved. Tender under finalisation.

(v) Road Under Bridge near MIT Gate at Chennai Beach-Villupuram. Sanctioned in the Works Programme of 1998-99. Planning is in progress.

(vi) Road Over Bridge at Saidapet is sanctioned in the Works Programme of 1998-99. Planning is in progress.

(vii) Subway connecting Rajaji Salai to Chennai Port Trust at Anchor gate as a deposit work. General Arrangement Drawing has been revised to provide for three tracks.

(viii) Road Over Bridge at Guindy as a cost sharing work. The work has progressed 70% on Railway's portion and 50% on State Govt.'s.

*[English]*

**Multi-Channels of Doordarshan**

1404. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to make available multi-channels of Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, by when these channels are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Besides DD-1 and DD-2, 15 channels of Regional Service programmes and DD-International Channel are at present in operation. All the channels, including DD-1 and DD-2, are available in the entire country via satellite by using appropriate Dish Antenna System.

The Prasar Bharati Board has decided, in principle, to launch an exclusive Sports Channel. As the details in this regard are yet to be worked out, no specific time frame for operationalisation of the Channel can be indicated at present.

**Passenger Special Monitoring Cells**

1405. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been chalked out by the Government for setting up of Passenger Special Monitoring cells at divisional or regional railway headquarters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Special Monitoring Cells comprising officers and staff of the concerned departments of the Railways are functioning at zonal and divisional railway headquarter levels to receive complaints and suggestions on day to day basis and take appropriate action for prompt disposal. On receipt of the complaints/suggestions, action is taken for long-term and short-term solutions according to the nature of the complaints/suggestions and instructions are sent out to the field units for attending to them promptly.

*[Translation]*

**TV Transmitter at Phulaparas, Bihar**

1406. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the T.V. transmitter installed at Phulaparas in Madhubani district, Bihar is presently not working; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir. The transmitter is functioning normally.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Emoluments paid to Typists**

1407. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether typists appointed in the Railways are not paid the emoluments as per the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Railway Board has imposed any restrictions on the appointment of the typists; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. The pay scales allotted to Typists in the Railways are in accordance with the Fifth Central Pay Commission's recommendation that all posts in the Railways other than those specifically discussed by the Commission are to be granted standard replacement scales of pay and placed in the corresponding revised scales.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Since July 1992, direct recruitment in the cadre of typists on the Railways has been discontinued and vacancies of typists in the lowest grade are being added to the Clerical cadre in the corresponding grade. Direct recruits in the cadre of clerks are now required to also possess typing proficiency of prescribed level.

**Setting up of Railway Hospital at Cuttack**

1408. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set-up a Railway hospital at Cuttack;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also a proposal for the expansion of Divisional hospital at Khurda Road; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**International Airports in Gujarat**

1409. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the international airports in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government contemplate to construct another international airport in the State:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (d). Ahmedabad Airport, at present, is capable of handling limited international operations. This airport is being upgraded to international standards for operation of Boeing 747 type of aircraft. As such extensions/strengthening of runway, apron, taxi track and other associated works are at hand at an estimated cost of Rs. 48.50 crores. There is therefore no proposal to construct another international airport.

**Implementation of Jogighopa-Guwahati Rail Project**

1410. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jogighopa-Guwahati new line project is being implemented jointly by Railways, Ministry of Surface Transport and NEC;

(b) if so, the estimated share cost of the project, separately;

(c) the progress of work made on road-cum-rail bridge at Jogighopa (on river Brahmaputra) and track linking upto Goalpara; and

(d) the time by which the above new line is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The project is funded by the Railways. However, the cost of the rail-cum-road bridge on the river Brahmaputra is being shared by the Railways and Ministry of Surface Transport. NEC has provided budgetary support of Rs. 95 crores to the Railways for the bridge.

(b) The share of Railways is Rs. 498.09 crs. and that of Ministry of Surface Transport is Rs. 138.91 crs. Against Railways share NEC have provided budgetary support of Rs. 95 crs.

(c) The rail-cum-road bridge and the line from Jogighopa to Goalpara has already been commissioned on 15.4.1998.

(d) By 31.12.1999.

*[Translation]*

**Pilots in Indian Airlines**

1411. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilots working in Indian Airlines on date and details of their salaries and allowances;

(b) whether the Indian Airlines is running in loss; and

(c) if so, the action being taken to cover up the losses?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There are

404 Pilots as on 1.2.1999. The details of their salary and allowances are as under:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| — | Salaries & Allowances (As on 1.4.98) | : | Rs. 10618—Rs. 16752 per month. |
| — | Fixed Productivity Allowance | | Varies between Rs. 6000—Rs. 30500 per month depending upon length of service. |
| — | Variable Flying Allowance | | Varies between Rs. 870 per hour to Rs. 2470 per hour depending upon number of years of experience as Pilot. |

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Construction of New Railway Station at Chikhali**

1412. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the construction of a new railway station named Chikhali (Peshvanagar) on Karjat-Panvel line;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for the construction of said Railway Station;

(c) whether any time bound programme has been chalked out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes Sir, a booking station has been planned at Chikhale.

(b) There is no separate allotment for construction of station building named Chikhale but funds have been allotted for construction of new line between Panvel-Karjat.

(c) Construction of station building will be planned on progress of other works to prevent misuse of building and theft of the material.

(d) Location for construction of Booking office with high level platform has been finalised.

*[English]*

**Exploitation of Indian Workers Abroad**

1413. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of instances where complaints have been received regarding exploitation of Indian Workers who are recruited by unscrupulous agents and sent abroad with false promises, during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken in each case?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Sporadic complaints against unscrupulous agents who send Indian workers abroad with false promises are brought to the notice of the Government either by the Indian Missions or by the affected workers. Most of the complaints relate either to collection of service charges in excess of what is prescribed under the Act or to payment of lesser salary by the foreign employers than that was offered to the workers by the local agents before their recruitment. Some complaints also relate to non-availability of good working and living conditions, harrasement etc. Immediate action is taken to settle the grievances of the workers by way of directions to the local agents. Indian Missions are also requested to solve the problems of the workers with the help of the foreign sponsors/Government. In the event of the local agents failing to solve the problems of workers, action is initiated to suspend/cancel their registration certificates. During the last three years, 40 registration certificates were suspended and one Registration certificate was cancelled. In one case the bank guarantee of the agent was forfeited and distributed among the workers. Public hearings are also held on every working Tuesday and Friday in which both the complainants and the concerned agents are called. In majority of the cases, grievances of the affected persons are settled through such hearings.

*[Translation]*

**Reservation Quota in Raptisagar Express at Bhopal**

1414. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reservation quota allotted to Bhopal in Raptisagar Express;

(b) whether the quota allotted to Bhopal in Raptisagar Express fulfil the requirement of the passengers; and

(c) if not, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to fulfil the requirement of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The reservation quota available at Bhopal station by 5012/5222 Gorakhpur/Barauni-Cochin Raptisagar Express is as under:

| Train No. | Quota | |
|---|---|---|
| | Ac 2 tier class | Sleeper class |
| 5012 Gorakhpur-Cochin Express | 2 | 8 |
| 5222 Barauni-Cochin Express | 4 | 12 |

An analysis of utilisation of this quota has revealed that the same is being utilised satisfactorily. As the Bhopal PRS is connected with New Delhi PRS through networking the few passengers left on waiting list at Bhopal are cleared after preparation of reservation chart at Gorakhpur. As such, at present there is no justification to enhance the existing quota at Bhopal by these trains. In the return direction, a Chennai PRS terminal is provided at Bhopal and the passengers from Bhopal intending to go to Gorakhpur/Barauni by these trains can avail of this facility on first come first served basis.

*[English]*

**Crisis in Soyabean Processing Industry**

1415. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are crisis in Soyabeen Processing Industry;

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

(c) the actual facts with regard to export position for each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No such crises has been reported to this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The export position for the last three years is as under:—

| Year | Quantity in Mt. | Value in Rs. Crores |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 25,91,800 | 1829.62 |
| 1996-97 | 25,50,000 | 2425.00 |
| 1997-98 | 25,08,000 | 2500.00 |

**Railway Claim Tribunal**

1416. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on Railway claims Tribunal during the last three years;

(b) the number of claim cases decided during the above period alongwith the amount, year wise;

(c) whether the Railway Claims Tribunal Building at Chandigarh is a rented one, and

(d) if so, the amount paid as rent by the Railways during the last three years and other expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) Year-wise position of claims cases decided and amount is given as under:

(Figs. in lakhs of Rs.)

| Year | No. of claims cases decided | Amount paid |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 17017 | 892.16 |
| 1996-97 | 20343 | 1337.99 |
| 1997-98 | 13911 | 1176.88 |

(c) Yes, Sir. Railway Claims Tribunal Building was rented upto 14.7.1997. Thereafter it was transferred to Govt. Building with effect from 15.7.1997.

(d) Year-wise details of rent paid and other expenditure are as under:

(Figs. in lakhs of Rs.)

| | Chandigarh | |
|---|---|---|
| Year | Rent | Other Expenditure |
| 1995-96 | 1.95 | 1.28 |
| 1996-97 | 2.04 | 0.83 |
| 1997-98 | 0.72 | 4.20 |

***Statement***

The Details of the Expenditure incurred on Railway Claims Tribunals during the last three years, Zone-wise are as under:—

(Figs. Rs. in lakhs)

| Railways | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Central | 41.32 | 46.72 | 52.86 |
| Eastern | 49.57 | 57.64 | 84.74 |
| Northern | 77.04 | 88.73 | 155.12 |
| North Eastern | 16.18 | 19.26 | 21.79 |
| Northeast Frontier | 17.30 | 19.91 | 24.55 |
| Southern | 51.36 | 68.00 | 82.88 |
| South Central | 18.12 | 20.52 | 25.39 |
| South Eastern | 23.05 | 19.16 | 23.55 |
| Western | 67.66 | 72.33 | 91.04 |

**Construction of Air Defence Ship**

1417. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI A. VENKATSH NAIK
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:
SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy's proposal to build an indigenous Air Defence Ship (ADS) has since been cleared by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the foreign collaboration, if any and the progress made in that regard so far;

(c) the estimated cost likely to be involved thereon; and

(d) the time schedule by which it is to be built?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Finance have approved the proposal to build an indigenous Air Defence Ship (ADS). The proposal is being processed for further appropriate clearance. The estimated cost of the proposed ADS along with spares would be around Rs. 1700 crores. The approximate period of construction would be 8 to 10 years after placing formal order for construction.

**Tatkal Reservation in Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdhani Express**

1418. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce "Tatkal Seva" in 2423 Rajdhani Express from Guwahati to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government also propose to introduce "Takal Seva" in other trains from Guwahati; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Tatkal reservation scheme on 2423 Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdahani Express train will be introduced as and when additional coach is available and attached in this train.

(c) and (d) Tatkal reservation scheme has already been introduced in 3046 Saraighat Express train. The introduction of this scheme on other trains will depend on the demand pattern and operational feasibilities.

**Facilities to Jawans in Desert Areas**

1419. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities being provided to defence personnel in desert area of border;

(b) the nature of problems being faced by them during summer as well as in winter; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to overcome such difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) All requirements in respect of clothing and other equipment, both for summer and winter, are provided to the defence personnel, deployed in desert areas of the border, in line with their authorisation and scales for such climatic conditions. In so far as supplies, quartering and accommodation facilities are concerned, these are in line with such authorisation and scales, as are applicable to the defence personnel, posted anywhere in the country.

Advance provisioning action is taken to ensure that the deployed troops, do not face difficulties on this account.

*[Translation]*

**Students Missing from Armed Forces Medical College, Pune**

1420. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students found missing from the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune during 1996 and the number out of those students whose parents were informed alongwith the dates on which they were informed; and

(b) the efforts made by the college so far to trace them out and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There was one such case. The parents and the local guardian of the missing cadet were informed on phone on 4.12.1996.

(b) The AFMC authorities have made all out efforts to trace the missing cadet. The efforts made included search in the hostel/college premises and also in Bhopal (where the candidate was studying before joining AFMC), lodging of FIR with the local police, flashing messages all over the state including through Doordarshan, Mumbai, repeated advertisements in the newspapers and the institution of a Court of Inquiry. The college authorities

have maintained their contact with the police authorities in this regard.

*[English]*

**Revision of Pay Scales in AIR and Doordarshan**

1421. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to revise the pay scales of employees of AIR and Doordarshan on the recommendation of Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also received any representation from the service associations of these categories in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to maintain parity in pay scales as has been maintained by the earlier Pay Commission in different grades of various categories of the employees of AIR/TV?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) On the basis of the recommendations of the Prasar Bharati Board, pay scales of various categories of Engineering and Programme staff have been revised with a view to remove pay anomalies between these two cadres arising out of Supreme Court's decision of 1994 and recommendations of the 5th Pay Commission. The revised pay scales granted to various categories of Engineering and Programme staff are given in attached statement.

(c) and (d) Various other associations (recognised/ unrecognised) of All India Radio and Doordarshan employees have also raised certain demands related to the revised pay scales and other matters. Demands of other Associations relating to upward revision of pay scales and other matters which are dealt with by the Pay Commission (unless there are Court Orders of firm commitments made by Government to the contrary) are at various stages of examination.

***Statement***

*Revised pay scales of various posts of Engineering and Programme staff of AIR and Doordarshan*

| S.No. | Category of Posts | Pay scale granted as per Vth Pay Commission recommendations (Rs.) | Upgraded Scale of pay (Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Engineering Category | | | |
| 1. | Assistant Engineer* *(including AEs in CCW) | 6500-10500 | 7500-12000 |
| 2. | Sr. Engineering Assistant | 5500-9000 | 7450-11500 |
| 3. | Engineering Assistant | 5000-8000 | 6500-10500 |
| 4. | Senior Technician | 4500-7000 | 5000-8000 |
| 5. | Technician | 4000-6000 | 4500-7000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Diesel Technician | 4000-6000 | [4000-6000] [15% of posts] [4500-7000 [20% of posts] |
| 7. | Mast Technician | | [5000-8000 [65% of posts] |
| 3. | Diesel Engine Driver | 3050-4590 | 3050-4590 (75%) & 3250-4900 (25%) |
| 9. | Helper | 2650-4000 | 2650-4000 (75%) 3050-4590 (25%) |
| Programme Category | | | |
| 10. | Programme Executive | 6500-10500 | 7500-12000 |
| 11. | Transmission Executive | 5000-8000 | 6500-10500 |

**Development Schemes for Sea Beaches**

1422. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any scheme from any Coastal State for the development of sea beaches during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the estimated cost of each project proposal;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to consider those proposals; and

(e) the funds released for the purpose in 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (e) In order to develop tourism in the Coastal Areas of the country, the Ministry of Tourism has asked the State Governments to prepare a comprehensive development and beautification plan of the areas. No State Govt. has submitted the plan.

However, the Ministry of Tourism has provided assistance to State Governments for development of Tourist Infrastructure in the Coastal areas such as Ganpatipule in Maharashtra, Thirunalar in Pondicherry, Gopalpur on Sea in Orissa, Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, Chennai & Mamallapuram in Tamilnadu, Mapusa, Margoa, Vasco, Bicholim, Ponda, Anjuna Beach in Goa amounting to Rs. 194.48 lakhs in 1997-98.

Each year Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Governments prioritises projects for Central Financial Assistance. The funds for these projects are released on receipt of specific project proposals and availability of funds. The Ministry of Tourism has identified

following projects in the coastal areas for central financial assistance during 1998-99:—

*Karnataka*

(i) Expansion of Tourist Cottages at Pilikula Nisargadhama, Mangalore.

(ii) Dev Bagh Beach Resort

(iii) Hotel Mayura Netravathi, Mangalore

*Kerala*

(i) Tourist Ayurvedic Centre at Palayam, Trivandrum

(ii) Gramam Village Fair, Kovalam

*Maharashtra*

(i) Development of accommodation platforms at Ganapatipule Tourist Resort.

(ii) Conversion of 1 dormitory at Ganapatipule Tourist Resort.

*Tamil Nadu*

(i) Upgradation-cum-Expansion of existing tourist facilities at Kanniyakumari.

(ii) Provision of Public Conveniences at important tourist centre at Kanniyakumari.

*Andaman & Nicobar*

(i) Ethnic Village Port Blair

(ii) Islands Chalets at Port Blair

(iii) Chalets in little Andaman

(iv) Long Island Chalets

*Dadra & Nagar Haveli*

(i) Expansion of Yatri Niwas at Silvasa

*Pondicherry*

(i) Tourist Information Centre.

(ii) Yatri Niwas

Lakshadweep

(i) Upgradation of Minicoy

(ii) Eco Tourism Project

*Orissa*

(i) Development and illumination of Sea beach at Chandipur

(ii) Development of Chandrabhaga Beach

*Goa*

(i) Public convenience at Dona Paula, Molem, Calan Gute.

(ii) Construction of Tourist Restaurant at Tambdi Surla.

(iii) High Mast Illumination at Caveloasim, Carambolim, Cortalim and Margoa.

(iv) Upgradation and Renovation of Tourist Complex-Colva.

**Hotels of ITDC**

1423. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct some more hotels of India Tourism Development Corporation in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) With a view to develop tourism, ITDC have decided to construct two new hotels, one each at Chandigarh (Union Territory) and Anandpur Saheb (Punjab).

*[Translation]*

**Amount Outstanding against EPF and ESI**

1424. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of 'Employees Provident Fund' and 'Employees States Insurance' is outstanding against the Industrial units of public and private sector;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken against such units to recover the outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) A statement indicating details of EPF and ESI dues in respect of defaulting establishments is attached.

(c) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under the ESI Act, the EPF & MP Act and where necessary also under Section 406/409 of the IPC is already being taken to recover the dues from the defaulting establishments. In respect of PSUs the concerned administrative Ministries/State Governments are also approached from time to time so as to ensure early liquidation of PF/ESI dues.

***Statement***

(Rupees in Crores)
(As on 31.3.1998)

| Name of the State | E.P.F. Dues | E.S.I. Dues |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | 16.90 | 26.57 |
| 2. North-East | 1.66 | 4.70 |
| 3. Bihar | 16.06 | 11.03 |
| 4. Delhi | 2.67 | 4.20 |
| 5. Gujarat | 23.89 | 21.92 |
| 6. Haryana | 23.93 | 6.19 |
| 7. Karnataka | 7.34 | 13.97 |
| 8. Kerala | 5.00 | 10.06 |
| 9. Madhya Pradesh | 41.50 | 21.41 |
| 10. Maharashtra & Goa | 46.26 | 73.20 |
| 11. Orissa | 16.71 | 7.36 |
| 12. Punjab | 9.10 | 12.85 |
| 13. Rajasthan | 6.46 | 4.08 |
| 14. Tamil Nadu | 18.02 | 22.52 |
| 15. Uttar Pradesh | 45.06 | 40.71 |
| 16. West Bengal | 183.24 | 100.04 |

*[English]*

**Creation of Market Development Assistance Funds**

1425. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hotel Association of India has demanded for creation of a Market Development Assistance Fund;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal is under consideration.

**Damage to Delhi-Ambala Railway Line**

1426. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cracks after every two km. were found on Delhi-Ambala track of Northern Railway in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid the recurrence of such type of incidence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir, only on one day i.e. night of 2-12-1998.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The enquiry committee has concluded that several rail fractures (cracks) that were detected were triggered by the passage of the loco with skidded wheels which was allowed to run in this condition due to failure on part of some of the staff to detect and take timely preventive action.

(d) Follow-up action on conclusions and recommendations of enquiry committee have been taken. General Manager of all the Railways have also been advised to avoid such recurrence. Research Designs Standards Organisation, Lucknow has also been entrusted to study rail wheel interaction problems.

**Advertisement to Small and Medium Publications**

1427. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government encourage small and medium publications promoting tourism by giving them advertisement support; and

(b) if so, the name of such publications which have got advertisement on tourism during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

The Ministry of Tourism releases advertisements in small and medium publications promoting tourism by giving them advertisements depending upon the availability of funds.

(b) The list of the publications to whom the advertisements were released for the years 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 (till February, 1999) is attached as statement.

***Statement***

*List of the publications to whom the advertisement were released in the year 1996-97*

| Sl.No. | Name of the Publication |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. | Trav Talk |
| 2. | Trav Talk |
| 3. | Safari India |
| 4. | Institution of Engineers India-Air Cargo Souvenir—96 |
| 5. | Delhi Directory of Kerala |
| 6. | New India Publications |
| 7. | IATO Brouchure |
| 8. | See India |
| 9. | Trav Talk |
| 10. | Travel Scene Asia |
| 11. | The World of Travel and Tourism |
| 12. | Asian Panorama |
| 13. | Business India |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| 14. | Safari India |
| 15. | Global Travel Express |
| 16. | Perfect Media |
| 17. | Tourism & Wildlife |
| 18. | India Today |
| 19. | Patrakar Sadan |
| 20. | Charhdikala |
| 21. | Printline Graphics |
| 22. | Panth Prakash |
| 23. | India Best of the Best |
| 24. | Safari India |
| 25. | World of Travel & Tourism |
| 26. | Jet Set |
| 27. | Yuvantar |
| 28. | Safari India |
| 29. | Srishti |
| 30. | Indian Hotel Directory |
| 31. | Patrakar Sadan |
| 32. | Printline Graphics |
| 33. | Asian Panorama |
| 34. | Souvenir published on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Birthday |
| 35. | Safari India |
| 36. | World of India |
| 37. | Government of U.P. Lucknow |
| 38. | Mitra Mandli Tarun Samaj Samiti |
| 39. | FICCI |
| 40. | Denouement |
| 41. | Vishwa Bharti |
| 42. | Prabasi Anand Bazar |
| 43. | Travel Mail |
| 44. | B.K. Mariyappas' Hotel's Souvenir |
| 45. | Indrama |
| 46. | Delhi Sports Council of the Deaf |
| 47. | Asian Panorama |
| 48. | Plaza Times |
| 49. | Trav Talk |
| 50. | Isha |
| 51. | Mode Publications |
| 52. | See India |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | |
| 1. | Assam Association—Souvenir |
| 2. | Tee off Publications |
| 3. | Samvad Sindhi |
| 4. | Perfect Media |
| 5. | Trav Talk |
| 6. | Symphony Society |
| 7. | ourism & Wildlife |
| 8. | Lakshadweep Tourism |
| 9. | New India Publications |
| 10. | Asian Panorama |
| 11. | IATO Manual |
| 12. | Bejoy Krishna Modak Memorial Trust |
| 13. | Netaji Subhash Chandra Birthday Centenary Celebrations—Souvenir |
| 14. | Dialogue Today |
| 15. | Indian Hotel Directory |
| 16. | Hospitality India |
| 17. | Printline Graphics |
| 18. | Mode Publications |
| 1998-99 (till February, 1999) | |
| 1. | Srishti |
| 2. | Hindu |
| 3. | Enterprising Publishers |
| 4. | Buddhist Monuments Development Council |
| 5. | Tathya Bharti |
| 6. | Punarvas |
| 7. | See India |
| 8. | Pandit Haridut Sharma Sansthan |
| 9. | New India Publications |
| 10. | Srishti |
| 11. | Trav Talk |
| 12. | Safari India |
| 13. | Phulchhab |
| 14. | Trav Talk |
| 15. | Patrakar Sadan |
| 16. | Charhdikala |
| 17. | IATO Manual |
| 18. | Seven Sisters Magazine |
| 19. | Today's Traveller |
| 20. | Business Quest |
| 21. | Safari India |
| 22. | Time Magazine |
| 23. | Namaskar |
| 24. | Railway Time Table |
| 25. | Asian Panorama |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| 26. | India Tomorrow |
| 27. | Pioneer Newspaper |
| 28. | Probuddha Jagat |
| 29. | World of Travel & Tourism |
| 30. | Digvijay |
| 31. | Society for promotion of recreational tourism & Sports (Lakshadweep) |
| 32. | Tourism & Wildlife |
| 33. | Denouement |
| 34. | Consortium of Women Entrepreneurs of India |
| 35. | Prasar Bharti |
| 36. | Markaz |
| 37. | National Conference of regional news media |
| 38. | Friends of the National Rail Museum |
| 39. | Senior National Kho Kho Championship—Souvenir |
| 40. | Samvad Sindi |
| 41. | Printline Graphics |
| 42. | Travel Mail |
| 43. | Delhi Jiwan |
| 44. | Dainik Jugamukha |
| 45. | Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers—Souvenir |
| 46. | Hindu College Souvenir |
| 47. | Cross Section Publications—Newsletter |

*[Translation]*

**Funds for Development of Religious Places**

1428. SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT:
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for development of places of pilgrimage in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the funds allocated are being slashed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Funds sanctioned for development of identified places of pilgrimage in 16 States of the country were to the tune of Rs. 740.49 lakhs as Central financial assistance during the last three years. In addition an amount of Rs. 284.56 lakhs was taken as OECF loan assistance from Japan for the development the Buddhist Circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(b) and (c) The fund allocation is decided in consultation with and as per the proposals received from the State Governments for the development of such places.

*[English]*

**Subsidy to Flying Clubs**

1429. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have increased the prices of Aerogas recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the flying clubs have increased the fee which have made the learning more expensive;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the subsidy likely to be offered by Government to the flying clubs?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The price of Aviation Gasoline has been increased from Rs. 15,210.30 to Rs. 31,900.00 per kilo litre (exclusive of transportation and local levies) w.e.f. 10.12.1998.

(c) and (d) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has not granted permission to the flying clubs for increasing the flying training fee.

(e) The rate of subsidy presently paid to the flying clubs covered under the subvention scheme of the Government is 30% of the cost of operations.

**Shatabdi Trains**

1430. DR. SAROJA V. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment regarding economic viability of Shatabdi Trains before their introduction as per report given by Comptroller and Auditor General;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the revenue earned and expenditure incurred on each of the Shatabdi Trains annually;

(d) the reasons for the loss occurred; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) New Trains including Shatabdi Express are introduced on the basis of popular demand and perceived growth potential and availability of line capacity.

There are some modules developed on the railways to determine the cost analysis. The scope of traffic costing on Indian Railways is limited to providing indicative cost per unit of output on the basis of fully distributed costs which reflect only system averages and not true costs of any specific stream of traffic. In vast and complex organization like IR where various service of freight and coaching coexist sharing the same infrastructure, train-wise costing becomes a formidable exercise in absence of directly allocable costs and has its own obvious pitfall. It is difficult to segregate joint and common costs. Since train-wise costing in such a vast and complex system is an extremely tedious and difficult exercise, the same is not undertaken as a routine exercise. The figures of revenue generated from the individual Shatabdi trains for the period from April to December 1998 are given in the attached statement.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) To improve the occupancy of some of the trains which are not being fully patronised, various steps are being taken, some of which are conversion of Shatabdi Express Trains into superfast inter-city trains, reduction of the fare between unpopular point.

***Statement***

| Train No. | From-To | Earnings (Rs. Lakhs) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2001 | Bhopal-New Delhi | 749.35 |
| 2002 | New Delhi-Bhopal | 779.85 |
| 2003 | Lucknow-New Delhi | 818.55 |
| 2004 | New Delhi-Lucknow | 774.29 |
| 2005 | New Delhi-Kalka | 564.52 |
| 2006 | Kalka-New Delhi | 501.10 |
| 2007 | Madras-Mysore | 388.75 |
| 2008 | Mysore-Madras | 412.41 |
| 2009 | Ahmedabad-Mumbai | 1031.11 |
| 2010 | Mumbai-Ahmedabad | 1116.85 |
| 2011 | New Delhi-Chandigarh | 559.33 |
| 2012 | Chandigarh-New Delhi | 490.63 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 2013 | New Delhi-Amritsar | 752.83 |
| 2014 | Amritsar-New Delhi | 705.75 |
| 2015 | New Delhi-Ajmer | 494.81 |
| 2016 | Ajmer-New Delhi | 413.42 |
| 2017 | New Delhi-Dehradun | 465.30 |
| 2018 | Dehradun-New Delhi | 423.15 |
| 2019 | Howrah-Bokaro | 228.99 |
| 2020 | Bokaro-Howrah | 239.10 |
| 2021 | Howrah-Rourkela | 188.42 |
| 2022 | Rourkela-Howrah | 208.48 |
| 2023 | Madras-Coimbatore | 241.31 |
| 2024 | Coimbatore-Madras | 203.05 |
| 2027 | Mumbai-Pune | 222.94 |
| 2028 | Pune-Mumbai | 265.40 |
| 2029 | New Delhi-Amritsar | 690.84 |
| 2030 | Amritsar-New Delhi | 637.35 |
| Total | | 14567.88 |

**Fare War between Airlines**

1431. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and International Airlines have initiated steps to end the fare war that has been persisting since 1994;

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at; and

(c) the extent to which India has agreed to increase the fare gradually?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airlines have jointly agreed on a programme on the Gulf routes. This programme aims at improving the yields on these routes by reducing incentives.

(c) Air India has sought approval for an increase of around 5% in international fares. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

**Expansion of Railway Stations in Goa**

1432. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for the expansion of Madgaon railway station and other stations in Goa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from various MPs and MLAs. of Goa for the following works which are at various stages of completion:—

1. VASCO-DA-GAMA — Improvements to circulating area, provision of VIP Lounge, Extension of platform shelter on Island Platform No. 2 and 3 by 100 mtrs. and provision of Mastic Asphalt on Platform No. 1.

2. CHANDARGOA — Provision of new Station building with the high level platform and cover over platform.

3. Replacement of old lavatories with new ones at Dahelim, Sankaval, Chandargoa, Cansaulim and Kulem Stations.

4. Provision of Steel Tabular benches at Kulem, Cansaulim, Chandargoa, Sankayal and Dabolim.

5. WATER TAPS - Replacement of Old drinking water pipeline including provision of water pedestal at Cansaulim

6. KALEM — Widening of platform to 5.5. mtrs.

7. MADGAON — Provision of two additional lines.

**Development of Southern Naval Command**

1433. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for development of the Southern Naval Command in Cochin; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Southern Naval Command which is the Navy's Training Command is already in existence at Kochi. This Command comprises of various Training Establishments and ships for the surface Navy. As and when required, development/improvement is brought about to suit the needs of the Indian Navy.

**Direct Flights from Calicut and Mangalore to Delhi**

1434. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering for the direct flights from Calicut and Mangalore to Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) There are no plans to operate direct services from Calicut and Mangalore to Delhi, at present. Passengers desirous of travelling from Calicut and Mangalore to Delhi, can avail convenient connections via Mumbai on daily basis. However, the airline operators are free to introduce air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability, subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines.

**Addition to Indian Airlines Fleet**

1435. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has decided to buy six 50-seater aircraft from French Aviation Company ATR-HAL to strengthen its feeder route in the country;

(b) if so, the cost per aircraft; and

(c) the sectors on which these aircraft are likely to be detailed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A proposal for purchase of six-ATR-42 aircraft, offered jointly by M/s. ATR and HAL has been sent by Indian Airlines and is under consideration of the Government. The average price of ATR is US$ 15.24 million (Rs. 62.53 crores) per aircraft.

(c) The routes for operation of fifty seater aircraft will be decided at the time of induction depending upon the need and viability.

**Upgradation of Naval Training Institute, Chilka**

1436. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to upgrade the Naval Training Institute at Chilka in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in that direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Plan for growing Air Traffic**

1437. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up a plan to meet the estimated air traffic growth in the country by the end of 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the investment involved in the development of Air Traffic infrastructure in the country for the next three years; and

(d) the strategies and priorities worked out to strengthen and modernise the infrastructure to handle air traffic?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India has drawn up plans for expansion/ modification/upgradation of facilities at various airports in the country to meet the requirement of air traffic growth by 2000 A.D. The detailed list of works proposed to be taken up during the Ninth Plan period is given in the attached statement. During the remaining period of the Ninth Five Year Plan, the amount of investment proposed is as under:—

| | (Rs. in crores) |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 702.87 |
| 2000-2001 | 765.49 |
| 2001-2002 | 961.75 |

(d) Priority has been given to construction of new terminal buildings at major airports as well as modification of existing terminal buildings to meet the traffic growth.

A Task Force on Infrastructure has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, *inter-alia*, to identify and recommend locations for the five world class airports. On the basis of the recommendations of the Task Force and after considering relevant factors the Government has decided to corporatise existing airports at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Calcutta and the proposed new airport at Bangalore. Corporatisation will bring about effective changes in the management and contribute to the overall increase in the productivity and will be able to attract investments to improve the standards of service/facilities. The AAI is in the process of appointing Financial and Legal Consultants who will advise on the various aspects of corporatisation.

A. Construction of New Terminal Buildings at the following airports:

(1) Bagdogra (2) Lilabari (3) Port Blair (4) Porbandar (5) Tezpur (6) Vijayawada (7) Agatti (8) Amritsar (9) Aurangabad (10) Bhuj (11) Dibrugarh, and (12) Guwahati.

B. Expansion and Modification of existing Terminal Buildings at the following airports:

(1) Agaratala (2) Guwahati (3) Imphal (4) Patna (5) Silchar (6) Trichy (7) Amritsar (8) Jammu (9) Madurai (10) Srinagar (11) Varanasi, and (12) Visakhapatnam.

C. Extension/strengthening of runway and associated pavement works at the following airports:

(1) Agartala (2) Ahmedabad (3) Bhubaneshwar (4) Calicut (5) Guwahati (6) Leh (7) Lilabari (8) Lucknow (9) Nagpur (10) Rajkot, and (11) Vijayawada.

D. Extension of Runways at the following airports:

(1) Amritsar (2) Aurangabad (3) Bhopal (4) Coimbatore (5) Dibrugarh (6) Guwahati (7) Jammu (8) Khajuraho (9) Lucknow (10) Madurai (11) Shillong (Umroi) (12) Silchar, and (13) Trichy and Construction of new Runway at Mangalore.

E. Construction and Expansion Works at

(1) Mumbai Airport:

(a) New International Terminal Complex Phase-III; (b) New Domestic Terminal Complex Phase-II; and (c) Modification and expansion of existing Terminal-II A.

2. Calcutta Airport:

(a) Modification of Terminal-II (Phase-I and Phase-II) and Integrated Cargo Terminal Phase-I.

3. Delhi Airport:

(a) new International Terminal Complex Phase-II; (b) Domestic Terminal Complex (Phase-II); (c) Reconstruction of Terminal IB; and (d) Import/Export Cargo Phase-III.

4. Chennai Airport:

(a) New International Terminal Complex Phase-II, and (b) Integrated Cargo Terminal Phase-I.

Trivandrum Airport:

(a) New International Terminal Complex Phase-I.

**Railway Crossing at Jagatpur**

1438. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some representations from residents/various organisations for construction of Railway level crossing at Railway line km. 17/5-6 at Jagatpur between Kathua and Madhopur sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railways can consider provision of the manned level crossing at the demanded location only on 'deposit' terms i.e. if a sponsoring authority agrees to bear all the costs i.e. initial capital as well as recurring maintenance and operation cost. State Govt. has deposited survey charges amounting to Rs. 5560/- on 04.07.1992 but the capital cost of the construction amounting to Rs. 11.11 lakh which has already been advised, has not been deposited so far.

**Losing a case by Air India in London**

1439. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has lost a case in the London Court of International Arbitration filed by an Antiguan Company named Caribjet regarding unlawful termination of a contract to wet lease of three aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely losses to be incurred by the Air India on this account?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Air India had taken two A310-300 aircraft on wetlease from Antiguan Company M/s. Caribjet initially for a period of six months with effect from December, 1974. The lease was further extended upto December, 1995. Again in November, 1995 Air India concluded a fresh agreement with M/s. Caribjet Inc. for wet-lease of two L1011-500 aircraft and one A310-300 aircraft for a period of two years effective from 1.1.96.

Air India terminated the wetlease agreement with Caribjet with effect from September 4,1996 on grounds of technical lapses and non-fulfilment of various norms of Directorate General of Civil Aviation. Caribjet, on their part, in pursuance of the provisions of the agreement took the matter to Arbitral Tribunal, London. The Arbitral Tribunal after hearing the evidence of both the parties, oral and written submissions, declared their award on 19.1.99 on the issue of liability. The Tribunal in the award opined that the wetlease agreement had been wrongfully terminated by Air India. The issue of quantum of compensation is yet to be heard by the Tribunal for which proceedings are scheduled for May 10,1999. The exact quantum by way of compensation would be known once the award is declared by the Tribunal in May 1999 or thereafter. Air India management has decided to go in appeal to the London High Court against the award of the Tribunal on the issue of liability.

*[Translation]*

**Outstanding Amount**

1440. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outstanding arrears payable to various State Governments by the Railways as on date on account of expenditure incurred on the Government Railway Police, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for not making payment of the said amount so far; and

(c) the time by which full payment is likely to made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Details of arrears payable to various State Governments by the Railways as on 31.1.99.

(Figure in Crores of Rupees)

| State | Outstanding as on 31.1.99 |
|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 3.11 |
| Bihar | 0.32 |
| Gujarat | 3.47 |
| Haryana | 0.24 |
| Karnataka | 4.24 |
| Kerala | 5.16 |
| Maharashtra | 25.4 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 14.68 |
| Tamil Nadu | 8.72 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 3.84 |
| West Bengal | 2.03 |
| Total | 71.21 |

(b) The reasons for outstanding are as under:—

(i) Non submission of Audit Certificates by the State Governments.

(ii) Requirement of additional funds which have been projected in the Revised Estimates 1998-99.

(c) Railways have standing instructions to promptly liquidate all claims which are in order and accompanied by the requisite audit certificates.

*[English]*

**Airstrips**

1441. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of airstrips in the country and the number out of them which are operational as on date, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to make idle airstrips operational;

(c) whether the Government propose to invite private investment for the development of these airstrips; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There are 448 airports/airstrips in the country. Airports Authority of India (AAI) manages 5 international airports, 88 domestic airports and 28 civil enclaves. Out of the above, 58 domestic airports, five international airports and 22 civil enclaves are operational. The Statewise list of operational airports, managed by AAI is given in the attached statement.

(b) Airports Authority of India has identified 32 non-operational airports for handing over to the State Governments for their maintenance and up-keep. Out of the above, airports at Kolhapur and Sholapur have already been transferred and Akola Airport will also be transferred to the State Government of Maharashtra.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

***Statement***

*List of Operational Airports managed by the Airports Authority of India*

| State | Number of Operational Airport |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. Assam | 6 (3 Domestic + 3 civil enclave) |
| 2. Andhra Pradesh | 5 (4 Domestic + 1 civil enclave) |
| 3. Bihar | 2 |
| 4. Gujarat | 9 (7 Domestic + 2 civil enclave) |
| 5. Himachal Pradesh | 3 |
| 6. Karnataka | 4 (3 Domestic + 1 civil enclave) |
| 7. Kerala | 3 (1 International + 1 Domestic 1 civil enclave) |
| 8. Madhya Pradesh | 6 (5 Domestic + 1 civil enclave) |
| 9. Maharashtra | 5 (1 International + 3 Domestic + 1 civil enclave) |
| 10. Manipur | 1 |
| 11. Meghalaya | 1 |
| 12. Mizoram | 1 |
| 13. Nagaland | 1 |
| 14. Orissa | 1 |
| 15. Punjab | 3 (2 Domestic + 1 civil enclave) |
| 16. Rajasthan | 5 (3 Domestic + 2 civil enclave) |

| 1 | | 2 |
|---|---|---|
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 7 (1 International + 6 Domestic) |
| 18. | Tripura | 1 |
| 19. | Uttar Pradesh | 6 (5 Domestic + 1 civil enclave) |
| 20. | West Bengal | 4 (1 International + 2 Domestic + 1 civil enclave) |
| 21. | Delhi | 2 (1 International + 1 Domestic) |
| 22. | Lakshadweep | 1 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 1 |
| 24. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2 (civil enclave) |
| 25. | Jammu & Kashmir | 3 (civil enclave) |
| 26. | Goa | 1 (civil enclave) |
| 27. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 1 (civil enclave) |

**Commercial Division at Pune**

1442. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate commercial division of Central Railway has been established two years back at Pune;

(b) if so, whether financial powers have not been given to the said division till date;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government are considering to include Daund-Ahmednagar and Daund-Baramati sections in Pune Division;

(f) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(g) whether the Government have finalised the jurisdiction of Pune Division; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) Government had decided to set up 8 new divisions including one at Pune. An Officer-on-Special Duty has been positioned with powers of Divisional Railway Manger as appropriate for setting up of the division.

(e) to (h) The jurisdiction of Pune Division has been finalised on 25.1.1999 as under:—

Stations in-between

Pune-Lonavala Station (excluding Lonavala)

Pune-Baramati Station (excluding Daund)

Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur Station.

**Linking of State Capitals with Delhi by Rail**

1443. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State capitals of the North-Eastern States have not been linked with Delhi by Rail; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Only Guwahati, the capital of Assam is linked with Delhi by rail. Regarding other North Eastern States, construction of Railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala, the capital of Tripura and from Harmuti to Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh has already been taken up. All clearances have been received for construction of new line from Diphu to Karong as the first phase of the rail link to Imphal, the capital of Manipur and Gauge conversion of line from Katakhal to Baraibhi as the first phase of line to Sairong/Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram and work is being started on these projects. Further phases would be considered in the coming years. A survey for construction of a rail line to Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim has been sanctioned. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available. Rail links to the capitals of Meghalaya and Nagaland would be considered during the coming years.

**Raytheon Radar**

1444. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of doubts about the performance of Raytheon Radar expressed by Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs), the radar has been put into operation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any defect has been detected after putting this radar into operation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether ATCs have refused to take any responsibility for air safety of passengers by commissioning of this radar; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The new radar system was made operational from 11th January, 1999 after carrying out various tests including System Site Acceptance Test (SSAT), Shake down test, and running the system for shadow operations. There were some teething problem inherent in the commissioning of a new project and these have been taken care of. However, any malfunction which is noticed, will be attended to by the trained technical personnel of Airports Authority of India as well as that of M/s. Raytheon as per the system of warranty for the equipments.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

**Cancellation of Trains**

1445. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schedule of many trains have been suffered due to bad weather in the country during December, 1998 to February, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise, train-wise alongwith the loss suffered thereby;

(c) whether some incidents in which property of the Railways been damaged by the public has been reported;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the loss of property damaged therein; and

(e) the details of the persons found guilty and action taken against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bad weather (fog) has taken a heavy toll of punctuality during December 1998 to February 1999. Trains lost punctuality on account of fog are as under:

Northern Railway 2163, Western Railway 69, Eastern Railway 292, Central Railway 40 and North Eastern Railway 11.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

**Industry Status to Tourism**

1446. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commerce Ministry has suggested that tourism should be given as an industry status;

(b) if so, whether any concrete measures have been worked out in this regard in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have given special emphasis on awarding tourism the status of systematic/ full-term industry during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (e) The Government of India has accorded Export House Status to Tourism. Hotels, Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators shall be entitled for recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House vide Government of India, Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 33 (RE-98) 1997-2002 dated 26.11.98. Consequently, they shall be entitled to such benefits as specified in Chapter 12 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol. I).

**International Conference on Asian Security**

1447. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he addressed the International Conference on "Asian Security in the 21st Century" held in Delhi on January 27, 1999; and

(b) if so, the main topics discussed in the conference and outcome thereof?

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

(b) Topics pertaining to the emerging security environment in Asia were discussed under the following agenda items:

(i) Strategic Framework for Policy-makers

(ii) India and the Great Powers

(iii) Future of Nuclear Deterrence

(iv) Defence planning in an Era of Strategic Uncertainty.

This was the first such initiative by the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses. The conference provided a forum for eminent Governmental and non-governmental experts from abroad to interact with their counterparts in India for an exchange of views and perceptions on these key issues.

**Supply of Wagons**

1448. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala to restore the availability of wagons to bring the buffer stocks in the FCI godowns; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no problem in supply of Railway wagons for loading of Foodgrains for Food Corporation of India for Kerala. However, programme for movement is given by the Food Corporation of India and loading and movement is organised considering the loading and unloading potential and performance.

**Commissioning of HPTs at Chohtan and Ramgarh in Rajasthan**

1449. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that two high power transmitters constructed at top Hill of Village Chohtan (district Barmer) and Ramgarh (district Jaisalmer) in Rajasthan about six years back to counter Pakistani propaganda have not yet been commissioned; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay and the time by which these two high power transmitters are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Both the High Power TV transmitters located at Chohtan (Barmer interim set up) and Ramgarh (Jaisalmer) have since been commissioned.

(b) Does not arise.

**Losses suffered by ITDC Hotels**

1450. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) The amounts recoverable from VIPs and others with names by each hotel/motel as on date;

(b) whether some persons are regularly staying in some of the ITDC hotels but making little payments; and

(c) if so, the amount recoverable from each such defaulter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) As on 31.01.1999, an amount of Rs. 39.64 crores was outstanding against VIPs (Rs. 0.25 crores) and others (Rs. 39.39 crores) in various hotels of ITDC. Hotel-wise details of these outstandings are given in attached statement-I. The breakup of outstandings by name against VIPs is given in the attached statement-II.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

***Statement-I***

*Hotel/Unit-wise outstanding as on 31.1.99*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S.No. | Name of the Unit | Outstanding Against | | Total Outstanding |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | VIP | Others | (Provisional) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Agra Ashok | 0.01 | 32.99 | 33.00 |
| 2. | Airport Ashok Calcutta | — | 415.00 | 415.00 |
| 3. | Ashok Bangalore | 1.48 | 307.52 | 309.00 |
| 4. | Ashok New Delhi | 0.81 | 1059.19 | 1060.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | Ashok Yatri Niwas | 0.10 | 97.90 | 98.00 |
| 6. | Aurangabad Ashok | — | 16.00 | 16.00 |
| 7. | Bodhgaya Ashok | 0.04 | 39.96 | 40.00 |
| 8. | Hassan Ashok | — | 33.00 | 33.00 |
| 9. | Jaipur Ashok | — | 24.00 | 24.00 |
| 10. | Jammu Ashok | — | 8.00 | 8.00 |
| 11. | Janpath New Delhi | 14.71 | 166.29 | 181.00 |
| 12. | Kalinga Ashok | 4.23 | 28.77 | 33.00 |
| 13. | Kanishka New Delhi | 2.76 | 519.24 | 522.00 |
| 14. | Khajuraho Ashok | — | 9.00 | 9.00 |
| 15. | KABR Kovalam | — | 203.00 | 203.00 |
| 16. | LMPH Mysore | — | 93.00 | 93.00 |
| 17. | LVPH Udaipur | 0.04 | 92.96 | 93.00 |
| 18. | Lodhi New Delhi | — | 119 | 119.00 |
| 19. | Madurai Ashok | 0.13 | 32.87 | 33.00 |
| 20. | Manali Ashok | — | 4.00 | 4.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21. | Pataliputra Ashok | 0.54 | 56.46 | 57.00 |
| 22. | Qutab New Delhi | — | 133.00 | 133.00 |
| 23. | Ranjit New Delhi | — | 118.00 | 118.00 |
| 24. | Samrat New Delhi | — | 206.00 | 206.00 |
| 25. | TBABR Mammallapuram | — | 47.00 | 47.00 |
| 26. | Varanasi Ashok | — | 77.00 | 77.00 |
| | Total | 24.85 | 3939.15 | 39.64.00 |

***Statement-II***

*Amount Recoverable from VIPs as on 31.1.99*

| S.No. | Name of the Hotel/VIP | Amount Outstanding (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Hotel Agra Ashok | |
| | (i) Shri Prabhudayal Katheria (M.P. Firozabad (U.P.) | 0.01 |
| 3. | Hotel Ashok Bangalore | |
| | (i) Shri S. Ramesh Ex-Minister | 1.48 |
| 4. | Ashok Hotel New Delhi | |
| | (i) Shri Chandra Shekher, Ex-Prime Minister | 0.40 |
| | (ii) Shri Rajesh Khanna, Ex-MP (M/s Ashirwad Films) | 0.41 |
| | | 081 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 5. | Ashok Yatri Niwas | |
| | (i) Shri Praveen Singh C/o PM House | 0.10 |
| 7. | Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok | |
| | (i) Sh. Rajesh Kumar, Ex-MP | 0.04 |
| 11. | Janpath Hotel | |
| | (i) Shri Ram Nath Chandelia, Ex-MLA | 13.60 |
| | (ii) Shri Bhim Singh, J&K Panther Party | 0.14 |
| | (iii) Mr. Muni Lal, Ex-MP | 0.97 |
| | | 14.71 |
| 12. | Kalinga Ashok | |
| | (i) Shri Sri kant Jena<br>Ex-Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism | 4.23 |
| 13. | Kanishka Hotel | |
| | (i) Shri Bhim Singh, J&K Panther Party | 1.10 |
| | (ii) Shri Sahib Singh Verma, Ex-CM. Delhi | 0.61 |
| | (iii) Shri R.S. Chib, Ex-Minister, J&K | 0.15 |
| | (iv) Shri Dilip Singh Judev, MP | 0.31 |
| | (v) Shri P.V. Ranghiah Naidu, Ex-Union Dy. Minister | 0.17 |
| | (vi) Shri M.A. Baby | 0.15 |
| | (v) Shri Sita Ram Waghmode<br>Maharashtra Pradesh Youth Congress (I) | 0.27<br>2.76 |
| 17. | Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur<br>Shahar Congress, Udaipur<br>C/o Dr. (Ms.) Girija Vyas<br>Ex-MP & Union Minister<br>for stay of Shri H.K.L. Bhagat and<br>Shri Narasimha Rao, Ex-PM | 0.04 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 19. | Hotel Madurai Ashok | |
| | (i) Mr. Subramaniam Swami, MP | 0.10 |
| | (ii) Mr. Palni Handy, AICC Ex-President, TN Congress Committee | 0.03 |
| | | 0.13 |
| 21. | Hotel Pataliputra Ashok | |
| | (i) Shri Ram Naresh Singh Ex-MLA | 0.54 |
| | Grand Total | 24.85 |

**Introduction of Bill to facilitate Satellite Uplinking**

1451. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to introduce a Bill to facilitate satellite uplinking from the country in the current session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to improve the quality of the programmes telecast on Television channels;

(d) whether a Broadcasting Council comprising eminent personalities, is being constituted to register complaints relating to the programmes; and

(e) if so, the time by which this broadcasting council is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Government have already decided and started providing satellite uplinking facility through VSNL to Indian managed companies with minimum 80% Indian equity holdings specifically to those who had been availing foreign exchange release for hiring uplinking facilities from abroad. The uplinking from India has been envisaged in three phases. Now the Government is actively considering to expand its scope to all Indian managed companies in its second phase.

(c) All programme matters of Doordarshan fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati and Government does not interfere in this. However, Doordarshan undertakes review of its programmes from time to time with a view to bring out improvement and qualitative changes in their contents. This is a continuous process. As far as the private channels are concerned the Indian managed channels, who are uplinking through VSNL would adhere to programme and advertising code of Prasar Bharati. Action has been initiated for carrying out certain amendments in the Cable Television Networks (Regulations) Act, 1995 with a view to bring programmes transmitted by cable operators through free to air foreign satellites channels within the ambit of prescribed programmes/advertising codes of Cable Law.

(d) In so far as Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) is concerned, the Government are already seized of the provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 relating to establishment, composition etc. of a Broadcasting Council in terms of the said Act.

(e) No time frame can be indicated at present for this purpose.

**Construction of Divisional Office and Staff Quarters at Rangiya**

1452. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Divisional office building and staff quarters at newly created Rangiya division has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Since suitable land has not been handed over by State Government.

(c) Not yet fixed due to non-availability of suitable land.

**Setting up of International Airports in five Cities**

1453. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for the setting up of International Airports in five more cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Government has so far approved the corporatisation of existing airports at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Calcutta and the proposed new airport at Bangalore so that they are developed as world class international airports. The Airports Authority of India has invited Expressions of Interest from Financial and Legal Consultants for advising on the various aspects of corporatisation.

**Crash of MIG-21 near Srinagar**

1454. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Air Force pilot was killed in the crash of his MIG-21 near the tourist resort of Sonamarg in Srinagar in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in the crash;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the total loss suffered therefrom; and

(e) the preventive measures being devised to avoid such crashes in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) An IAF MIG-21 aircraft crashed near Sonamarg on 7th October 1998 while carrying out a training sortie. The pilot was killed.

(b) and (c) A court of enquiry was ordered to investigate the cause of the accident. It has attributed the cause of the accident as violation of laid down safety margins for operating inside the valley, by the pilot.

(d) The IAF has suffered a provisional loss of about Rs. 10 crores.

(e) The findings and recommendations of the Court of Inquiry are under scrutiny. Necessary preventive measures will be undertaken after finalisation of the court's findings.

**United Nations Population Fund**

1455. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Population fund has urged the nations to take advantage of a temporary Bulge over the next two decades in the working age populations;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to take advantage of the bulge in the working age population between 50 and 65 years;

(c) whether the Government are re-examining the report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the Report titled "State of the World Population 1998" has stated that the lower birth rates in today's developing countries offer the possibility of a demographic bonus in the next 15-20 years, as the "bulge" of young people comes into the work force while fewer children are born. If jobs can be found for them, the

work force bulge' can be the basis for more investment, greater labour productivity and rapid work development. It is also stated that in many developing countries the next 10 years will be the critical period as fertility falls in South Asia, the youngest age groups will become smaller. Population of 65 years or older will increase, but at a slower rate. Therefore, the challenge is to generate productive employment for today's big groups of 15-24 year olds. The Government has noted the contents of the Report and the suggestions would be kept in mind while formulating major employment and anti-poverty programmes as well as programmes for skill development, upgradation, retraining and re-deployment of the older age group.

(c) and (d) The Report of the United Nations Population Fund is not re-examined by the national Government.

**Aircraft (2)** 385-86

1456. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average age of aircraft of Air India and total strength of operative fleet as on January 1,1999;

(b) the average age of other international competitor airlines alongwith safety standards; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to mobilise adequate funds for Air India to acquire new aircraft in its fleet and enable it to compete with other airlines successfully?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Air India has a fleet of 26 aircraft and the average age of the fleet as on 30th January, 1999 is as under:—

| Type of aircraft | No. of Aircraft | Average Age |
|---|---|---|
| B 747-200 | 7 | 22 years |
| B 747-300 | 2 | 10.2 years |
| B 747-400 | 6 | 4.2 years |
| A300B4 | 3 | 16.4 years |
| A310-300 | 8 | 11.6 years |

(b) The operations and maintenance of aircraft are regulated by respective regulatory authorities with regard to safety standards. All the airlines are required to adhere to ICAO standards which are translated into rules and requirements by the respective regulatory authorities. The international airlines are also required to follow manufacturers' requirements stipulated by manufacturers' documents such as Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) with regard to Operations and Maintenance Manual and other documents necessary for maintenance of aircraft.

(c) The case of Air India has been examined by the Disinvestment Commission which recommended restructuring/disinvestment of Air India. It has recommended additional equity of Rs. 1000 crores as part of financial restructuring. It has also recommended induction of a strategic partner in Air India on the basis of global competitive bids. The recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission are under consideration of the Government.

Indian Navy 386-87

**Acquisition of Air Capable Heavy Cruiser for Navy from Russia**

1457. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:

SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have recently entered into a MoU on the acquisition of the air capable heavy cruiser for the Indian Navy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tests of the air capable heavy cruiser have been undertaken and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to bring transparency in the defence deals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) An offer was received from Russia for the sale of aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov in 1994. The Ship was evaluated by professional teams from the Indian Navy twice, once in August 1995 and the second time in January 1998. Later when a delegation led by the former CNS visited Russia in July 1998, a revised commercial offer was made by the Russian side. Naval Headquarters have been regularly pursuing the acquisition of aircraft carrier Gorshkov, primarily for replacement of INS Vikrant, pending the construction of an indigenous air defence ship, proposal for which has been approved by the Ministry of Defence and Ministry

of Finance and is now being processed for further appropriate clearances. Pursuant to these, a Memorandum was signed in December 1998 between India and Russia for the acquisition of the aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov. As per the Memorandum, India has accepted in principle the offer of the Russian Federation to gift Admiral Gorshkov. Necessary repairs and modifications will however, be carried out at a cost to be borne by India. This is subject to a positive decision to be taken by the Government of India and the Indian Navy after taking into consideration all the aspects including the cost of repairs and modifications required to be undertaken.

(d) Defence procurements are carried out according to well defined procedures to ensure timely acquisitions and purchases from technically acceptable and reliable sources, which are recommended by a Price Negotiation Committee with due consideration to the tender evaluation parameters. These procedures are reviewed and revised from time to time to bring in efficiency, vigilance and transparency in defence procurements.

*[Translation]*

**Development of Civil Aviation in Gujarat**

1458. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the Civil Aviation development projects approved for Gujarat to be undertaken during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the projects where the work has already begun and where the work is in progress as per the schedule; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to complete the projects in time?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The work is in progress on the following projects undertaken during Ninth Five Year Plan in Gujarat:—

— Extension/strengthening of runway from 9000' to 11500 ft. and associated works at Ahmedabad airport at a cost of Rs. 48.50 crores. These works are likely to be completed by December, 2000.

— Extension of Domestic Terminal building at Ahmedabad airport at a cost of Rs. 60 lakhs. This work is expected to be completed by March, 1999.

— Airport Speech Recorder is likely to be installed at Bhavnagar, Rajkot and Porbandar airports by June, 1999.

— Ultra High Frequency link is also likely o be installed by June, 1999 at Ahmedabad airport.

— Resurfacing of runway at Rajkot airport is to be completed by October, 1999.

Certain Schemes are at planning/award stage. These include airconditioning of domestic terminal building, Cargo Complex and four lane approach road to airport at Ahmedabad airport; construction of new technical block cum control tower and Fire Station at Vadodra airport and a new Fire station at Bhavnagar airport; construction of new civil air terminal complex at Bhuj airport and a new terminal building complex at Porbandar airport.

*[English]*

**Casualties in Siachin**

1459. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of casualties in the Siachin Glacier recorded on both Indian and Pakistani sides during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of expenditure incurred on Siachin Glacier by the Defence forces during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) During the last three years the casualties suffered by Pakistan and India are as follows:—

| | Pak | Indian | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Army | | Air Force | |
| | | K | W | K | W |
| 1996 | 125-133 | 2 | 15 | 4 | — |
| 1997 | 103 | 2 | 30 | 2 | — |
| 1998 | 277 | 24 | 45 | — | — |

K - Killed
W - Wounded

(b) The expenditure incurred on Siachen Glacier is approximately Rs. 3 crore a day.

**Air Traffic Control System at IGIA**

1460. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modern Air Traffic Services System installed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) recently is useless in helping aircraft to land in poor visibility conditions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the agency from which this system has been procured and the terms and conditions thereof alongwith the cost of the system?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The system was awarded to M/s. Raytheon Company of USA on turn key basis. The supply, installation, testing and commissioning of the equipment is, therefore, the responsibility of this company. The equipments have undergone Factory Acceptance Test, Site Acceptance Test and the integrated system has undergone System Site Acceptance Test before Airports Authority of India (AAI) accepted the system. The system has been commissioned in January, 1999. The cost of the Project of modernisation of Air Traffic Services at Indira Gandhi International Airport is Rs. 212 crores approximately.

**Fall in Viewership of Doordarshan**

1461. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'BBC, DD face similar problems' appearing in *Business Standard* dated February 8, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the viewership of Doordarshan is getting eroded alongwith its revenue;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any study has been conducted in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps, the Government propose to take to ensure that Doordarshan remains the custodian of local culture and also earns revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been some reduction in the viewership of Doordarshan since it has moved from a monopoly situation to competition from different channels. However, because of its wide reach, Doordarshan continues to have the largest share of viewership in the country. The revenue earned by Doordarshan has also come down to some extent due to fragmentation of viewership and increased competition from satellite channels.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) All programme matters of Doordarshan fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati and the Government do not interfere in such matters. Doordarshan in its capacity as the National Broadcaster, telecasts various programmes through its network to promote Indian culture and values. Constant efforts are being made by Doordarshan to boost its commercial revenue earnings. In order to achieve this objective, Doordarshan has taken steps to telecast quality programmes, opening up of more commercial Kendras, to rationalise the commercial advertisements charges, to give incentives to advertisers to make Doordarshan more attractive etc.

**Discrimination with Women Officers in IAF**

1462. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'IAF's women power for puff and PR' published in the *Hindustan Times* of February 7,1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial action proposed to be taken to do justice in the matter?

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

(b) The induction of women in the Officers cadre was introduced in Non-Technical Branches in 1992-93. Subsequently the same was extended in Flying Branch in July 1993 and Technical Branches in April, 1993 also. All women officers are in SSC (Short Service Commission) cadre only. From the first batch of 12 women officers (non-Tech Ground Duty Branches) 09 have been granted extension of SSC tenure of six years. 03 opted for release and have since been released. Permanent commission was not granted since PC Cadre for women does not exist presently.

(c) In view of (b) above does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Proposal for Singapore Airways**

1463. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Industrial Group Tata and Singapore Airways have submitted jointly any proposal for operation of domestic and international flights; and

(b) if so, the present position of the proposal along with the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) In February, 1995, M/s. Tata Industries had submitted a proposal for 40% foreign equity participation by M/s. Singapore Airlines to operate scheduled air transport services. The proposal was not approved as it was not within the policy on foreign equity participation in the domestic air transport services which prohibits equity investment by foreign airlines, directly or indirectly.

In December, 1997 M/s Tata Industries had again submitted a proposal for foreign equity of 40% in M/s Tata Airlines Pvt. Ltd. by issue and allotment of shares upto a maximum of Rupee equivalent to US$ 83.00 million (about Rs. 332 crores) to Foreign Institutional Investors. The proposal also involved technical collaboration by M/s Singapore Airlines and envisaged a fleet of 18 aircraft in 5 years. The Technical Services Agreement Fee amounted to US$ 49.25 million (about Rs. 197 crores) to be paid over 5 years. While the proposal was under consideration, the Company withdrew the proposal on 1st September, 1998.

*[English]*

**Solar Power Traffic Signal Lights**

828. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) propose to sponsor installation of Solar Power Traffic Signal Lighting System in big cities/ towns all over the country;

(b) if so, number of such systems likely to be installed in each State and in Maharashtra particularly; and

(c) the extent of subsidy being provided by the Union Government to the State Government for the installation of Solar Traffic Signal System?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has supported a demonstration project for traffic signal lighting based on solar photovoltaic power at the crossing of Africa Avenue and Ring Road in New Delhi. The system has been handed over to the Delhi Traffic Police. Another experimental system has been installed in Bangalore by Bharat Electronics Ltd. Further development work is required to bring down the costs of such systems before they can be installed in large numbers all over the country. The Union Government's subsidy scheme for photovoltaic systems does not include solar powered traffic signal lighting systems and no allocations have been made to any state for this purpose.

*[Translation]*

**Establishment of Wind Energy Units**

829. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up more Wind Energy Units in the country in the near future;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Wind power projects aggregating to about 1000 MW have been taken up in (i) the Government sector as demonstration projects (50 MW), or (ii) as commercial projects (950 MW) through private investments. Further capacity addition will depend upon technical feasibility, economic viability, continuation of fiscal and promotional incentives and private investments for commercial projects. New demonstration projects have been proposed for sites in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Karnataka.

**Internet Facility**

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect Begusarai, Sheikhpura, Lakhisarai and Munger districts of Bihar with internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) As per Gazetted IT Task Force Recommendations, in all local charging areas, the access to the nearest Internet access nodes will be on local call rates (172 XXX code) progressively w.e.f. 15.8.98. In Begusarai Distt., the Internet access is available on local call basis. Further, as per DOT Internet plan, these places (Begusarai, Sheikhpura, Lakhisarai, Munger Distts.) have been identified as Type C-III Internet nodes.

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

*[English]*

**Telecom Facilities in A.P.**

831. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1100 telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh are to be modernised by the end of March 1999;

(b) if so, whether at present 400 exchanges were now connected through optical fibre and another 700 exchanges would be linked in a similar manner by March; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) At present, 236 exchanges are working on optical fibre media. It is proposed to modernise the transmission links of 404 exchanges on optical fibre during the year 1998-99 subject to availability of materials.

In addition, it is planned to modernise the transmission links of another 891 exchanges on UHF/ Microwave media and 7 on Satellite media subject to availability of materials.

**Development of Small Hydro Power Projects**

832. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing schemes financed by Power Finance Corporation to encourage the development of small hydro projects in the North-Eastern States with their present status;

(b) the details of new projects proposed to be financed by Power Finance Corporation in these States;

(c) the details of the schemes available with the Power Finance Corporation for encouraging private sector participation in small hydro power projects;

(d) the reasons for low participation of the private sector in small hydro power sector; and

(e) the steps being taken to encourage private participation in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The details of on-going schemes financed by Power Finance Corporation to encourage the development of small hydro projects in North-Eastern States are given in the attached Statement.

(b) At present one scheme i.e. Horangki HE Project (3x500 KW) of the Govt. of Nagaland, estimated cost Rs. 12.19 crores, is under consideration in Power Finance Corporation for a loan amount of approximate Rs. 5.90 crores.

(c) The financial assistance from Power Finance Corporation is open to private sector for development of small hydro projects. The Corporation's lending rates are lower for hydro electric projects as compared to thermal projects for the private sector. Further, the Corporation is providing financial assistance to the extent of 50% of the total project cost for private small hydro projects as compared to the limit of 20-25% for other types of private projects.

(d) The main reasons for low participation of the private sector for implementation of hydro sector, *inter-alia*, include technical (difficult investigation & inadequacies in tunneling methods), financial (deficiencies in providing long-term financing), tariff related issues, geological surprises, inaccessibility of the areas, problems due to delay in land acquisition and re-settlement of project affected families as also law and order problems in militant infested areas.

(e) To encourage private participation in the hydro-electric sector, the Government in August, 1998, has formulated a policy for hydro power development. The salient features of this policy are: (a) ensuring targetted capacity addition during 9th plan; (b) exploitation of vast hydroelectric potential at a faster pace; (c) promoting small and mini hydel project; (d) increasing private investment; (e) providing adequate funds in the Central/State Government budget and organising supplementary funding through Power Finance Corporation; (f) entrusting basin-wise development to Central Hydel Public Sector Corporations; (g) funding support for Survey and Investigations; (h) providing an institutional mechanism for dealing with geological risks; (i) simplification of procedures relating to transfer of clearances from State Government to Central Public Sector Undertakings and State Government to private sector etc. etc.

***Statement***

*Details of Small Hydro Power Projects financed by Power Finance Corporation in North-Eastern Region including Sikkim (plant capacity less than 15 MW).*

| Sl. No. | Name of the Project/ State | Capacity (MW) | Latest Cost | Amount sanctioned | Amount disbursed | Commissioning Schedule |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Tsutha Nagaland | 0.70 | 6.74 (1997) | 1.09 | 0.50 | March, 1999 |
| 2. | Telangsao Nagaland | 0.40 | 6.62 (1997) | 3.30 | 2.33 | June, 1999 |
| 3. | Kau-Tlabung Mizoram | 3.00 | 25.52 (1997) | 3.43 | 3.14 | March, 1999 |
| 4. | Tuipang Lui Mizoram | 3.00 | 30.19 (1997) | 3.60 | 3.60 | March, 1999 |
| 5. | Teirei Mizoram | 3.00 | 25.13 (1997) | 5.00 | 4.68 | June, 1999 |

*[Translation]*

**Opening of LPG Agencies, Diesel and Petrol Pumps in Gujarat**

833. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) the details and number of new diesel, petrol pumps and gas agencies proposed to be opened during the financial year in Gujarat, districtwise; and

(b) the number of gas agencies presently operating in the State and locations 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 addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, 9 retail outlet dealerships and 124 LPG distributorships have been included in the marketing plan 1996-98 and supplementary marketing plan 1996-98 for Gujarat. Actual commissioning of the dealerships/ distributorships depends on various factors such as number of locations advertised, number of candidates appearing for interview for each location and obtaining of licences, land etc. by the dealer select. It generally takes about 6 to 12 months for commissioning of the dealerships distributorships from the date of interview.

(b) As on 1.10.1998 there were 405 LPG distributorships in operation in Gujarat.

*[English]*

**Coastal Zone Regulation Act**

834. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coastal Zone Regulation Act has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Coastal States were consulted on these Regulatioins; and

(d) if so, the main suggestions submitted by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The Central Government issued a Notification on 19th February, 1991, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, declaring coastal stretches as the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) and regulating activities in the CRZ. This Notification was issued after considering suggestions of the coastal States and Union Territories received in response to the draft Notification. The main suggestions received related to the following broad areas:

(i) Definitions of terms used in the draft notification.

(ii) Basis for the delineation of the CRZ.

(iii) Activities to be prohibited.

(iv) Activities to be permissible.

(v) Basis for classification of the CRZ for regulating development.

(vi) Norms for construction in the CRZ.

(vii) Status of the CRZ Regulations vis-a-vis the development plans of the States/Union Territories and sanctioned projects in the CRZ.

(viii) Powers of the State Government/Union Territory Administration in regulated areas.

(ix) Implementation of the provisions of the Notification.

(x) Issues relating to rights and livelihood of local inhabitants.

*[Translation]*

**WB Aid for setting up Dispensaries**

835. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is providing money for setting up hospitals and dispensaries in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of grant or assistance received by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) A Project proposal for Government of Uttar Pradesh under the State Health Systems Development Project for World Bank assistance has been posed to the World Bank. Such State Projects are thereafter formulated through detailed discussions with the World Bank. Past experience shows that such proposals take 12 to 24 months to fructify, depending on the time taken on the design and formulation of the Project by the State. The State Authorities are kept fully involved in the discussion with representatives of the World Bank, at each stage. Hence it is not possible to comment on the final dimension of the Project at this juncture.

**Deaths caused by Meningitis**

836. SHRI ADITYANATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of deaths being caused by Meningitis annually, the total number of persons who died of this disease during the last five years;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to check it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Meningitis is caused by a number of organisms. The number of deaths reported during 1994-98 are as under:—

| Year | No. of Deaths |
|---|---|
| 1994 | 1253 |
| 1995 | 715 |
| 1996 | 945 |
| 1997 | 400 |
| 1998 | 286 |

(b) and (c) The disease is not eradicable. However, NICD provides technical support for outbreak investigation and laboratory diagnosis, as and when requested by the States.

**Telephone Adalats**

837. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone Adalats held in Rajasthan during the last three years till date;

(b) the number of cases received in these adalats;

(c) the number of cases settled by each of these adalats; and

(d) the details of relief provided to the telephone subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Sir, 97 Adalats were held during the last three years.

(b) 1543 cases were received in these Adalats.

(c) A total of 1442 cases were settled.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

*[English]*

**Improvement of Telephone Services in Rajasthan**

838. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any programme for improvement of telephone services (including STD) in Rajasthan particularly in Bundi district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telephone services in rural areas of the said district remain out of order;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) To improve the telephone services in Rajasthan including Bundi district, the following developmental activities have been formulated during the year 1998-99.

| Sl.No. | Development Activity | Plan Target for Rajasthan Circle | Plan Target for Bundi District |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | New Exchanges | 100 Nos. | 3 Nos. |
| 2. | UHF/MW Systems | 30 Nos. | 5 Nos. |
| 3. | OFC Systems | 30 Nos. | 2 Nos. |
| 4. | STD Stations | 150. Nos. | 4 Nos. |
| 5. | VPTs | 2540 Nos. | 60 Nos. |
| 6. | Expansion plan for Exchanges | 627 Nos. | 5 Exchanges |

(c) No, Sir. However, some village public Telephones go out of order due to over head lines. The same are being attended to promptly.

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

(e) The following steps are being taken to improve the telephone services in rural areas:—

— Daily testing of village public telephones.

— Daily testing of MARR link from base station.

— Performance of Village Public Telephones is being monitored by senior officers.

— Carrying out surprise checks and inspections.

— Reliable media are being provided in rural areas.

**Telephone Exchanges in Orissa**

839. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set-up in Orissa particularly in Balasore region at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in the State during 1999-2000, location-wise;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges have already been covered by optical fibre cables in the State at present; and

(d) the time by which all the telephone exchanges are likely to be covered with optical fibre cables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Details are given in the attached statement.

(b) New telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up at the following places:—

(i) Paiur (ii) Nuapadar (iii) Nampo (iv) Badam Talla (v) Adhajori (vi) Muthapada (vii) Birasal (viii) Taraboi (ix) Sarkhanda (x) Roxy.

(c) At present, 110 telephone exchanges have already been covered by optical fibre cables (OFC).

(d) It is planned to provide OFC media to as many stations as possible by the year 2002. Due to topological conditions, some exchanges may be provided with other reliable transmission media and not by OFC.

***Statement***

*No. of Exchanges set up in Orissa*

| S.No. | District | No. of Exchanges |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Balasore | 34 |
| 2. | Bhadrak | 21 Balasore |
| 3. | Mayurbhanj | 38 Region |
| 4. | Ganjam | 78 |
| 5. | Gajapati | 17 |
| 6. | Phulbani | 21 |
| 7. | Boudh | 10 |
| 8. | Khurda | 50 |
| 9. | Nayagarh | 16 |
| 10. | Puri | 27 |
| 11. | Bolangir | 22 |
| 12. | Sonepur | 9 |
| 13. | Kalahandi | 16 |
| 14. | Nuapada | 8 |
| 15. | Sundargarh | 44 |
| 16. | Cuttack | 42 |
| 17. | Jagatsinghpur | 31 |
| 18. | Kendrapada | 20 |
| 19. | Jajpur | 31 |
| 20. | Keonjhar | 31 |
| 21. | Angul | 30 |
| 22. | Dhenkanal | 30 |
| 23. | Koraput | 28 |
| 24. | Kalkangiri | 7 |
| 25. | Nowrangpur | 12 |
| 26. | Ratgada | 21 |
| 27. | Sambalpur | 28 |
| 28. | Jharsuguda | 12 |
| 29. | Bargarh | 32 |
| 30. | Deogarh | 3 |

**Expansion/Development of CGHS facilities, Kerala**

840. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a strong demand for the expansion/development of C.G.H.S. facilities at Trivandrum, Kerala;

(b) whether representations have been received in this regard;

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this matter;

(d) whether Trivandrum does not have a C.G.H.S. laboratory;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to establish a C.G.H.S. laboratory at Trivandrum; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Three allopathic dispensaries are already functioning at Trivandrum. Due to shortage of funds and manpower, it is not possible to expand CGHS at Trivandrum at present.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Due to shortage of funds and manpower, it is not possible to establish a CGHS laboratory at Trivandrum at present.

*[Translation]*

**Delhi Zoo**

841. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in regard to make Delhi Zoo an autonomous body; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Central Zoo Authority under the Chairmanship of Minister of Environment and Forests has recommended that the management of Delhi Zoo should be handed over to an autonomous organisation, especially created for the purpose.

(b) The modalities are being examined. The time frame has not yet been fixed.

*[English]*

**National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme**

842. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various works done under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme during the last three years;

(b) whether any notification has been issued by the Union Government to ensure the use of only iodised salt; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, formerly known as National Goitre Control Programme is being implemented in the entire country. The Programme strategy includes survey & re-survey of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, supply of iodised salt, monitoring of Iodine content of salt as well as Urinary Iodine Excretion, Health Education and Publicity to increase awareness among people.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India issued a notification under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act/ Rules, 1955 stipulation that salt sold for direct human consumption has to be compulsorily iodated with effect from 27.5.1998.

This matter is sub-judice in High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. However, the High Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka have dismissed the public interest litigation and upheld the Government's above notification.

**Bridges on NHs in Maharashtra**

843. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bridges on the National Highways in Maharashtra in 1998;

(b) the number of bridges proposed to be built during Ninth Five Year Plan in the State; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The number of bridges on National Highways in Maharashtra as on 31-12-1998, were as under:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Major Bridges | 215 |
| Minor Bridges | 722 |

(b) and (c) During the Ninth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to re-construct 11 number of bridges on National Highways in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 31.38 crores.

*[Translation]*

**Aid for Blindness and Leprosy**

844. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance or grants allotted to Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat for the eradication of blindness and leprosy during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) whether complaints have been received about the misuse or under-utilisation of funds; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The assistance or grants to M.P., Rajasthan and Gujarat for the eradication of Blindness and Leprosy during the three years may be seen at attached Statement.

(b) No specific complaints about the misuse or under-utilisation of funds have been received from the public.

(c) Does not arise.

***Statement***

*Cash Grants Released to States in three years for Eradication of Blindness*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Name of States | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Madhya Pradesh | 405.07 | 138.40 | 107.25 |
| Rajasthan | 78.62 | 46.60 | 53.25 |
| Gujarat | 7.24 | 5.25 | 19.50 |

*Grant-in-aid Released to the District Blindness Control Societies in the Three Years are as under*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Name of States | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Madhya Pradesh | 301.00 | 455.00 | 375.00 |
| Rajasthan | 117.00 | 263.00 | 260.00 |
| Gujarat | 27.00 | 125.50 | 72.50 |

*Funds Released to the States during the last three years for eradication of Leprosy*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Name of State | 1995-96 | | | 1996-97 | | | 1997-98 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cash | Kind | Total | Cash | Kind | Total | Cash | Kind | Total |
| Madhya Pradesh | 129.75 | 242.95 | 372.70 | 135.00 | 157.54 | 292.54 | 138.00 | 318.33 | 456.33 |
| Rajasthan | 29.00 | 66.78 | 95.78 | 29.00 | 50.98 | 79.98 | 30.00 | 22.00 | 52.00 |
| Gujarat | 16.00 | 124.18 | 140.18 | 16.00 | 45.11 | 61.11 | 19.00 | 242.16 | 261.16 |

1159

**New Telephone Exchanges**

845. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the ister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges working in edabad and Bhavnagar Districts;

(b) the number of OYT telephone connections ided in these districts;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set-up new phone exchanges in the said districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) 106 & 74 telephone exchanges are working in medabad & Bhavnagar District respectively.

(b) 1950 and 103 telephone connections under OYT have been provided in Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar spectively during current financial year so far.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is a plan to provide six telephone changes in Ahmedabad District and one telephone xchange in Bhavnagar District during current financial year.

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

1169-11

**Setting up of a National Internet Backbone**

846. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DOT propose to set up a National Internet Backbone (NIB) with an initial investment of Rs. 70 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cities and towns likely to be connected in the country therewith; and

(d) the time by which this project is likely to be completed and total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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

DOT propose to set up National Internet Backbone (NIB) at an estimated amount of Rs. 86 crore.

(b) Details of NIB:

1. Department of Telecommunications has planned to set up a National Internet Backbone (NIB) covering all parts of the country. This backbone, to start with, will have a capacity of 8 Mbps and go up to 155 Mpbs by the year 2000. 6 Nodes will have International connectivity at 34 Mbps. The NIB will act as a transmission media to carry the internet traffic both Government and Private to the nearest International Gateway. It will also act as facilitator for Internet Service Provider (ISP) to ISP inter-connection within the country besides facilitation roaming.

2. NIB is proposed to have multitier structure consisting of 3 tiers. The first tier of the NIB will consist of large stations with high capacity digital trunks with highest level of redundancy. Type B and C nodes shall be smaller nodes with lesser access requirements. In addition, DoT proposes to have Remote Access Servers to serve Internet Dialup subscribers in 45 locations consisting of 14 Type A nodes and 31 Type B nodes in the first phase for which the tenders have been floated. This Internet Backbone is expected to serve about one million subscribers by the year 2000.

(c) 45 cities during first phase. (List in Statement)

(d) December 31, 1999 at the total estimated expenditure of Rs. 86 crores.

***Statement***

*Proposed Internet Stations for NIB*

| Type A Locations | Type B Locations |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. Ahmedabad | 1. Agra |
| 2. Bangalore | 2. Allahabad |
| 3. Calcutta | 3. Amritsar |
| 4. Chennai | 4. Bhopal |
| 5. Ernakulam | 5. Bhubaneshwar |
| 6. Hyderabad | 6. Chandigarh |
| 7. Indore | 7. Coimbatore |
| 8. Jaipur | 8. Faridabad |
| 9. Kanpur | 9. Ghaziabad |
| 10. Ludhiana | 10. Gurgaon |
| 11. Mumbai | 11. Guwahati |
| 12. New Delhi | 12. Gwalior |
| 13. Patna | 13. Jabalpur |
| 14. Pune | 14. Jalandhar |
| | 15. Jammu |
| | 16. Jodhpur |
| | 17. Lucknow |
| | 18. Madurai |
| | 19. Meerut |
| | 20. Mysore |
| | 21. Nagpur |
| | 22. Nasik |
| | 23. Noida |
| | 24. Rajkot |
| | 25. Shimla |
| | 26. Shillong |
| | 27. Surat |
| | 28. Trivandrum |
| | 29. Vadodara |
| | 30. Varanasi |
| | 31. Visakhapatnam |

*[Translation]*

**Telephone Tariff in Rural Areas**

847. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent TRAI proposals regarding hike in the telephone tariff suggest the telephone rates and security in rural region at par with that in urban areas whereas it was about one-third for the rural areas previously;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reconsider the proposals to provide relief to the rural areas and restoring the earlier position;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its consultation paper containing tariff proposals has suggested the same rental charges for both urban and rural subscribers connected to more than 1000 lines exchange systems. In case of rural subscribers connected to less than 1000 lines exchange systems rental proposed is Rs. 240 (bi-monthly) as compared to Rs. 320 (bi-monthly) for urban subscribers. The local call charges suggested by the TRAI is the same for both rural and urban subscribers. Regarding security deposit TRAI has proposed that the same should not exceed one year's rental for both rural and urban subscribers.

(b) to (d) As per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 the power of tariff fixation has been mandated to TRAI. TRAI's tariff proposals including those mentioned in para (a) above, are yet to be notified.

*English]*

**Telephone Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh**

848. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to modernise telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh during 1998-99;

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

(c) whether modernisation of these telephone exchanges will also help to provide new telephone connections to clear the pending list in the State;

(d) if so, the time by which the pending list of telephone connections are likely to be cleared; and

(e) the progress made so far in the replacement of existing cables by the optical fibre cables in the different telephone exchanges in the States, location-wise?

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

(b) All the telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh are modern electronic exchange system as on 31.1.99 except following which are being planned to be modernised during 1999;

| Distt. | Ex. Name | Type | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chittoor | Chittoor | X-BAR | 4000 |
| Hyderabad | Hyderabad | X-BAR | 10000 |

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is being planned to clear the existing waiting list at Hyderabad by March 1999 and for other places by March, 2000.

(e) There is no plan to replace existing cables by the optical fibre cables in different telephone exchanges. However, optical fibre cables are being laid to interconnect exchanges to improve media. The district-wise details are placed in attached statement.

***Statement***

*Optical Fibre Cable Laying Planned in Andhra Pradesh Telecom Circle District-wise during 1998-99*

| Name of the District | Total Route (Kilometers) |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| Adilabad | 355 |
| Anantapur | 120 |
| Cuddapah | 293 |
| Chittoor | 305 |
| East Godavari | 370 |
| Guntur | 412 |
| Hyderabad | 100 |
| Karimnagar | 265 |
| Khammam | 213 |
| Krishna | 165 |
| Kurnool | 155 |
| Mahabubnagar | 265 |
| Medak | 240 |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| Nalgonda | 235 |
| Nellore | 160 |
| Nizamabad | 71 |
| Prakasham | 180 |
| Rangareddy | 50 |
| Srikakulam | 130 |
| Visakapatnam | 115 |
| Vizianagaram | 120 |
| Warangal | 110 |
| West Godavari | 290 |
| Grand Total | 4719 |

**Encroachment in Kaziranga National Park**

849. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is illegal encroachment in the Kaziranga National Park;

(b) if so, the details of such encroachment including number of families involved therein, area so occupied alongwith year from which the encroachment started;

(c) the action taken so far by the authorities to clear the encroachment during the last three years mentioning results thereof; and

(d) the likely time by which the Kaziranga National Park shall be made encroachment free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The State Government has informed that there is no encroachments within the notified area of Kaziranga National Park.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Plan Allocation for Development of Forests and Ecology in Gujarat**

850. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plan allocation made for the development of ecology and forests in Gujarat during the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken for afforestation and expansion of forests in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Plan allocations made for the development of forests and ecology in Gujarat in the last three years are as follows:

| Year | Amount |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | Rs. 7407 lakhs |
| 1996-97 | Rs. 12282 lakhs |
| 1997-98 | Rs. 15040 lakhs |

(b) Afforestation and allied activities are being carried out in the State under various state plan and centrally sponsored schemes. An externally-aided Integrated Forestry Development Project, supported by Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan, is also under implementation since 1995-96.

*[English]*

**Widening of National Highway-63**

851. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken with regard to the strengthening and widening of NH-63 (Ankola to Joladrashi between Hubli and Gadag) so far; and

(b) the time by which this task is likely to be accomplished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) An estimate for widening without strengthening in Km. 140 to Km. 157 in Hubli-Gadag Section of NH-63 has been sanctioned by the Ministry for Rs. 358.23 Lakh. The work is targetted to be completed by the year 2001.

*[Translation]*

**Inspection Charges by LPG Distributors**

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

(a) whether the LPG distributors of various oil companies are charging Rs. 100 instead of Rs. 20 as inspection charges of gas stoves;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and reasons thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the activities of LPG distributors in the country who are charging extra on inspecting gas stoves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The earlier charges for the inspection of hot plates and fittings, etc. to ensure conformity of B.I.S. specifications have been revised from Rs. 20/- to Rs. 100/- on industry basis from 21.1.1999 from those prospective customers who are purchasing the hot plate from the open market.

(c) Oil Companies conduct elaborate and regular surprise checks and inspection of their LPG Distributors. Suitable action is taken against the distributors who are found indulging in various malpractice including forced sale of hot plate. The customers are free to purchase hot plate from the open market.

*[English]*

**Regularisation of Contract Labourers in ONGC**

853. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contract labourers engaged for sweeping, cleaning, clerical job etc., regularised by Oil and Natural Gas Commission as per the orders of the Supreme Court; and

(b) the number of employees out of them belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and OBCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There is no Supreme Courts Order directing ONGC to regularise the contract Labourers engaged for sweeping, cleaning, clerical job etc. Hence, no such contract Labourer has been regularised by ONGC.

**Public Telephones in Villages**

854. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy adopted for providing public telephones to Panchayat Headquarters, big villages and the rural cluster villages during Eighth Five Year Plan and proposed for Ninth Five Year Plan including the targets fixed and achievement made by the Telecommunications Department in this regard;

(b) whether there was some delay in the implementation of the policy due to some policy changes by the Government with regard to the village telephones;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of terms and conditions laid down by the Government for granting licence relating to village telephones to cellular telephone operators; and

(e) the achievement made by the cellular telephone operators as envisaged in the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Government policy is to provide public telephones in all the revenue villages of the country. The village public telephones are installed at a location selected by the panchayats of the villages in the respective revenue villages. The targets and achievements of the Eighth Five Year Plan and targets of Ninth Five Year Plan are as below:

| Plan | Target | Achievement |
|---|---|---|
| 8th Plan | 3,38,000 | 1,98,948 |
| 9th Plan | All the remaining villages as on 1.4.97 i.e. about 3,46,000 | 42855 (in 97-98) + 14102 (in 98-99) upto 31.1.99) Total = 56,957 |

(b) and (c) According to policy guidelines issued in September 1997, and amended in October, 1998, the custodian/location for VPTs are decided with the recommendation of Panchayat/BDOs etc. It takes time to complete the formalities. Also recommendations for multiple custodian for a VPT in a village are made by the Panchayats frequently resulting in disputes. This causes delays.

(d) There is no stipulation in the licence agreement for Cellular Services which relates to providing of Village Telephones by Cellular Telephone Operators.

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

**Requirement of LPG in Bihar**

855. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated monthly requirement of LPG for Bettiah district of Bihar at present and the supply position thereof;

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to meet the full requirement of LPG in the district;

(c) whether rural areas of the district are being neglected in supplying LPG; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The average monthly sale of packed LPG by the distributor of Public Sector Oil Companies in Bettiah District of Bihar is around 131 MT and the demand is being fully met. There are three distributorships operating by HPC and IOC in Bettiah District, Bihar.

(b) to (d) Every year the Ministry advises the detailed enrolment plan alongwith guidelines thereof for release of new LPG connections after taking into account the availability of LPG, demand from existing customers and the bottling capacity.

Government have taken a decision to extend LPG Marketing to rural areas during the IX Plan period. With the setting up of more distributorships, the urban areas hitherto uncovered and adjoining rural areas would be covered for supply of LPG.

*[Translation]*

**Tehri Dam Project**

856. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA:
SHRI ADITYANATH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Tehri Multi-purpose Scheme of Uttar Pradesh and the date from which this project is going on and the amount spent thereon so far;

(b) whether some foreign assistance is likely to be provided to the said project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the estimated amount proposed to be spent thereon and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Tehri Dam and Hydro Electric Project (600 MW) was initially accorded investment

approval by the Planning Commission in June, 1972 as State Sector Project to be implemented by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh who could commence construction in 1978. The project could not get much headway because of resource constraints faced by the State Government. Subsequently, the project with enhanced scope (2400 MW) was transferred to Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) for implementation. The Central Government accorded investment approval in March, 1994 for execution of Tehri HE Project Stage I (1000 MW) alongwith essential/ committed works of Koteshwar HE Project (400 MW) and Pump Storage Plant (1000 MW). These works remained in progress and an amount of Rs. 1854.40 crore is reported to have been spent by THDC as on 31.01.1999.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) The revised estimated cost of the project is Rs. 4982.00 crores at December 1997 price level. The project is scheduled to be completed by year 2002.

*[English]*

**Opening of New Telephone Exchanges**

857. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for opening of new telephone exchanges in Uluberia region in Howrah District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In Uluberia region six telephone exchanges (Jaypur, Daspur, Jhikira, Manickpir, Udang and Nunti-Mugkalayan) have been planned.

(c) Equipment has been ordered. Suitable accommodation and power supply are being arranged.

(d) These Exchanges are likely to be commissioned during 1999.

**Retrenchment of Employees by NTPC**

858. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC is retrenching its employees gradually;

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

(c) the details of total number of employees retrenched by the NTPC during the last five years;

(d) whether any effective guidelines has been issued by the Government to the NTPC in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir. NTPC has confirmed that they are not retrenching its employees.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

**Unani Medicine Suppliers**

859. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director, CGHS issued Explanation letters to six Unani Medicine Suppliers during 1998;

(b) if so, the names of firms to whom explanation letters were issued;

(c) whether in any of the meeting of Purchase Advisory Committee (PCA) in July, 1998, it was decided that order should not be placed to any of these six firms until final decision is taken about these firms;

(d) if so, whether CGHS Unani Medical Store Depot (UMSD) placed orders to any of these six firms in violation of the decision of PAC between August 1,1998 and February 28, 1999; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the amount incurred on such supplies and the action the Government propose to take,against those responsible for violation of decisions of PAC meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of the firms are as follows:—

M/s New Capital Dawakhana, Delhi

M/s Himachal Drug Pharma, Amritsar

M/s Win Pharma, Meerut

M/s Islahi Drug House, Mumbai

M/s Maxo Lab (P) Ltd., Delhi

M/s Tibbat Pharma, Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There was no violation of the decision as Supply Orders were placed to these firms after taking proper permission from the competent authority. An amount of Rs. 12,47,689/- has been incurred on such supplies.

**Purchase of Telecom Equipments**

860. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief General Managers of different circles have been authorised to purchase equipments required for their circles;

(b) if so, the details thereof and limit of amount upto which they have been empowered; and

(c) the criteria/norm fixed for such purchase?

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

(b) List of items decentralised is kept at Statement-I. Financial powers delegated to Chief General Managers for procurement of these items are also indicated therein.

(c) Guidelines for purchase of these items are as at Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

*List of Decentralised Items and Corresponding Financial Powers to Chief General Managers for 1998-99*

| S.No. | Item | Quantity | Fin. Power |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Dropwire | As per norms | Prescribed |
| 2. | DJU | As per norms | Prescribed |
| 3. | Power plant, 25 | As per requirement | Full powers |
| 4. | Batteries, 200 all | As per requirement | Full Powers |
| 5. | 15m Mast | As per target | Prescribed |
| 6. | Poles | As per norms | Prescribed |
| 7. | Sockets | As per norms | Prescribed |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8. | Saddles | As per norms | Prescribed |
| 9. | Stalk | As per nomrs | Prescribed |
| 10. | Insulator | As per norms | Prescribed |
| 11. | U Back | As per norms | Prescribed |
| 12. | SFMSS | As per requirement | Issued |
| 13. | Formatted terml. com. | As per requirement | Issued |
| 14. | EKBC & EKBs | As per requirement | Issued |
| 15. | Fax Machines | As per requirement | Issued |
| 16. | Electronic TPs | As per requirement | Issued |
| 17. | EMT terminals | As per requirement | Issued |
| 18. | Upgradation kits | Prescribed | Issued |
| 19. | ADPCM | Prescribed | Issued |
| 20. | Old DPC systems | As per requirement. | Issued |

*List of Decentralised Items and Corresponding Financial Powers to Chief General Managers for 1999-2000*

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Sole plates B&C | As per norms | Full |
| 2. | Anchor | As per norms | Full |
| 3. | SSNP | As per norms | Full |
| 4. | Caps with spike | As per norms | Full |
| 5. | 4 wire brackets | As per norms | Full |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6. | Stay shackle and rod | As per norms | Full |
| 7. | stay attachment | As per norms | Full |
| 8. | Tie | As per norms | Full |
| 9. | Strut | As per norms | Full |
| 10. | Jointing kits | As per norms | Full |
| 11. | Connectors | As per norms | Full |
| 12. | Towers of all types | As per requirement | Full |
| 13. | Support Bracket | As per norms | Full |
| 14. | DP Box of all types | As per norms | Full |
| 15. | CT Box all types | As per norms | Full |
| 16. | Jumper wire | As per requirement | Full |
| 17. | PVC twin wire | As per norms | Full |
| 18. | GI wire bare | As per norms | Full |
| 19. | GI wire insulated | As per norms | Full |
| 20. | 1 KVA invertor | As per requirement | Full |
| 21. | PDH Mux equipment | As per requirement | Full |
| 22. | Internet equipment | As per policy | Full |
| 23. | DDFs | As per requirement | Full |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24. | Netw. Synch. Eqpt. | As per policy | Full |
| 25. | CDOT CCS7 cards | As per policy | Full |
| 26. | Line cards all types | As per requirement | Full |
| 27. | ISDN testers | As per requirement | Full |
| 28. | EPBTs | As per norms | Full |
| 29. | Bose-Sec. Instt. | As per norm | Full |
| 30. | CBT95 | As per norms | Full |
| 31. | 256P exchanges | As per requirement | Full |
| 32. | 8 mbps optimux | As per requirement | Full |
| 33. | CD Cabinets | As per norms | Full |
| 34. | Rigid PVC Pipe | As per requirement | Full |
| 35. | 5 Pair Cable | As per policy | Full |

***Statement-II***

*Guidelines for the Purchase of Decentralised Items*

1. The following guidelines shall be followed by the Circles and CGMTs for the procurement of the items which are decentralised for the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000:

(a) CGMs shall procure these items by inviting tenders and observing prescribed procedure.

(b) While deciding the tendered quantity, the actual production of these items by Telecom factories and DOT's own PSUs shall have to be taken into account.

(c) All purchases are to be made from sources having valid type approval and after having been inspected/tested by 'QA' Wing.

(d) For the decentralised items rates as obtained/ finalised during last 3-5 years shall be conveyed to Telecom Circles by the concerned units of DoT HQ in order to enable the Telecom Circles to assess the reasonableness of the rates emerging in their tender.

(e) Telecom Circles shall restore to decentralised procurement of these items only for the quantities required during 1998-99/1999-2000.

(f) While procuring the existing inventory and inventory in the pipeline should also be accounted for Circles should take into account their consumption pattern while assessing the requirement.

(g) Before floating of tender the requirement of the equipment with regard to project estimates and availability of funds shall be ensured with the concurrence of IFAs.

(h) Tender document/conditions shall be vetted by Internal Financial Adviser (IFA).

(i) Procurement proposal shall be decided in concurrence of IFAs and it is specifically pointed out that mere consultation with IFA shall not be sufficient.

(j) CGMs shall ensure to strengthen their inventory management system before resorting to decentralised purchase of these items.

(k) Decentralised procurements are not to be delegated to the lower formations.

(l) The procurement/ordering for a listed decentralised items shall be done only for be yearly requirement within the financial powers and budget allocation.

(m) No ordering shall be done merely on the basis of price appearing in other purchase orders either issued by DoT HQ. or any other Unit.

**Elephantiasis Eradication Programme**

861. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether elephantiasis continues to be rampant in Bihar and other states;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor during the past three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch a time-bound programme for its eradication; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Filariasis is endemic in Bihar and some coastal States like Orissa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh. Elephantiasis which is manifestation of this disease is also prevalent in these States as well as other parts of the country. Details of Para-sitological data Statewise are given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d) National Filaria Control Programme (NFCP) is being implemented to control the disease as an ongoing programme. There are 206 Control Units, 27 Survey Units and 199 Filaria Clinics functioning in urban areas for control of Filaria.

NFCP has initiated a project in 1997 with single dose annual mass drug therapy in 13 identified districts of 7 States namely, Bihar, U.P, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and covering about 40 million population. The project has been proposed initially for 5 years.

In addition, the measures for controlling Filariasis include:—

— Recurrent antilarval measures, using larvicides in the mosquito breeding places;

— Anti Parasitic measures by detection of micro-filaria carrier, and treatment with Di-ethyl Carbamazine (DEC).

— IEC activities for public awareness;

— Management of acute and chronic Filariasis through referal services.

— Biological control of mosquito breeding through biological agents especially larvivorous fish.

***Statement***

*Statewise Parasitological index on Filariasis*

| Sr.No. | Name of State/ UT | Year | Number Examined | No. +ve (MF) human | Human infected (MF) Rate | No. +ve for disease | Disease rate (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh (Provisional) | 1996 | 196844 | 3924 | 2.0 | 2497 | 1.27 |
| | | 1997 | 118398 | 3067 | 2.59 | 4198 | 3.54 |
| | | 1998 | 265323 | 5537 | 2.0 | 8765 | 3.3 |
| 2. | Assam (Provisional) | 1996 | 13002 | 27 | 0.19 | 14 | 0.10 |
| | | 1997 | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | 1998 | 802 | 09 | 1.12 | 0 | 8 |
| 3. | Bihar (Provisional) | 1996 | 278760 | 837 | 0.30 | 2315 | 1.01 |
| | | 1997 | 47290 | 304 | 0.64 | 890 | 1.80 |
| | | 1998 | 26165 | 122 | 0.47 | 604 | 2.31 |
| 4. | Goa (Provisional) | 1996 | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | 1997 | 27897 | 33 | 0.1 | 0 | 0 |
| | | 1998 | 3387 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | Gujarat (Provisional) | 1996 | 56268 | 72 | 0.12 | 69 | 0.10 |
| | | 1997 | 25489 | 147 | 0.57 | 32 | 1.12 |
| | | 1998 | 3549 | 77 | 0.76 | 7 | 0.19 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6. | Karnataka (Provisional) | 1996 | 96750 | 724 | 0.74 | 3206 | 3.31 |
| | | 1997 | 26344 | 290 | 1.10 | 2085 | 7.91 |
| | | 1998 | 123990 | 915 | 0.7 | 5602 | 4.5 |
| 7. | Kerala (Provisional) | 1996 | 73265 | 7735 | 1.00 | 976 | 1.33 |
| | | 1997 | 124415 | 1065 | 0.86 | 1597 | 1.28 |
| | | 1998 | 7764 | 53 | 0.68 | 29 | 0.37 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh (Provisional) | 1996 | 85612 | 255 | 0.29 | 873 | 1.01 |
| | | 1997 | 18782 | 13 | 0.07 | 117 | 0.62 |
| | | 1998 | 12135 | 29 | 0.24 | 93 | 0.77 |
| 9. | Maharashtra (Provisional) | 1996 | 596370 | 15386 | 2.58 | 3402 | 0.58 |
| | | 1997 | 502160 | 7990 | 1.59 | 4414 | 1.88 |
| | | 1998 | 141164 | 2237 | 1.58 | 1008 | 0.71 |
| 10. | Orissa (Provisional) | 1996 | 28850 | 963 | 3.34 | 2732 | 9.36 |
| | | 1997 | 3266 | 76 | 0.88 | 617 | 18.89 |
| | | 1998 | 742 | 32 | 4.31 | 97 | 13.07 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. | Tamil Nadu (Provisional) | 1996 | 836768 | 3612 | 0.43 | 1115 | 0.13 |
| | | 1997 | 1131476 | 3797 | 0.32 | 1886 | 0.17 |
| | | 1998 | 1112265 | 2180 | 0.19 | 1680 | 0.15 |
| 12. | Uttar Pradesh (Provisional) | 1996 | 90859 | 608 | 0.67 | 1162 | 1.28 |
| | | 1997 | 31357 | 330 | 1.05 | 2199 | 7.01 |
| | | 1998 | 25365 | 234 | 0.92 | 711 | 2.80 |
| 13. | West Bengal (Provisional) | 1996 | 70780 | 243 | 0.34 | 287 | 0.41 |
| | | 1997 | 4891 | 194 | 3.97 | 24 | 0.49 |
| | | 1998 | 285 | 04 | 1.40 | 137 | 48.07 |
| 14. | Daman & Diu (Provisional) | 1996 | 9762 | 10 | 0.10 | 23 | 0.24 |
| | | 1997 | 14430 | 35 | 0.24 | 27 | 0.19 |
| | | 1998 | 7848 | 05 | 0.06 | 47 | 0.60 |

**Modernisation of Gas based and Thermal Power Projects**

862. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn a comprehensive policy for foreign direct investment for the upgradation and modernisation of gas based and thermal power projects in the country;

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

(c) details of deals finalised and total cost and Foreign Direct Investment involved in these proposals cleared so far particularly for Maharashtra, project-wise and state-wise; and

(d) the details of present status of the projects cleared for upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The Government

formulated guidelines for private sector participation in the Renovation & Modernisation (R&M) of power plants (including gas based and thermal plants) and circulated these to the States/Union Territories in October, 1995. The guidelines clarified that the choice and initiative would ultimately lie with the State. Subsequently, the Government liberalised the condition for attracting investments from the private sector for R&M through a notification issued on January 9,1997, stipulating that R&M schemes costing up to Rs. 500 crores need not be referred to the CEA for techno-economic clearance. It is, therefore, mainly the responsibility of the State Governments to encourage private investment in this area, including foreign direct investment. According to information available, none of the State Electricity Boards have utilised any private foreign investment for undertaking R&M activities.

**Theft of Cables**

863. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephones remain out of order due to theft of cables in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases of theft of cables reported in the country, State-wise during the last three years;

(c) the quantum of loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to check such thefts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Some telephones go out of order due to cable theft.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected from field units and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) The following measures are being taken:—

(i) Patrolling of important routes.

(ii) Double locking of manhole covers.

(iii) Laying of cables in concrete in open culverts.

(iv) Close co-ordination with police authorities.

**Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Punjab**

864. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Punjab as on January 31,1999 district-wise;

(b) the number the telephone connections allotted in the State district-wise during the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The total number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Punjab as on 31.1.99 is 217, 845. District-wise break-up is given below:—

| Telecom District | Waiting List |
|---|---|
| Amritsar | 14,220 |
| Bhatinda | 10,701 |
| Chandigarh | 11,363 |
| Ferozepur | 32,658 |
| Hoshiarpur | 20,709 |
| Jullundur | 49,107 |
| Ludhiana | 26,300 |
| Patiala | 16,616 |
| Pathankot | 11,279 |
| Ropar | 9,161 |
| Sangrur | 16,361 |
| Total | 217,845 |

(b) The number of telephone connections allotted in the State district-wise during the last three years is given in the attached Statement.

(c) Out of DELs target of 1.90 lakh for the current year, 90746 new telephone connections were provided upto 31.1.99. The waiting list as on 31.1.97 was 2.17 lakhs. In order to clear the waiting list expansion of exchange capacity has been planned. A target of providing 2.4 lakh new telephone connections has been fixed for 1999-2000 to clear the waiting list.

***Statement***

*The number of telephone connections allotted in the State district-wise during the last three years*

| Telecom Distt. | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Amritsar | 14,819 | 18,160 | 11,196 |
| Bhatinda | 7,698 | 12,000 | 10,991 |
| Chandigarh | 23,519 | 25,532 | 20,511 |
| Ferozepur | 13,703 | 8,382 | 12,949 |
| Hoshiarpur | 4,538 | 6,311 | 10,110 |
| Jallandhar | 28,185 | 15,023 | 22,105 |
| Ludhiana | 23,783 | 36,110 | 33,843 |
| Patiala | 14,278 | 14,855 | 14,135 |
| Ropar | 1,154 | 1,560 | 3,012 |
| Sangrur | 7,840 | 11,195 | 16,116 |
| Pathankot | 3,668 | 4,432 | 11,001 |
| Circle | 143569 | 153568 | 165969 |

**Benches of Allahabad High Court at Meerut and Bareilly**

865. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up benches of Allahabad High Court at Meerut and Bareilly in accordance with the decision taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which benches of Allahabad High Court are likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) the Jaswant Singh Commission recommended the establishment of a permanent Bench of the Allahabad High Court at Agra and two circuit Benches thereof at Nainital and Dehradun. The then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, in his letter of November 7, 1994, proposed that recommendations of the Commission be implemented. He *inter-alia* informed that the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court did not agree to the proposal. However, the next Chief Minister in her letter of September 5, 1995, stated that the issue of establishment of a High Court Bench was sensitive and a decision in the matter had to be taken by the Central Government. The State Government were advised in December, 1995 that in the absence of a specific, complete proposal from the State Government and a consensus amongst all concerned it was not possible for the Central Government to take a decision in the matter. There has been no response from the State Government.

**Development and Repair of Kandla Port**

866. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the details of steps taken by the Government for the development and repairing of Kandla Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): A provision of Rs. 360.00 crores has been provided in the 9th Five-Year Plan for development of Kandla Port. A provision of Rs. 65.50 crores has been earmarked in Annual Plan 1998-99 and Rs. 100.00 crores in 1999-2000. The Kandla Port, which was hit by cyclone in June, 1998, is now fully operational.

**Voting Right to Displaced Persons in J&K**

867. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons displaced from West Pakistan and settled in J&K in 1947 were not allowed to vote for Assembly elections even in 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide voting rights to such persons living in J&K?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) No, Sir. The Election Commission has informed that the displaced persons who fulfilled the provisions of law have not been denied the right to vote.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Benches of various High Courts**

868. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD):
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) the locations where the benches of various High Courts have been established;

(b) the population covered under each High Court and benches thereof;

(c) the number of judges appointed in each High Court and benches thereof alongwith the number of posts of judges lying vacant;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up more benches of High Courts;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the criteria laid down to set up these benches;

(g) whether any recommendations or suggestions have been given by the Law Commission in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) (a) to (c) A statement containing the requisite information is attached.

(d) and (e) Establishment of Benches of High Courts is considered if and when complete proposals are received from the concerned State Governments, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Court.

(f) The Government have not laid down any criteria to set up Benches of High Courts away from their principal seats. However, in its report, submitted to the Government on April 30, 1985, the Jaswant Singh Commission suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed in deciding the question of setting up of High Court Benches. The report of the Commission was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on April 20,1987 and April 21,1987 respectively, which may be referred to.

(g) and (h) The Law Commission in their Fourth Report (1956) and Fourteenth Report (1958) had opposed the idea of creation of Benches of the High Courts on the ground that highest standards of administration of justice could only be achieved if the High Courts function at one place.

***Statement***

| S.No. | Name of High Court | Location of principal Seat | Population served | No. of *Judges (as on 15.02.99) | Number of vacant posts | Location of Bench | Population served |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Allahabad | Allahabad | 10,72,94,639 | 61 | 10 | Lucknow | 03,18,17,448 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | Hyderabad | 06,65,08,008 | 23 | 15 | — | — |
| 3. | Bombay | Bombay | 04,24,17,128 | 44 | 16 | Nagpur | 01,73,98,900 |
| | | | | | | Aurangabad | 01,93,61,222 |
| | | | | | | Panaji (Goa) | 11,69,793 |
| 4. | Calcutta | Calcutta | 06,80,77,965 | 29 | 19 | Port Blair | 02,80,661 |
| 5. | Delhi | Delhi | 94,20,644 | 22 | 9 | — | — |
| 6. | Gauhati | Gauhati | 02,32,78,880 | 16 | 2 | Agartala | 27,57,205 |
| | | | | | | Imphal | 18,37,149 |
| | | | | | | Shillong | 17,74,778 |
| | | | | | | Kohima | 12,09,546 |
| | | | | | | Aizawl | 06,89,756 |
| 7. | Gujarat | Ahmedabad | 04,13,09,582 | 29 | 5 | — | — |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla | 51,70,877 | 5 | 3 | — | — |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | Jammu & Srinagar | 77,18,877 | 11 | 3 | — | — |
| 10. | Karnataka | Bangalore | 04,49,77,201 | 32 | 7 | — | — |
| 11. | Kerala | Ernakulam | 02,91,50,225 | 22 | 6 | — | — |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | Jabalpur | 04,46,97,109 | 25 | 9 | Indore | 01,33,31,878 |
| | | | | | | Gwalior | 81,52,183 |
| 13. | Madras | Madras | 05,66,66,731 | 30 | 10 | — | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14. | Orissa | Cuttack | 03,16,59,736 | 11 | 4 | — | — |
| 15. | Patna | Patna | 06,65,29,646 | 34 | 3 | Ranchi | 01,98,44,819 |
| 16. | Punjab & Haryana | Chandigarh | 03,73,87,632 | 25 | 12 | — | — |
| 17. | Rajasthan | Jodhpur | 02,27,36,000 | 21 | 11 | Jaipur | 02,12,70,000 |
| 18. | Sikkim | Gangtok | 04,06,457 | 02 | 01 | — | — |

*Includes Judges at the Bench

**Policy for LPG**

869. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any long term policy for the liquified petroleum gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any policy for the participation of the private sector in the area of liquified petroleum gas has been firmed up by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated amount of investment to be made to make LPG available to the consumers by the suppliers from the plants producing 50 lakh tonnes of LPG every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The IX Plan document broadly outlines the long term plan (1997-98 to 2006-07) for LPG. It projects the new LPG enrolment and DBCs to be released by the Public Sector Oil Companies during this period. To increase the network of LPG distribution, new LPG Marketing Plan, 1996-98 was prepared to cover small towns and villages having population of 10,000 and above. Further, future Marketing Plan is expected to cover smaller villages and towns with higher availability of LPG. Besides the subsidy on domestic LPG is being withdrawn in phases as per the Government Resolution dated November 24,1997.

(c) and (d) To supplement the availability of LPG marketed by PSU Oil Companies, Govt. of India, as part of liberalisation policy, have decanalised import of LPG in April, 1993 and amended the LPG Control Order thereby facilitating the import and marketing of LPG by private marketeers at market determined prices through their own distribution network under Parallel Marketing Scheme.

(e) The bottling plants set up by Public Sector Oil Companies range from capacity of 6 TMTPA to 132 TMTPA, hence the investment required for a 50 lakh tonnes plant is not available.

**Use of Electronic Machines in Assembly/ Lok Sabha Elections**

870. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to use electronic machines in the Assembly/Lok Sabha elections in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the results achieved from using the Voting Machines earlier in the elections;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to educate illiterate voters in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission has already taken steps to use the Electronic Voting Machines for the conduct of elections. These machines have already been used successfully in 16 assembly Constituencies comprising 2930 polling stations at the General Elections of Legislative Assemblies of the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi held in November 1998 as well as in five assembly constituencies comprising 779 polling Stations at the adjourned polls and bye-elections to Legislative Assemblies of these States held on 22.2.1999. The results achieved by using these machines in these elections have proved to be very encouraging. The Commission has also decided, in principle, to expand the use of these machines in the General Elections to State Legislative Assemblies to be held later during the year.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Commission asked the Chief Electoral Officers of the States where the Electronic Voting Machines were to be used to have detailed discussions with National and State Recognised Parties at their level and give a thorough briefing and training on the use of Electronic Voting Machines. The Commission also asked the Chief Electoral Officers to arrange wide publicity and demonstration of the machines and organise comprehensive training programme for political parties, officials and electors as three separate target groups. The Election Commission proposes to follow a similar policy in future wherever Electronic Voting Machines are to be used.

**MNCs in Ayurvedic Medicines**

871. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many MNCs are keen to enter the market of Ayurvedic medicines of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to ensure that these medicines are not plagiarised by MNCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) The Department does not have reliable information on the keenness of MNCs to market Ayurvedic medicines in the country.

Applications for the grant or renewal of licence to manufacture for sale of any Ayurvedic drug are submitted to any granted by the licencing authorities appointed by the State Governments in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules thereunder.

*[Translation]*

**Posts of Chemists in ONGC**

872. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees working as chemists in ONGC alongwith the number of employees belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes separately as on date;

(b) whether the number of SC/ST employees is in accordance with reservation policy;

(c) the total number of vacancies of SCs/STs in ONGC as on date and the period for which these are lying vacant;

(d) whether the Government propose to fill up the vacancies of chemists out of the panel formed on the basis of the interview held on November 16,1998; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There are a total number of 1049 employees who are working in ONGC, as on date, of which 160 belong to Scheduled Castes & 41 to Scheduled Tribes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No vacancies of Chemists for SC/STs in ONGC, exists as on date.

(d) and (e) Two posts of Chemists were filled in December, 1998 based on the interview held on November 16,1998.

*[English]*

**Consumption of Petroleum Products**

873. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the present rate of growth of consumption of petroleum products, petroleum reserves are to be exhausted in the first quarter of the next century;

(b) if so, the period for which the present reserves of petroleum products are likely to last; and

(c) the steps contemplated to curb consumption of petrol, diesel for vehicles and other user to preserve petroleum resources for the posterity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) At the current rate of production, the present oil reserves of India will last for about 22 years. However, each year some additional reserves are added. Therefore, reserves for oil & gas will last for a longer period.

(c) The following steps are being taken to curb the growth rate of consumption of petroleum products in the country:

(i) Conservation of petroleum products through:

- multi-media campaign for creating mass awareness for conservation of petroleum products.
- adoption of measures and practices which are conducive to increased fuel efficiency and training programme in the transport sector.
- modernisation of boilers, furnaces and other oil operated equipment and promotion of fuel efficient practices
- standardisation of fuel efficient irrigation pump-sets and rectification of existing pump-sets to make them more energy efficient in the agricultural sector.
- development and promotion of fuel efficient equipment and appliances like kerosene and LPG stoves in the household sector
- Application of fuel efficient technologies.

(ii) Encouraging use of alternative sources of energy including substitution of petroleum products.

**Power Projects in J&K**

874. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received by the Government to construct power project in J&K State;

(b) if so, the name and location of the project;

(c) the total expenditure expected to be involved therein and the estimated power generation thereof;

(d) whether any counter guarantee is involved for the construction of the said project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The following three projects in J&K have been given Techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority:

| S.No. | Name of Project | Capacity (MW) | Estimated Cost (Rs. in crores) (included IDC) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Parnai HEP | 3X12.5 | 177.93 |
| 2. | Sawalkot HEP | 3X200 | 1550.35 |
| 3. | Baglihar HEP (Doda-NHPC) | 3X150 | 1098.87* |

* Includes Transmission system cost of Rs. 52.36 crores.

(d) and (e) Out of the above three projects, the Government of J&K requested for central counter guarantee for the loan in respect of Baglihar. This was not agreed to by the Government of India.

*[Translation]*

**Stone Quarrying on Forest Land**

875. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether stone quarrying in the mines under the Forest Department has been stopped by the Forest Department in some parts of the country on the pretext of protecting environment;

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

(c) whether it is possible to plant trees on or near these mines by the Forest Department for protecting the environment;

(d) if so, whether the same could be done; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) There is no ban on stone quarrying in forest areas under the control of the State Forest Department. However, for such a non-forest activity, prior approval of the Central Government is required to be obtained under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the concerned State Government. While examining any such proposal under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, it is to be ascertained that why stone quarrying cannot be done in the non-forest area and whether or not the proposed site of quarrying is sensitive from ecological point of view. Every proposal is, therefore decided on its merit. It would not be desirable to permit stone quarrying activities when alternatives are available on non-forest areas or the proposed site is located deep inside the forest or on steep slopes or other such sites which are sensitive from ecological and biodiversity point of view.

(c) to (e) Reclamation of mining areas by afforestation, soil conservation and other vegetative methods concurrently as well as after completion of mining is possible by using suitable techniques. But these measures cannot act as a replacement of the original vegetational cover of biodiversity of the area. These can at best help to some extent in mitigating adverse environmental effects of mining in forest areas.

*[English]*

**Pakawal Dul H.E. Project**

876. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Hydro Power Corporation has spent a large amount on the first phase for Pakawal Dul H.E. project;

(b) if so, whether the work on the project has not commenced by NHPC so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) Pakawal Dul H.E. project is not under execution by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and NHPC have not spent any amount on this project.

**Oil Exploration under NELP**

877. SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI K.P. NAIDU:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

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

(a) whether the Government have already identified the potential places for exploration of oil blocks under new exploration licensing policy (NELP);

(b) if so, the details of areas identified in the country particularly in the West Bengal for carrying out exploration activities;

(c) whether the Government have set any time-frame for completion of this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the ONGC has also recently located any new reserves; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy Govt. has offered 48 blocks for bidding, of which 10 are onland blocks, 26 are shallow water blocks and 12 are deep water blocks.

Of these 2 onland blocks fall in West Bengal and 3 offshore blocks fall in the West Bengal/North East Coast areas.

(c) and (d) The last date for submission of bids is fixed as 18th May, 1999.

(e) and (f) Since 1.4.97 ONGC has located Hydrocarbon finds in Cauvery, Krishna-Godawari, Cambay and Bombay Offshore Basins of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and West Coast.

During the year 1997-98 six new Hydrocarbon finds were made by ONGC resulting in accretion of 3.31 MMT in place volume of Hydrocarbons. Four new finds have also been made during the current year.

**Local Call Facility**

878. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide local call facility between Akola district and adjoining districts of Yeotmal Amravati, Washim and Buldana in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this facility is likely to be made available; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As per policy Local Call facility at 180 sec. pulse rate (i.e. interdialling without STD code) has been provided from SDCAs (short distance charging areas) of Akola District to adjacent SDCAs in Yeotmal, Amravati, Washim and Buldana district.

(b) the details are given in the attached statement.

(c) The present policy envisages provision of local call facility at 180 sec. pulse rate (i.e. inter dialling facility without STD Code) only.

1. Between two adjacent short distance charging Areas (SDCAs)
2. When the Radial distance between short distance charging centres of two short distance charging Area is upto 20 kms. (30 kms. in special case)

As such other areas cannot be covered by the policy.

***Statement***

| Sl.No. | Name of District | Name of SDCA | Adjacent SDCA | Name of District |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Akola | Akpla | Akot | Akola |
| | | | Balapur | Akola |
| | | | Barshitakli | Akola |
| | | | Daryapur | Amravati |
| | | | Malegaon | Washim |
| | | | Murtizapur | Akola |
| 2. | Akola | Akot | Akola | Akola |
| | | | Balapur | Akola |
| | | | Chikhaldara | Amravati |
| | | | Daryapur | Amravati |
| | | | Dharani | Amravati |
| | | | Jalgaon-Jamod | Buldhana |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Akola | Balapur | Akola | Akola |
| | | | Akot | Akola |
| | | | Malegaon | Washim |
| | | | Nandura | Buldhana |
| | | | Khamgaon | Buldhana |
| | | | Jalgaon-Jamod | Buldhana |
| 4. | Akola | Murtizapur | Akola | Akola |
| | | | Barshitakli | Akola |
| | | | Mangrulpir | Washim |
| | | | Amravati | Amravati |
| | | | Daryapur | Amravati |
| | | | Nandgaon | Amravati |
| | | | Darwha | Yeotmal |
| 5. | Akola | Barshitakli | Akola | Akola |
| | | | Murtizapur | Akola |
| | | | Malegaon | Washim |
| | | | Manglurpir | Washim |

**Anaemia in Pregnant Women**

879. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deaths due to Iron deficiency in pregnant women is increasing enormously in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the same; and

(d) whether any pilot projects have been framed to eradicate this malady on long term basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (d) Countrywide regular data on cause specific maternal deaths are not available. The Registrar General of India through survey of causes of Death (Rural) has compiled information on deaths due to child birth and pregnancy (Maternal Death) for five years from 1990 to 94. Deaths due to anaemia are the second most common cause of maternal death. The attached Statement furnishes details of maternal deaths due to various causes.

While the Department has not specifically commissioned any pilot project in regard to anaemia among pregnant women, control of anaemia through provision of Iron and Folic Acid tablets with a strong Information, Education and Communication campaign is a major objective of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme.

***Statement***

*Percentage Distribution of Deaths under Child Birth & Pregnancy (Maternal Deaths) by Specific Causes 1990-1994 (Excluding Senility)*

| Si.No. | Specific Causes | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Bleeding of Pregnancy & Puerperium | 23.7 | 19.5 | 25.2 | 22.6 | 23.7 |
| 2. | Anaemia | 19.4 | 19.9 | 19.6 | 20.3 | 19.3 |
| 3. | Toxaemia | 15.2 | 8.8 | 12.6 | 12.8 | 13.1 |
| 4. | Abortion | 11.8 | 10.8 | 13.7 | 11.7 | 12.6 |
| 5. | Puerperal Spesis | 8.1 | 12.7 | 11.5 | 12.5 | 10.6 |
| 6. | Mal position of Child | 7.1 | 11.6 | 8.5 | 5.5 | 6.4 |
| 7. | Not Classi-fiable | 14.7 | 16.7 | 8.9 | 14.6 | 14.2 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

**WB Assistance for Maharashtra Health Project**

880. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide $ 13.40 crore to Maharashtra for any health project;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the said assistance is likely to be received;

(e) the time-limit fixed for the completion of the project; and

(f) the main features of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. the Development Credit Agreement and Project Agreement for the Maharashtra Health Systems Development Project for the amount of US$ 134.00 million were signed on January, 14,1999. The credit of the project is scheduled to close on 31.3.2005 During this period, the complete World Bank assistance is likely to be received. The project is likely to be completed by 30.9.2004.

(f) The project which seeks to help deliver a package of health services, based on revised service norms and consistent with needs in the community would include: Management Development and Institutional Strengthening by:

(a) improving the institutional framework for policy development; (b) strengthening the management and implementation capacity at the state, divisional, district and facility levels; and (c) developing surveillance capacity for major communicable diseases and strengthening Health Management Information System. Improving Service Quality and Effectiveness at 25 District Hospitals, 23-100 bedded and 53-50 bedded Sub-Divisional hospitals by (a) renovating/extending district hospitals and upgrading selected CHCs to sub-divisional hospitals and constructing training centres at 4 remaining district hospitals; and (b) upgrading effectiveness of clinical, managerial and support services at all district and sub-divisional hospitals.

Improving Access and Innovative Schemes by (a) renovating/extending and upgrading clinical effectiveness at 35 CHCs and enhancing their outreach functions; (b) improving the referral mechanisms with the primary and tertiary levels and with private health care; (c) promoting health services in tribal areas and for disadvantaged groups; and (d) developing a superspeciality hospital as an innovative scheme for closer co-operation between the public and private sectors through the adoption of modern management practices.

*[Translation]*

**Price Rise of LPG**

881. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
DR. SAROJA V:
SHRI E. AHAMED:
SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEO RAO MOHOL:

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

(a) the actual cost of LPG in India as compared to other countries;

(b) whether the price of L.P.G. has been hiked;

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

(d) the net reduction in Centre's subsidy on cooking gas per cylinder consequent to the new price;

(e) whether any measures have been taken to lower the burden possible of hike on the consumers and if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have taken note of the sharp public reaction to the said hike and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(g) the reasons for sudden pre-Budget hike on the eve of the Budget Session of the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Prices of LPG in India and some other countries are as under:—

| Country | Rs./Kg. |
|---|---|
| China | 10.28 |
| Bangladesh | 11.30 |
| Pakistan | 13.32 |
| Indonesia | 4.55 |
| Korea | 26.36 |
| India (New Delhi—as on 1.2.99) | 10.70 |

Rupee Dollar Exchange Rate is taken as Rs. 42.50 to work out the above prices which are as on July, 1998.

(b) to (g) The Government had decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on LPG will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% of the import parity price by 2000-01. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards. Accordingly, Government decided to reduce the subsidy by Rs. 24/cylinder. However, to reduce the burden on customers, the Government reviewed the cylinder compensation scheme for the oil companies and Rs. 10/cylinder was adjusted towards price increase. The ex-storage point price of LPG packed (Domestic) was increased by Rs. 14/cylinder (Rs. 985.92 per MT) only exclusive of duty, sales tax and other local levies effective midnight of 31st January/1st February, 1999.

*[English]*

**Strike in AIIMS**

882. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI P. SANKARAN:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI A.C. JOS:
SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doctors of All India Institute of Medical Sciences have gone on an indefinite strike;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to deal with the situation;

(d) whether the strike has caused immense hardships to the patients;

(e) if so, the steps being taken to alleviate them;

(f) the number of times AIIMS witnessed the strike during the last one year;

(g) whether the decision for raising the age of retirement of AIIMS faculty members from 60 to 62 years has not been officially notified in the Gazette of India;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the time by which it is likely to be notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (f) The faculty of All India Institute of Medical Sciences rejected the revision in the pay scales and allowances, conveyed by the Government vide orders dated 21st January, 1999, and proceeded on indefinite strike from 8th February, 1999. They have demanded total implementation of the recommendations made by the K.K. Baksi Committee with a further modification in the pay scale of Additional Professor. The Government have referred the matter to the Group of Ministers. The Group of Ministers while considering that the demands regarding the pay scale restructuring from the Faculty Association of AIIMS was not practicable in view of the competing claims from other similar institutions, decided in the meeting held on 22nd February, 1999 that the representatives of the Finance Ministry, Department of Personnel & Training and Ministry of Health would consider the possibility of such further improvement in the pay scales of the faculty of AIIMS/PGIMER as would avoid competing claims provided they agree to withdraw the strike so that the resolution of the issues can be arrived at in a cordial atmosphere. A Civil Writ has been filed in the High Court of Delhi. The faculty have since called off their strike and resumed duties on 25.2.99 During the strike period alternative arrangements had been made in the O.P.D. of Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital to meet the additional rush of patients. This is the first time that the senior doctors/ faculty went on strike since the inception of the Institute (1956).

(g) to (i) The notification for raising the age of retirement of the teaching faculty of the Institute has been published in the Gazette of India on 26.2.99.

*[Translation]*

**Selling of Hot Plates by LPG Distributors**

883. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LPG distributors are selling stoves, burners, hot plates etc. four times more than the market price throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether the officials of Indian Oil Corporation do not take any action against these distributors despite having knowledge of it;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to conduct an inquiry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Oil Companies do not fix prices of LPG stoves/hot plates

and burners sold by their LPG distributors. The LPG customers/prospective customers are at liberty to procure LPG stoves/hot plates from any source as per their choice subject to the condition that such appliances are of an approved make.

(b) to (e) In the event any complaint received from customers/prospectives customers regarding forced sale of LPG hot plates/stoves by distributors, the Indian Oil Corporation carries out investigation/verification of such complaints and suitable action is taken based on the findings as per policy in vogue.

**Length of Inland Waterways**

884. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of length of the inland waterways in kilometres at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend the existing length of the inland waterways so that pressure could be reduced on other means of transport;

(c) whether any plan has been formulated in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The length of navigable waterways in the country is 14,544 kms. as per National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC) Report of 1980. Out of this length, national Waterways declared so far i.e. the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the West Coast Canal are having a total length of 2716 kms.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Several potential waterways of the country have been studied for their techno-economic feasibility. Based on the outcome, new waterways would be considered for declaration as National Waterways as well as their subsequent development subject to availability of resources.

*[English]*

**Instalment Corporation Limited**

885. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5741 dated July 27,1998 and state:

(a) whether number of Criminal Cases/Civil Suits filed by various parties against the Directors of M/s. Instalment Corporation Limited have since been pending or are under consideration of Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) further action contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) This Department has no information about the criminal cases/civil suits filed by various other parties against the Directors of M/s Instament Corporation Limited. However, based upon the Inspection Report u/s 209A of the Companies Act, 1956, Registrar of Companies, Kanpur has filed prosecutions against the company and its Directors for violations of sections 58A, 147, 159, 209A, 220 and 252 of the Act, which are pending in the Court of Special Chief Judicial Magistrate, Meerut (U.P.).

(c) Since the matter is sub-judice, no further action is required at this stage.

*[Translation]*

**Recommendations of TRAI on Telephone Tariff**

886. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN:
SHRI A.C. JOS:
SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision on the recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on tariff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in taking the final decision;

(d) whether the Government have also taken a decision to the tariff by treating 2600 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCA) on par with local charges;

(e) if so, whether it has affected revenues;

(f) if so, the extent of loss of revenues as a result thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to redefine the Local Calling Area; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) As per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act 1997, the power for fixation of telecom tariffs has now been mandated to TRAI. In exercise of this power, the TRAI has brought out a consultation paper containing telecom tariff proposals for wider consultations service Providers, Consumer organisations and the public. The TRAI has not yet issued any notification on tariff.

(d) it has been decided to treat SDCA (Short Distance Charging Area) as a local area with effect from 15.08.1998. These orders apply to all SDCAs in the Country. The charges for calls made within the SDCA are treated at par with local call charges.

(e) and (f) The loss of revenue on account of (d) above has been estimated to be about Rs. 37.34 crores per annum.

(g) and (h) There is no such proposal at present.

*[English]*

**Restructuring of Petroleum Sector**

887. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up a committee in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Government had set up a Strategic Planning Group on Restructuring of the Oil Industry ('R' Group) comprising of eminent experts from the Public Sector and Private Sector. Energy Experts of International Repute and Distinguished Academicians to review the Strategic Restructuring Plan by the Oil Industry Planning Group and make final recommendations to meet the policy objective and initiatives required for Restructuring the Oil Industry. Based on these recommendations Government decided to dismantle the Administered Price Mechanism from 1.4.1998. New Exploration Licensing Policy has been announced to encourage oil and gas exploration. Government have also allowed oil companies in the downstream sector to enter Exploration and Production sector. Refining is de-licenced. Government have also allowed parallel marketing of LPG, SKO and LSHS in addition to allowing direct imports of some of the products like FO, Naphtha (restricted) and petro-chemical feed stocks (viz. Benzene, Toluene, Xylene), pet Coke etc. Natural gas is also on OGL and no license for its import is required. Government have been encouraging Direct Foreign Investment in this sector.

*[Translation]*

**Maintenance of NH-3**

888. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the maintenance of National Highway No. 3 in between Indore to Sendhwa during last three years;

(b) whether some proposal is under consideration regarding widening of the highways by trimming the two ghats—Bhairon ghat of Manpur and Bakaner ghat, lying in the region of this Highway; and

(c) if so, steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The amount spent on maintenance of NH-3 between Indore to Sendhwa is as under:

| Year | Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 272.49 |
| 1996-97 | 317.67 |
| 1997-98 | 266.88 |

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The proposals for improvement of Bhairon ghat of Manpur and Bakaner ghat are included in the annual plan 1999-2000.

*[English]*

**Bitumen Drum Filling Factories**

889. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up Bitumen Drum filling factory in Baroda;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Government have also permitted the private sector companies to set up Bitumen Drum filling factories;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any difference between the cost of Bitumen Drum filling in Government factories and the private sector factories and if so, the extent thereof and reasons therefor;

(f) whether some more factories are being set up with Government expenditure;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the utility of setting up of such factories in the public sector;

(h) whether the Government propose to reconsider the setting up of such factories in view of the cost viability and other factors and if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (i) Government has not set up bitumen drum filling factory at Baroda. However, a bitumen drum filling plant has been set up by Indian Oil Corporation, a Public Sector Undertaking in 1978-79. A drum filling plant is being set up by IOC at Panipat. Bitumen is a decontrolled product now and its import/export and marketing is permitted to any individual. Most of the refineries have drum filling plants. In view of the temporary closure of IOC's Mathura Refinery bitumen packaging facilities, IOC is meeting its requirements through another PSU, M/s. Balmer Lawrie, Calcutta, and private packaging units at Kosi Kalan and Chennai. The cost of private packaging is generally more economical than the cost of packaging in public sector refinery. The public sector oil companies have the freedom to arrange packaging either within their own refinery or through private sector.

**Environment Laws**

890. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:
SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked the Union Government to amend the environment laws; and

(b) if so, the details of observations made by the Court about the environmental laws in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated January 27,1999 in respect of civil appeal Nos. 368-371 of 1999 arising out of SLP (C) Nos. 10317-10320 of 1998 has observed that "...the Government of India should, in our opinion, bring about appropriate amendments in the environmental statutes, Rules and notification to ensure that in all environmental Courts, Tribunals and appellate authorities there is always a Judge of the rank of a High Court Judge or a Supreme Court Judge, — sitting or retired — and Scientist or group of Scientists of high ranking and experience so as to help a proper and fair adjudication of disputes relating to environment and pollution..."

*[Translation]*

**Telecom Facilities in Madhya Pradesh**

891. SHRI SHANKAR PANNU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/Public Telephone Booths functioning in Madhya Pradesh at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of booths out of them functioning and lying closed;

(c) the number of applications lying pending for installation of said booths in the State, district-wise;

(d) the reasons therefor and the time by which the said applications are likely to be processed and approved;

(e) the number of telephones lying out of order in the State, district-wise;

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the time by which these telephones are likely to be made in the working order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

*[English]*

**Gas and Oil Reserves**

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

(a) the location in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kaveri Basin where gas and oil reserves have so far been discovered;

(b) the production of gas and oil in these areas, area-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any petroleum and gas based industry or petroleum by product based gas industry in the said area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

**Legislation to overcome Consumption of Power**

893. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring legislation to overcome the problems of over-consumption of power in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Government is formulating a legal framework for establishing an apex level central body for laying down standards and norms on energy consumption for equipments and appliances, energy labelling of equipments and appliances, and for energy auditing to promote the efficient use of power/ energy and for its conservation. The Government also encourages various programmes which promote awareness about over consumption of power, and find technical solutions towards energy conservation.

*[Translation]*

**Power Generation**

894. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for power generation in MW during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether adequate allocation was made to achieve the said targets;

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

(d) whether any financial assistance was sought from the Government to achieve these targets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The target fixed for capacity addition during 1996-97 and 1997-98 in various states

are as follows:—

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Target (in MW) 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | J&K | 360 | 16.05 |
| 2. | Punjab | — | 210.00 |
| 3. | U.P. | 6.00 | 116.00 |
| 4. | Rajasthan | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| 5. | H.P. | 10.50 | — |
| 6. | Gujarat | 320.00 | 530.00 |
| 7. | Maharashtra | 13.00 | 540.00 |
| 8. | Andhra Pradesh | 355.00 | 206.00 |
| 9. | Karnataka | 50.00 | 90.00 |
| 10. | Kerala | 2850.00 | 286.00 |
| 11. | Tamil Nadu | — | 15.50 |
| 12. | Orissa | — | 6.00 |
| 13. | West Bengal | 732.50 | 755.00 |
| 14. | Bihar | 220.00 | 5.00 |
| 15. | Assam | 163.50 | 90.00 |
| 16. | Tripura | 100.00 | 96.00 |
| 17. | Nagaland | — | 25.00 |
| 18. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | 6.00 |

(b) and (c) The allocations made by the Planning Commission for the Power Sector for above said States during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

| Sl.No. | State/UT | Allocation 1996-97 (RE) | 1997-98 (Approved) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | J&K | 367.37 | 393.84 |
| 2. | Punjab | 210.00 | 784.00 |
| 3. | U.P. | 1076.63 | 1803.22 |
| 4. | Rajasthan | 779.29 | 702.24 |
| 5. | H.P. | 147.69 | 164.92 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 503.23 | 620.78 |
| 7. | Maharashtra | 1419.23 | 1457.49 |
| 8. | Andhra Pradesh | 569.95 | 917.60 |
| 9. | Karnataka | 475.69 | 606.09 |
| 10. | Kerala | 549.05 | 627.00 |
| 11. | Tamil Nadu | 689.53 | 870.39 |
| 12. | Orissa | 399.89 | 604.60 |
| 13. | West Bengal | 1034.68 | 1253.95 |
| 14. | Bihar | 81.28 | 103.30 |
| 15. | Assam | 122.10 | 162.00 |
| 16. | Tripura | 33.16 | 28.66 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 20.48 | 21.20 |
| 18. | Arunachal Pradesh | 73.67 | 96.50 |

(d) and (e) As far as state and central sector projects are concerned, necessary allocations of funds are made by the respective Governments. Respective authorities of private sector projects have to arrange the funds from various financial institutions/own resources.

*[English]*

**Dredging Works of Ports**

895. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for the dredging works of various ports during the last year, port-wise;

(b) the total work done by the Dredging Corporation of India; and

(c) the details of total amount spent therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The total amount spent for the maintenance dredging works at various major ports, port-wise, during 1997-98 is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

| Port | 1997-98 |
|---|---|
| Calcutta | 164.49 |
| Paradip | 15.27 |
| Visakhapatnam | 14.45 |
| Chennai | 7.28 |
| Tuticorin | — |
| Cochin | 35.04 |
| New Mangalore | 27.11 |
| Mormugao | 7.12 |
| Mumbai | 33.79 |
| Jawaharlal Nehru | 18.38 |
| Kandla | 31.42 |
| Total | 354.35 |

(b) The Dredging Corporation of India has carried out maintenance dredging works at major ports of the order of 28.0 million cu. mtrs.

(c) Major ports spent about Rs. 196 crores on the maintenance dredging works carried out by Dredging Corporation of India.

**Legislation for the Fixed Tenures of Lok Sabha and State Legislatures**

896. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to make any legislation for Lok Sabha and State Legislatures to continue for their full term;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of representations received in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Representations from various sections of public have been received in the past containing suggestions/ recommendations on the subject of Electoral Reforms, some of which also contained proposals regarding fixed tenure of Houses of Legislatures but Government has not favoured such proposals.

*[Translation]*

**Maneri Bhali Power Project**

897. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has struck the loan of 6 billion rupees for the construction of Maneri Bhali Power Project in U.P.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government would intervene in the matter; and

(d) if so, the time by which the construction work on the projects is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) A proposal has been received from UPSEB for a loan of Rs. 500 crs. to Rs. 600 crs. for the Maneri Bhali Stage-II (4 x 76 MW) Hydro Electric Project. The proposal is under scrutiny of Power Finance Corporation. UP Govt./UPSEB has been requested to provide its necessary inputs/information so that a final decision can be taken.

*[English]*

**Industries Spreading Pollution**

898. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) the number of industries closed down for not maintaining their pollution control devices as recommended by the Central Pollution Control Board, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the notices issued by CPCB in this regard;

(c) the number of workers affected as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for the betterment of those workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for closure/not to restart, to 11 industries in six States, as detailed below:—

| State | No. of units |
|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 01 |
| Gujarat | 03 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 02 |
| Maharashtra | 02 |
| Punjab | 02 |
| Rajasthan | 01 |

(b) Government is pursuing the industries to instal the necessary pollution control facilities and to abide by the prescribed standards.

(c) The workers remain on the rolls of the industries during the closure period, as such no adverse effect on workers have come to the notice of the Government.

(d) The Government ensures that the industry provides necessary facilities including health care and other benefits to the workers.

**MOU with Qatar for Import of Natural Gas**

899. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Qatar for long term import of the liquified natural gas;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed between Qatar General Petroleum Corporation and Gas Authority of India Limited in this regard;

(c) if so, the main features of the agreement and the extent to which it is likely to be beneficial to India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Petronet LNG Ltd. — a Joint Venture Company (JVC) of GAIL, ONGC, IOCL & BPCL and RasGas — a JVC of QGPC & Mobil of Qatar have signed the Heads of Agreement, which will be the basis for the Long-Term LNG Supply Contract.

(c) and (d) RasGas will supply for a period of 25 years, 5.0 and 2.5 million tonnes of LNG per annum respectively, for terminals at Dahej (Gujarat) and Cochin (Kerala) from 2002-03. This will help in meting the demand of natural gas in Power, Fertilizer and other industrial sectors.

**Misuse of funds by VSNL**

900. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

*(a) whether allegations have been levelled against Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) that they are systematically misapplying and misusing huge funds in unviable financial projects leading to no returns and the* burden is passed on to the consumers by charging high rates of tariffs for ISQ calls;

(b) whether the consumers in the eastern UP have filed a PIL in the Bombay High Court in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir. Even ISD Tarriffs are not fixed by VSNL.

(b) No, Sir.

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

**Reforms in the Power Sector**

901. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any objective analysis of the achievements made so far in power development in the country since the announcement of policy on power sector reforms in 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the states where the reform measures have been unimpressive;

(c) whether the Government propose to have a new approach to the reforms in the power sector in the country; and

(d) if so, the measures contemplated by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The policy announced in 1991 to encourage greater private sector participation is reviewed from time to time. Some of the initiatives taken in the recent past include liberalising the scope of automative approval for foreign direct investment, simplification of procedure for issue of counter guarantee, improving the procedures for competitive bidding, enhancement of credibility of SEBs by encouraging reforms etc. While most of the States have evinced keen interest in and taken discernible steps towards reforming their power sectors, the reform process has not received the desired momentum in some of the North Eastern States and Union Territories due to financial constraints.

(c) and (d) While the policy of the Government remains more or less the same, a new thrust has been given to the reforms process by the adoption of Power Reform Initiative. This includes establishment of SERC by each State/Union territory, enactment of the Power Sector Reform Bill by the States, corporatisation and commercialisation of generation, transmission & distribution companies, reforms in distribution, setting up of mega power projects, securitisation of debts, expeditious development of hydel potential in the country, energy conservation, increase in power generation etc.

**Proposal for National Highway Corridor**

902. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to award the contract for only 300 KM. out of the proposed 700 KM. North-South-East-West National Highways Corridors;

(b) if so, the names of company to whom the contract is being awarded; and

(c) the time by which the feasibility studies for the remaining portion is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The bids for four laning/six laning of 20 sections totalling to a length of about 265 kms. on North South & East West Corridors whose total approx. length is 7,000 Kms. have been received for evaluation.

(c) The feasibility studies for the remaining portion of the corridor is targeted to be started during the year 1999-2000.

**Madras Refineries Limited**

903. SHRI M. SELVARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced adequate funds for the Madras Refineries Limited in the Cauvery Basin;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated for the purpose *vis-a-vis* Kothavari Region;

(c) the details of amount spent in Cauvery basin *vis-a-vis* Kothavari Region; and

(d) the details of progress made in the production of crude oil in Cauvery basin *vis-a-vis* Kothavari Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Cauvery Basin Refinery of MRL with a Capacity of 0.5 MMTPA at Panangudi was Commissioned in November, 1996 at a cost of Rs. 196 crores. The company utilised internal resources and OIDB Loans/ Financial Institutions for funding the Project cost.

(c) The amount spent in Cauvery and Krishana Godavari Project by ONGC during the last 3 years are given as under:—

Rs. Crores

| | Cauvery Project | Krishna Godavari Project | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Survey expenditure | | | |
| 1995-96 | | | 37.20 |
| 1996-97 | | | 29.35 |
| 1997-98 | | | 40.23 |
| Exploratory & Development Drilling and Fixed Assets. | | | |
| 1995-96 | 127.57 | 250.88 | 378.45 |
| 1996-97 | 94.04 | 224.44 | 318.48 |
| 1997-98 | 102.30 | 216.90 | 319.20 |

In addition private/JV companies have spent the following amount upto March, 1998 on exploration and production in Cauvery and KG Basin:—

(Million US dollars)

| | Exp. | Dev. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cauvery Basin | 9.005 | 70.743 | 79.748 |
| Krishna Godavari | 43.516 | 210.188 | 253.704 |

(d) Details of progress made in the Production of crude oil in Cauvery Basin *vis-a-vis* Krishna-Godavari Basin by ONGC during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (Apr '98—Jan '99) are as under:—

*Crude Oil Production (MMT)*

| | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cauvery Basin | 0.3306 | 0.3242 | 0.3064 |
| Krishna Godavari Basin | 0.0511 | 0.0664 | 0.0698 |

*(Apr '98—Jan. '99)

The average rate of production of crude oil during the Month of January, 1999 by Private/JV Companies is as follows:—

Cauvery Offshore basin (PY-3): 1000 tonnes per day

Krishan Godavari offshore Basin (Ravva): 6630 tonnes per day.

**Introduction of Cellular Telephone Services by MTNL**

904. SHRI A. GENESHAMURTHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has introduced cellular telephone services in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives behind the same;

(c) whether there is any price war between Bharti and Sterling in Delhi and BPL and Max in Mumbai and the MTNL;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of four conditions contained in the Memorandum of Understanding of the four companies; and

(f) the time by which a settlement is likely to be expected out of court?

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

(b) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Since cellular telephone service in Delhi and Mumbai has not been introduced by MTNL the question of price war does not arise.

(e) There were eight conditions proposed with MOD by the private operators and not four conditions as indicated in the question. The eight conditions are as follows:—

1. The Metro Operators shall withdraw the following Petitions pending before the Delhi High Court/Telecom Regulatory Authority of India:—

(a) Civil Writ Petition no. 3964 of 1998 in the matter of Cellular Operators Association of India and others Vs. Union of India and another.

(b) Civil Writ Petition no. 4666 of 1998 in the matter of BPL Vs. Union of India and another. It is agreed that the petitions referred above shall be withdrawn within seven days with the right reserved to the parties, to revive their cause or defences in case the terms provided herein are not implemented by 30 April, 1999. These withdrawals shall be subject to the approvals, permissions and orders of the Hon'ble High Court.

2. Although the present licence agreements of the Metro Operators envisage only two cellular service providers per Metro, it is agreed that the Metro Operators shall not object to the entry of MTNL as the 3rd cellular service provider. Consequent to this agreement of the Metro Operators, it is agreed that introduction of any additional service provider(s) in Delhi and Mumbai shall be subject to the recommendations of the TRAI as to the need and timing of additional service provider(s).

3. There shall be level playing field between MTNL and the Metro operators in all the terms and conditions of the licence including the licence tenure and in all aspects to *inter alia*, ensure rapid market expansion and reduced costs to customers through modified licence fee requirements, so that no operators, public or private, is disadvantaged in any respect.

4. Government shall take appropriate steps to ensure level playing field condition between all service providers.

5. The role of the TRAI shall be adequately strengthened to enable the Authority to serve as an independent Regulator and to ensure speedy and effective resolution of all disputes between service providers. Appropriate amendments in the pleadings before the High Court, statutory amendments, if any needed, shall be carried out immediately.

6. Parties also agreed that the appeals pending before the Hon'ble High Court will also stand disposed of in the light of the present MOU. The judgement of Hon'ble Ms. Justice Usha Mehra dated July 16,1998 passed in first Appeal no. 89,93,94 and other batch cases of 1998 will also be set aside and all orders passed following the said Judgement shall be treated as set aside by consent of all parties.

7. This agreement shall not in any manner restrict the Group on Telecommunications constituted by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Government from formulating and adopting a revised New Telecom Policy.

8. All procedural and other substantive actions shall be ensured to be duly taken by the concerned persons for proper implementation of all the terms hereof including by way of executing required agreement/amending agreement etc.

(f) No time limit can be given since MTNL was not agreeable to the terms of the MOU.

*[Translation]*

**Biological Tests on Ganga Water**

905. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

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

(a) whether in view of the continuous increase in the level of pollution of the river Ganges and failure of all

efforts made by the Union and State Governments in this regard, now biological tests are proposed to be conducted for "Safe Ganga Water" management;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the places where these tests are proposed to be conducted and the time by which this exercise would be completed alongwith the cost likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The Research Committee of National River Conservation Plan has approved the Biological Monitoring of the Ganga River and the study has been initiated by inviting proposals from various Research Institutions.

*[English]*

**Retail Outlets of LPG/Petrol/Diesel in Orissa**

906. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of retail outlets for Diesel/ Petrol/LPG have been announced and interview are being also done for the allotment to the deserving candidates in the Orissa recently;

(b) if so, the details of such places advertised for the State of Orissa with the location thereof;

(c) whether irregularities and favourtism are alleged to have been made in the selection process thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, a total of 24 retail outlet dealerships and 41 LPG distributorships have been included for Orissa in the marketing plan 1996-98 and supplementary marketing plan 1996-98. Selection process, which includes advertisement in Press and interview by the Dealer Selection Board, is a continuous process and is in progress.

(c) Some complaints about irregularities and favouritism in the selection process in Orissa have been received. Action is taken on such complaints in accordance with the established procedure.

(d) Does not arise.

**Oilfields Abroad**

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

(a) whether the IOC and the ONGC propose to buy oilfields abroad;

(b) if so, the amount of investment likely to be made in such purchases in 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(c) whether the companies have completed the unit cost of crude oil after taking into account the capital and operational costs; and

(d) if so, the cost computed per barrel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Acquisition of equity oil abroad is one of the objective pursued by the two companies.

(b) and (c) The specific investment proposals would depend on size of opportunity, its possible potential, availability of infrastructure and other operational aspects. The cost cannot be worked out in advance as it depends upon several factors as listed above.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) and (c) above.

*[Translation]*

**Losses to SEBs**

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

(a) the transmission and distribution losses suffered by State Electricity Boards during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce such losses and encourage the use of viable equipments and inputs by the State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The figures for transmission and distribution losses suffered by SEBs are available till 1996-97. The details for the year 1994-95 to 1996-97 are given in the attached statement.

(b) Transmission & Distribution losses in India are of the order of 21% to 13% whereas the losses in the developed countries are in the range of 6% to 11%.

(c) In order to reduce the transmission and distribution losses, the Central Electricity Authority has issued guidelines which, inter-alia, provide for the following:

— Upgradation of operating voltages;

— Reduction of length of LT lines;

— Location of transformers near load centres;

— Adoption of low capacity transformers near consumers' premises;

— Installation of shunt capacitors;

— Improvement in construction and operation techniques; and

— Systematic and methodological approach for planning and design of distribution system on a long term basis.

— Conducting energy audit and providing a methodology for segregating technical and commercial losses.

Necessary amendments have been made in the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 to make the theft of electricity a cognizable offence.

In the Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power announced in December, 1996, the following measures for reduction in transmission and distribution losses were suggested:

(i) Compulsory metering at substations on all major feeders.

(ii) Compulsory metering of all new electricity connections. Metering of connections to agricultural sector exceeding 10 HP should be completed within a period of two years.

(iii) All electric supplies to be metered by 2002 A.D.

(iv) Compulsory annual energy audit to be ensured in respect of large consumers of more than 100 KVA load.

(v) Time of the day metering be introduced for big power consumers for better load management.

***Statement***

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

| Region | State Electricity Board/ Electricity Deptt. | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Northern Region | 1. Haryana | 30.80 | 32.39 | 31.59 |
| | 2. Himachal Pradesh | 18.21 | 16.09 | 17.89 |
| | 3. Jammu & Kashmir | 48.74 | 47.52 | NA |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4. Punjab | 16.70 | 18.49 | 18.00 |
| | 5. Rajasthan | 24.78 | 29.27 | 24.93 |
| | 6. Uttar Pradesh | 21.69 | 21.84 | 24.80 |
| | 7. Chandigarh | 28.44 | 33.72 | 15.24 |
| | 8. D.E.S.U. (Delhi) | 34.56 | 48.57 | 49.00 |
| Western Region | 1. Gujarat | 20.02 | 20.08 | 18.22 |
| | 2. Madhya Pradesh | 19.61 | 17.84 | 19.26 |
| | 3. Maharashtra | 16.33 | 16.95 | 15.29 |
| | 4. D & N Haveli | 11.35 | 9.31 | 10.03 |
| | 5. Goa | 26.87 | 26.06 | 24.58 |
| | 6. Daman & Diu | 16.30 | 12.80 | 10.30 |
| Southern Region | 1. Andhra Pradesh | 17.95 | 19.34 | 33.60 |
| | 2. Karnataka | 19.41 | 19.06 | 18.48 |
| | 3. Kerala | 20.05 | 21.12 | 19.96 |
| | 4. Tamil Nadu | 17.11 | 16.19 | 17.00 |
| | 5. Lakshadweep Isls. | 17.84 | 17.23 | 15.10 |
| | 6. Pondicherry | 15.00 | 16.54 | 14.01 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eastern Region | 1. Bihar | 19.76 | 15.91 | 21.55 |
| | 2. Orissa (GRIDCO) | 23.03 | 24.17 | 49.47 |
| | 3. Sikkim | 21.22 | 16.47 | NA |
| | 4. West Bengal | 21.51 | 19.26 | 20.08 |
| | 5. A&N Isls. | 22.38 | 19.25 | 19.15 |
| North-Eastern Region | 1. Assam | 24.18 | 26.91 | 24.93 |
| | 2. Manipur | 25.30 | 24.85 | 21.50 |
| | 3. Meghalaya | 18.47 | 12.55 | 19.32 |
| | 4. Nagaland | 36.12 | 35.17 | NA |
| | 5. Tripura | 31.96 | 30.86 | 29.50 |
| | 6. Arunachal Pradesh | 45.30 | 37.12 | NA |
| | 7. Mizoram | 29.76 | 25.18 | 30.00 |
| | All India (Utilities) | 21.13 | 22.27 | 23.41 |

Source : 1. DM&LF Division
Note: *(Provisional)
NA—Not Available.

*[English]*

**Shortage of Coal to BTPS**

909. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Badarpur Thermal Power Station is facing shortage of coal which has adversely affected its functioning;

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

(c) the total per day requirement of coal of Badarpur Thermal Power Station and the sources of acquiring the same;

(d) the number of units of BTPS which remained idle for want of coal during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken to make availability of coal to Badarpur Thermal Power station?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Coal supplies to Badarpur Thermal Power Station during the months of December, 1998 and January 1999 have been less than the actual consumption of coal. There was, however, no loss of generation due to coal shortage.

(c) The per day coal requirement of Badarpur Thermal Power Station is 12,000 tonnes. Coal supplies to the station is linked to the mines of CCL, BCCL and ECL (all subsidiaries of CIL) in Bihar and West Bengal. Coal is allocated on quarterly linkage basis as decided by Standing Linkage Committee of Ministry of Coal.

(d) During last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98), one or more units had to be shut down by rotation and the loss of generation due to inadequate availability of coal was as given below:

| Year | Loss of generation (in MU) |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 566.25 |
| 1996-97 | 715.75 |
| 1997-98 | 14.00 |

During the current year there has been no outage of units for coal shortage so far.

(e) Inadequate availability of coal to BTPS is due to station not being able to meet its payment obligations to Coal companies and Railways. The inadequate payment to the coal companies and the Railways are attributable mainly to poor realisation of BTPS energy bills from DVB who is the sole beneficiary of the station's electricity generation.

Efforts are consistently being made at the highest level in the Government to improve BTPS energy bill realisation from DVB/Delhi Government.

**Illegal STD/ISD Facilities**

910. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have detected any cases of providing illegal STD/ISD facilities by manipulating computer readings in Orissa, specially in Puri town, causing loss of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future, and

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Hike in Prices of Overseas Postal Services**

911. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to increase the rate for overseas postal services and to close down some services;

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

(c) the extent of the increase in said service rates alongwith the date from which the increase proposed to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The postal rates in respect of four foreign letter post items namely letter, small packet, postcard and Aerogramme were revised with effect from 1-2-1999 as per the details given in Annexure-I. The revision was necessitated because the cost of operations has increased substantially since the last revision effected in November, 1991. Since Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan to whom hitherto domestic postal services were extended at domestic rates have started demanding terminal dues like other countries, these domestic services (excluding printed

papers & Registered Newspapers) have therefore been discontinued and replaced by appropriate foreign letter post services offered to other countries.

(c) The revised rates are effective from 1-2-1999 and the extent of increase in rates as notified are given in the attached statement.

***Statement***

*The Existing and Revised Rates in respect of Foreign Letter Post Items*

| Sl.No. | Letter Post Item | UPU Countries | | APPU Countries | | Pakistan* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Existing (Rs.) | Revised (Rs.) | Existing (Rs.) | Revised (Rs.) | Existing (Rs.) | Revised (Rs.) |
| (a) | Letter by surface For a weight not exceeding 20 grammes | 8.00 | 11.00 | 7.00 | 9.00 | 6.00 | 7.00 |
| (b) | Letter by Air For a weight not exceeding 20 grammes | 11.00 | 15.00 | 11.00 | 15.00 | 8.00 | 10.00 |
| (2) | (a) Postcard (Single) by surface | 5.00 | 7.00 | 4.00 | 6.00 | 2.00 | 4.00 |
| | (b) Airmail Postcard | 6.00 | 8.00 | 6.00 | 8.00 | 4.00 | 5.00 |
| (3) | Aerogramme | 6.50 | 8.50 | 6.50 | 8.50 | 5.00 | 7.00 |
| (4) | Small packed by surface For a weight not exceeding 100 grammes | 8.00 | 20.00 | 7.00 | 17.00 | 3.00 | 13.00 |

*The rates for the above items in respect of Bangaladesh, Nepal and Bhutan have been brought on par with that of Pakistan.

Note:— 1. Corresponding revision of rates in respect of item nos. 1(a) and (b) have been made in the slabs exceeding 20 grammes.

2. Corresponding revision of rates in respect of item no. 4 have been made in the slabs exceeding 100 grammes.

3. Air surcharge of Rs. 4 for Universal Postal Union (UPU) and Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) countries and Rs. 3 for Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan is payable for every 20 grammes or part thereof in respect of small packet in addition to the surface rates indicated in item No. 4.

4. Asain Pacific Postal Union Countries comprise of Afganistan, Australia, Burnei, Cambodia, China (Peoples Republic), Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Republic), Laos (Republic), Maleysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Pua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Soloman Island, Srilanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

5. Universal Postal Union Countries comprise of all countries other than APPU Countries, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal.

*[English]*

**Rate of Royalty on Crude Oil**

912. SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to release regular rate of royalty on crude oil instead of ad hoc basis which is in operation since 1993;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representation from the State of Gujarat in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has received representations from the Government of Gujarat for early finalisation of the final rate of royalty for the period 1993-98 and the payment of arrears for this period. The representations also seek to raise the royalty rate to 40% of the international price of crude oil.

**Agreement with Russia on Oil Exploration**

913. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with Russia on oil exploration recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) A protocol has been signed at the fifth meeting of the Indo-Russian Working Group on cooperation held in Moscow in October, 1998. The two sides agreed to study the possibilities of joint exploration for hydrocarbon in Russia, India and third countries.

**Population Scenario**

914. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Medical Association at their 14th National Conference held in Hyderabad from December 27,1998 onwards, deliberated on the grim population scenario;

(b) if so, the main observations and suggestions made therein for population control to avert the catastrophe; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the Conference are:

(i) Eradication of illiteracy and Gender Bias;

(ii) Evolution of a holistic national approach;

(iii) Decentralisation of implementation of population policy through delegation of responsibility to gram panchayats and nagar palikas;

(iv) Higher involvement of private medical services providers;

(v) Strengthening and integrating the services provided through the primary health centres and sub-centres;

(vi) A special programme for Adolescents

(vii) Perception of the Population problem as the biggest challenge faced by the nation and mobilising all sections of society to meet this challenge;

(viii) Constitution of a High Level Committee headed by the Prime Minister for managing the programme for population stabilisation.

The Conference has also advocated making the two child norm mandatory for employment in the Government and public sector and also for assumption of elective offices.

(c) Taking into consideration the suggestions made by a High Level Committee and expert committees set up earlier by the Government a National Population Policy has been prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the same is at present under the active consideration of the Government.

**C.G.H.S. Dispensary in Chandigarh**

915. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no C.G.H.S. dispensary at present in Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the dispensary is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Expansion of CHGS requires augmentation of staff. A committee is presently conducting a work study of the existing CGHS dispensaries upon which *inter alia* plans for further expansion of CGHS dispensaries depend.

*[Translation]*

**Releasing of Postal Stamp**

916. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being followed for releasing the postal stamps in the names of great personalities both Indians as well as foreigners;

(b) the number of postal Stamps issued in the honour of famous Indians and foreigners by the Government during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are considering any proposal to invite suggestions from the senior citizen for such selection;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to release a postal stamp on the birth anniversary of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia;

(f) if so, the progress made in this regard so far; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The guidelines followed for issue of Commemorative stamps on personalities are as follows:—

1. The personalities on whom commemorative stamps may be issued should be of national or international importance and the occasion may be the birth centenary or 10th/25th/50th or 100th death anniversary.

2. Not more than one stamp may be issued on the same personality.

3. Out of the commemorative/special stamps issued every year those on personalities should not normally exceed 25%.

4. A stamp on a living personality may not be issued.

(b) the number of commemorative stamps issued in the honour of famous Indians and foreigners during the last three years is 64 and 4 respectively.

(c) and (d) There is a Philatelic Advisory Committee consisting of Members of Parliament as also eminent persons from philately, art and culture, journalism and other relevant fields, which advises the Government on all matters relating to philately including issue of commemorative postage stamps. Suggestions received by the Department for issue of stamps are also duly considered. Hence, there is no proposal at present for inviting suggestions on Philatelic matters.

(e) Two commemorative stamps have been issued on Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia—one on 12.10.77 to mark his 10th death anniversary, and another on 23.3.97 to mark his contribution to the freedom movement and social development in independent India. There is no proposal at present for another stamps on the personality.

(f) and (g) In view of reply to part (e), do not arise.

*[English]*

**Distribution of LPG and Petrol Pumps**

917. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI A.C. JOS:

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

(a) whether the Government provide any priority for awarding distributionship of L.P.G. & Petrol Pumps to State Government agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request from Government of Kerala regarding L.P.G. distributionship to Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation (K.S.C.S.C.);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per existing policy, oil companies advertise the locations included in the approved Marketing Plans under different reserved categories in two newspapers, one in English daily and one in vernacular daily, and invite applications from the candidates meeting the eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualification, residence, income multiple dealership norms, etc. The Corporations owned or controlled by the Government can apply for locations advertised under Open category. The restrictions relating to annual income, residence and multiple distributorships norms would not be applicable in their case. However, no priority or reservation is provided for Government Corporations, and Cooperative Societies.

(c) to (e) Requests are received from time to time from individuals/organisations for opening of dealerships/ distributorships in different parts of the country and allotment in their favour. Locations found economically viable are included in the Marketing Plans. Candidature of the Civil Supplies Corporation of Kerala will also be considered alongwith others on merit by Dealer Selection Boards in case the Corporation apply for award of dealership/distributorship.

**Multi-State Showcase Projects**

918. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has carried out or initiated site specific investigations for setting up of multi-state showcase power projects based on the imported coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has received any proposals for said projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has initiated site specific technical investigations like topographical survey, soil investigation and environment data generation for the following mega thermal power projects:—

| Name of the Project/ State | Capacity (MW) | Fuel |
|---|---|---|
| Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu | 1000-1500 | Imported coal/blend of domestic and imported coal. |
| Pipavav, Gujarat | 2000 | Imported coal/LNG. |
| Krishnapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | 1500 | Imported coal/ blended coal (domestic and imported) |

These projects are envisaged to be implemented by private developers to be selected through international bidding process.

(c) and (d) Powergrid Corporation of India, who have been entrusted with this task by the Government of India, has recently invited pre-qualification proposals for the shortlisting of potential developers through international competitive bidding process for Cuddalore (1000-1500 MW) in Tamil Nadu and Pipavav (2000 MW +) in Gujarat.

*[Translation]*

**Investment by International Oil Companies**

919. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the international oil companies for making investment in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In addition to a large number of foreign investment proposals in the petroleum sector which have already been approved through Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), the following proposals for investment from international oil companies are pending with the Government:—

(i) LNG Terminal at Trombay in Maharashtra with a capacity of 3.0 MMTPA by M/s TOTAL Gas and Power India, France with Tata Electric Company having foreign investment amounting to Rs. 425 Crore at 50% share.

(ii) Aromatic complex (Paraxylene/PTA at Panipat) by Indian Oil Corporation in a joint venture with M/s Petronas of Malasia. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 4056 Crore. The equity distribution and source of funding are yet to be finalised.

In addition to above, Government have offered 18 exploration blocks under New Exploration Policy (NELP) for bidding to public sector and private companies including international oil companies on terms that provide for level playing field to investors.

(c) The proposals mentioned at Sl. No. (i) to (ii) above are at different stages of processing/negotiation and a decision thereon will be taken in due course.

*[English]*

**Re-Opening of Research Centre, Assam**

920. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a medical research centre at Karimganj District of Assam managed by the Central Government has been wound up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-open the research centre; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) There is no Government Medical Research Centre established by the Central Government at Karimganj Distt. of Assam.

(c) No

(d) Does not arise.

**Permission to Open Medical and Dental Colleges**

921. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Institutions given permission by the Union Government for opening Medical and Dental Colleges in various States in the private sector during the last ten months; and

(b) the criteria followed in granting such permission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) List of such colleges is given in the attached statement.

(b) Such permissions are granted on the recommendations of the concerned professional Councils in accordance with the provisions of the IMC/the Dentists Acts and Regulations framed thereunder.

***Statement***

*Medical Colleges/Dental Colleges permitted during the last ten months in the Private Sector*

**Medical Colleges**

1. Medical College, Khammam.

**Dental Colleges**

1. Khalsa Dental College, Nangalkalan, Mansa (Punjab).
2. Maaruti College of Dental Sciences and Research Centre, Bangalore.
3. Saraswati Dental College, Lucknow.
4. Baba Jaswant Singh Dental College, Ludhiana.
5. M.N. Dav Dental College, Solan (Himachal Pradesh)
6. N.S.V.K. Dental College, Bangalore.
7. Chaudhary Multan Singh Dental College, Tundla (Uttar Pradesh)

**Private Internet Service Providers**

922. SHRI A.C. JOS:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced a new policy for allowing the entry of private internet service providers (ISPs) in time before the deadline of November 7, 1998;

(b) if so, the main guidelines therefor;

(c) the specific advantages to Indian economy, industrial and other interests sought to be achieved thereby;

(d) the number of companies who have applied DoT for an ISP licence;

(e) whether the Government propose to allow foreign equity in ISP Companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Main guidelines are available in the attached Statement.

(c) Proliferation of internet is likely to promote Electronic Commerce.

(d) 95 companies have submitted complete application for ISP licence.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Foreign equity, if any, shall be as per existing Government policy. At present, maximum foreign equity permitted is 49%.

***Statement***

*Main guidelines of ISP Policy*

(a) Any Indian company with a maximum foreign equity of 49% is eligible.

(b) Category 'A' Service Area—whole of India, Category 'B' Service Area—any of the 20 territorial Telecom Circles, Metros—Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai and four major cities—Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune. Category 'C' Service Area—Any Secondary switching area of DOT.

(c) An applicant company may be granted any number of licences and there will be no limit of number of licences granted in a particular Area.

(d) Application form costs Rs. 1000/- Processing fee per application is Rs. 5000/-.

(e) Period of licence - 15 years.

(f) Licence fee—waived for first 5 years and Rs. 1/- per annum for subsequent period.

(g) Bank Guarantee—Rs. 2 crores for Category 'A' Service Area, Rs. 20 lakhs for Category 'B' Service Area and Rs. 3 lakhs for Category 'C' Service Area.

(h) International connectivity—Through gateways of DOT, VSNL or authorised public/government organisations. private ISPs are allowed to provide gateways after obtaining security clearance.

(i) Establishment of transmission links—Private ISPs can obtain transmission links on lease from DOT, licensed Basic Service Operator, Railways, State Electricity Boards, National Power Grid Corporation etc. They may also establish their own transmission links, provided they are not available from authorised sources and subject to permission of Authority.

(j) Telephony on the Internet is not permitted.

**Referral Facility to CGHS beneficiaries**

923. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS beneficiaries are entitled to take treatment in a referral hospital nearby;

(b) if so, whether DRDO employees in Hyderabad have to go a long way to take treatment in emergency conditions;

(c) if so, the minimum or maximum distance prescribed for Government employees to take treatment in emergency circumstances; and

(d) whether the Government propose to grant permission to CGHS beneficiaries to take treatment in nearest hospitals in emergency circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) CGHS beneficiaries are entitled to take treatment in a referral hospital, including one which may not be recognised by CGHS, in emergency circumstances. However, ex-post-facto approval from the CGHS Directorate for the treatment taken in emergency circumstances will have to be obtained.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

**Post and Telegraph Facilities**

924. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of post and telegraph facilities in the rural sector at present and the extent to which it compares with urban sector;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the set up of post and telegraph offices in the rural sector for the current year;

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

(d) whether the Government have taken any initiatives for modernisation of telegraph services in Gujarat during 1998-99;

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

(f) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(g) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Department of Posts

A population of one lakh is served, on an average, by 21.85 post offices in rural areas and 7.5 post offices in urban areas. In other words, a post office in rural area on an average serves a population of 4576. This compares well with the average population served by a post office in urban areas, which is 13233.

Telegraph services

Regarding Telegraph, the information is as below:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Rural | Total Rural population of country estimated on 01.04.98 = 71.75 crores. |
| | Total number of telegraph offices working in rural area = 40529 |
| | Per capita availability of telegraph offices in rural area = 0.0000564 i.e. for every 17703 persons, there is one telegraph office in the rural areas. |
| Urban | Total urban population of country as estimated on 01.04.98 = 28.85 crores |
| | Total number of telegraph offices working in urban area = 7428 |
| | per capita availability of telegraph offices in urban areas = 0.0000257 i.e. for every 38839 persons, there is one telegraph office in the urban areas. |

Per capita availability of telegraph offices in rural areas is higher than in the urban area.

(b) and (c) Department of Posts

Yes, Sir. There is a target for opening 598 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in the rural areas of the country during the current year, subject to availability of resources.

*Telegraph Services*

Telegraph offices are opened on the basis of demand and justification by traffic. Wherever the public telephones facility is provided in Post offices in Rural Areas, the telegraph facility is also provided on phonocom.

No specific targets have been fixed for telegraph offices.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Devanagri facilities is being incorporated in addition to English mode for telegrams. Details are given in attached Statement-I

The telegraph offices are being connected on Public Switched Telephone Network to provide easy access to telegraph network. Details are given in the attached Statement-II

(f) Rs. 1741650/- is allocated for the purpose.

(g) The above mentioned work is likely to be completed during next financial year.

***Statement***

*Allotment of Equipment in Gujarat for Devanagri Telegrams*

| Sl.No. | Name of Telecom District | Names of Telegraph Offices where equipment shall be installed |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Ahmedabad (AM) | CTO Ahmedabad, to AM Railwaypura TO AM Shahibag TO AM Maninagar TO AM Naranpura TO AM Navrangpura TO AM-Vasna TO AM Naroda and TO Gandhinagar |
| 2. | Rajkot (RJ) | CTO Rajkot and TO RJ Bhaktinagar |
| 3. | Vadodara (BA) | CTO Vadodara TO BA Fateganj |
| 4. | Surat (SR) | CTO Surat TO SR Nanpura |
| 5. | Bhavnagar | CTO Bhavnagar |
| 6. | Jamnagar (JN) | CTO Jamnagar and TO JN Digvijayplot |
| 7. | Mehsana | TO Mehsana and TO Unjha |
| 8. | Junagadh | TO Junagadh TO Porbandar and TO Veraval |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 9. | Kheda | TO Nadiad and TO Anand |
| 10. | Bharuch | TO Bharuch |
| 11. | Panchmahal (Godhra) | To Godhra and TO Dahod |
| 12. | Valsad | TO Valsad and TO Vapi |
| 13. | Surendranagar | TO Surendranagar |
| 14. | Banaskantha (Palanpur) | To Palanpur |
| 15. | Sabarkantha (Himatnagar) | TO Himatnagar |
| 16. | Bhuj (Kutch) | TO Bhuj and TO Gandhidham |
| 17. | Amreli | TO Amreli |

Abbreviations:
CTO — Central Telegraph Office
TO — Telegraph Office

***Statement-II***

*Distt.-wise List of Stations where EKBC/EKB upgradation to be done*

| Sl. No. | Name of District | Name of Station where EKBC to be upgraded | Name of station where EKB PSTN modem to be provided |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Ahmedabad | Ahmedabad | Dholka, Bavla |
| 2. | Sabarkantha | Nil | Bayad, Talod, Modasa |
| 3. | Rajkot | Rajkot | Jasdan, Paddhari, Kotda Sanghani |
| 4. | Surendranagar | Surendranagar | Thangadh, Chotila Wadhwan City |
| 5. | Surat | Surat | Sachin |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6. | Mehsana | Mehsana | Vijapur, Harij, Sami, Kheralu, Chanasma, Vadnagar, Mansa |
| 7. | Khoda | Anand | Umrath, Khambhat, Balasinor |
| 8. | Bhavnagar | Bhavnagar | Valabhipur, Sihor (G) |
| 9. | Valsad | Valsad | Dharampur, Killapardi Khergam, Gundlav |
| 10. | Vadodara | Vadodara | Padra, Miyagam, Bodeli |
| 11. | Bharuch | Bharuch | Dahej, Vagra, Netrang, Rajpardi, Umalla, Hansot |
| 12. | Junagadh | Junagadh | Visavadar |
| 13. | Jamnagar | Jamnagar | Kalavad, Bhanvad, Jamnagar Air Force Jamnagar Valsure, Jodia, Dhrol, Jamjodhpur |
| 14. | Panchmahal | Godhra | Santrampur, Devgadh-Baria, Jhalod, Santroad, Timbaroad, Shehra |

Abbreviations:

EKEC — Electronic Key Board Concentrator

EKB — Electronic Key Board

**National Judicial Commission**

925. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Judicial Commission to overcome the drawbacks in the selection of Judges and to make the appointment/ transfer process more broad-based;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Commission is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) One of the items of the National Agenda for Governance is to set up a National Judicial Commission to make recommendations for Judicial appointments in the Supreme Court and the High Courts and draw up a code of ethics for the judiciary. It is not possible to indicate the time by which the decision in this regard would be taken.

**Tariff Rationalisation in Power Sector**

926. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently stressed the need on tariff rationalisation in power sector to make State Electricity Boards more viable and efficient;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since examined the aspect of power tariff rationalisation throughout the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the power tariff rationalisation is going to help the State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The establishment of Electricity Regulatory Commissions at the Centre and in the States under the ERC Act, 1998 is primarily aimed at rationalising electricity tariffs throughout the country. While State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have become fully functional in Orissa and Haryana, it is at various stages of implementation in most of the other States.

(d) The poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) is mainly attributed to the irrational tariff structure. Rationalisation of tariff will restore the credibility of the SEBs and in turn improve their financial health.

**Shortage of Power in Kerala**

927. SHRI P. SANKARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has submitted any proposals to the Union Government for the construction of gestation projects using liquid fuel;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have banned the usage of HSD for power generation, leading to stoppage of such projects and loss of more than Rs. 8 crore to the State; and

(c) if so, the alternative measures taken to revive the projects and also for generating additional power in the State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The policy of Government on the use of liquid fuels for generation of power announced in November, 1995, stipulates that HSD (diesel) would not be permitted as fuel. However, in the revised policy announced in July, 1998, the use of HSD for power generation has been permitted only as a special case in inaccessible and isolated areas where small diesel based capacities are sought to be set up and where used of other fuels is not feasible. Government of Kerala had made a request for allocation of HSD for a 5 MW DG based power plant under execution at Edarikode. It was, *inter-alia*, mentioned by the State Government that an amount of nearly Rs. 8 crores had already been invested in the project. Ministry of Power has considered the request of Government of Kerala and accordingly recommended the allocation of HSD for this project to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

(c) Does not arise.

**Declaration of Sanctuary in Orissa**

928. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhitar Kanika in Orissa has been declared as a sanctuary;

(b) if so, whether this declaration has adversely affected the livelihood of fishermen residing in the area; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide them alternative employment and shelter to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the interest of the conservation of Olive Ridley Turtle, which is an endangered species, only bare minimum area has been declared as a sanctuary

and alternative fishing sites are available to the fishermen. An Eco-development programme around the sanctuary has also been started to mitigate the hardship faced by the fishermen.

**Crisis Management Group**

929. SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up Crisis Management Group to facilitate new power projects:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it would be beneficial in constructing the new power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Government has set up the Crisis Resolution Group under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Power on January 1,1999 for resolving the 'Last Mile' problems of power projects and to ensure that the pending techno-economically cleared power projects are financially closed and construction started in the years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000. The Groups has had two meetings and addressed several issues hindering financial closure and early start of construction of power projects.

**Bench of Allahabad High Court in Western U.P.**

930. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sought any opinion of the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court on the issue of establishment of a Bench of the Allahabad High Court in western U.P.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) Specific recommendations of the Jaswant Singh Commission for setting up of Benches of Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh were referred to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for views and comments, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. The State Government have sought the views of the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court in this regard, who has not favoured a Bench of the High Court being set up in Western Uttar Pradesh.

**Overseas Venture for Captive Crude Oil**

931. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Indian Oil Corporation propose to venture overseas to enhance the supply of captive crude oil for refining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expected enhancement in crude oil production as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Acquisition of equity oil abroad is one of the objectives pursued by the two companies.

(b) and (c) Specific oil field project details in this regard are not known.

*[Translation]*

**Consumption of LPG**

932. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the Government have estimated the annual consumption of L.P.G. in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated total L.P.G. requirement for commercial and domestic use in the country for the current year;

(c) whether the indigenously produced L.P.G. is not sufficient to meet the requirement and it is also being imported;

(d) if so, the quantity of L.P.G. supplied through the indigenous sources and through imports during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the amount of subsidy given per cylinder on the imported and indigenous gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated total LPG requirement to be met through PSU Oil Companies in the country for domestic and non-domestic use for the year 1998-99 is 4980 TMT.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of LPG supplied through indigenous sources and PSU imports for the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as under:

(Figs. in TMT)

| Year | Production | Imports |
|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 (ACT) | 3356 | 1035 |
| 1997-98 (ACT) | 3444 | 1087 |
| 1998-99 (EST) | 3451 | 1598 |

(e) As per the phased dismantling programme approved by the Government, effective 1-4-1998, even the domestic producers of LPG are paid import parity price for the product. The subsidy on LPG (domestic) for 1998-99 was estimated to be about Rs. 84/- per cylinder. In line with the phased programme for dismantling of APM, the Government increased the consumer price of LPG (domestic) at ex-storage point by Rs. 14/- per cylinder exclusive of duty, sales tax and other local levies effective midnight of 31st January/1st February, 1999.

*[English]*

**Visakhapatnam Power Project**

933. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far on Visakhapatnam Power project;

(b) the reasons for slow progress; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove inter-ministerial tussle among the Coal, Finance and Railway Ministries so as to expedite completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The 1040 MW Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project in Andhra Pradesh being promoted by M/s Hinduja National Power Corporation Limited (HNPCL) has received the counter guarantee of Government of India on August 19,1998. M/s HNPCL has since signed the requisite agreements with the concerned agencies of the Central Government and according to information available, are presently resolving certain issues relating to the Power Purchase Agreement with Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board and negotiating with the financial institutions and foreign lenders for financing the project. The project is scheduled for commissioning after 44 months from the date of financial closure by the promoters.

**Use of Banned Equipments in Hospitals**

934. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI MADAN PATIL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banned equipments are still being used in various Government hospitals and other recognised hospitals in the country;

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

(c) whether the Crime Branch has failed to seize the outdated equipments bought during 1988-90 allegedly responsible for over 26 deaths in the hospitals of the capital; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to stop the use of outdated and banned equipments in the hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Banned equipments are not being used in Central Government Hospitals.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**HIV Tests**

935. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to conduct compulsory HIV tests on the women and children in shelter homes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Clearance to Sabarimala Pilgrim Centre**

936. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the development of Sabarimala Pilgrim Centre in Kerala is pending with the Government for the environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the period of its pendency; and

(c) the reasons for not clearing the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The State Government of Kerala had earlier in 1993 submitted a proposal under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 115.60 hectares of forest land in District Pathnamthitta for providing amenities to pilgrims of Sabarimala Temple. The proposed forest area formed part of Periyar Tiger Reserve. While the proposal was under process, the State Government in December, 1995 forwarded another proposal involving 20 hectares of forest land for the same purpose. The proposal was examined by the Ministry and also discussed with Nodal Officer, State Forest Department, Kerala, in May, 1996. As per the discussion held with the Nodal Officer, certain suggestions were made for the consideration of the Kerala State Government so as to minimise any adverse environmental effect of the development activity in the area. The State Government was reminded on 9.5.97 and again on 15.9.98 to expedite the clarifications sought by the Ministry in pursuance to the discussions held with the Nodal officer. The reply of the State Government has not been received so far. Subsequently, in August, 1997, three separate proposals have been received pertaining to construction of sewage treatment plant at Cheriyanavattom near Sabarimala shrine; collection of sand and quarrying of rubble for development works at Sabarimala shrine. Of the three proposals, two proposals pertaining to construction of sewage treatment plant and collection of sand have already been approved by this Ministry on 26.11.98 and 23.10.97 respectively. The proposal for quarrying of rubble was discussed in the State level Advisory Group meeting on 8.10.97 and it was decided to obtain certain details from the State Government as the proposal was not formulated properly and the project was located in the forest area earmarked for Project Elephant. Despite repeated reminders, the State Government did not furnish the requisite information and proposal was again discussed in the meeting of State Advisory Group on 15.10.98 and it was decided to close the proposal for want of essential details.

**Foreign Aid for Health Projects**

937. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any foreign aid for various health related projects from the international funding agencies;

(b) if so, the quantum of the fund allotted therefrom to various hospitals in West Bengal; and

(c) the details of projects for which the aid has been received, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Health Sector receives aid from various bilateral and multilateral funding sources for National Health Programmes and strengthening of health infrastructure for delivery of health care.

(b) Rs. 698 crores has been allotted to West Bengal in the State Health System Development Project being implemented with World Bank assistance. Under this 15 district hospitals, 60 sub-divisional hospitals, 95 rural hospitals and 38 primary health centres are *inter alia* being strengthened and upgraded.

(c) The details will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

**Development of Inland Navigation**

938. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether inland (River) navigation have been developed in the country during the last few years;

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

(c) whether there is any scheme/possibility of inland navigation development in Narmada river during the coming years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following three waterways have been declared as National Waterways and are being developed for Shipping and Navigation:—

(i) Allahabad-Haldia (1620 kms) stretch of Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system (National Waterway No. 1) which flows through the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

(ii) Sadiya to Dhubri (891 kms) stretch of the river Brahmaputra (National Waterway No. 2) which flows through the State of Assam.

(iii) Kollam to Kottapuram (205 kms) stretch of West Coast Canal alongwith Champakara and Udyogmandal Canal (National Waterway No. 3) which flows through the State of Kerala.

Various activities relating to night navigational aids, terminal, bandalling, channel marketing, etc., are being undertaken for the development of these National Waterways.

(c) and (d) At present, navigational potential of river Narmada is not established.

**Tariff for Power Generation from Kayamkulam Project**

939. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the existing rate of thermal power from Kayamkulam is too much as compared to other naptha projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government would fix a moderate rate for thermal power from Kayamkulam on the basis of pooled tariff;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The tariff for power generation from Kayamkulam project is yet to be fixed and notified by the Government of India.

(c) The expected tariff for power from the project, after commissioning of the combined cycle plant, would be comparable to the cost of power from other Combined Cycle power projects on liquid fuel, purchased by Kerala State Electricity Board.

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

**Bench of Chennai High Court in Madurai**

940. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1226 on December 7,1998 and state:

(a) whether the necessary land to set up a bench of Chennai High Court in Madurai has since been acquired by the said Administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target date by which the bench is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The Government of Tamil Nadu had in August, 1998 intimated that the proceedings for the acquisition of 75 acres of land for establishing the High Court Bench at Madurai were nearing completion and a sum of Rupees 2.5 crores had been sanctioned for the purpose.

(c) Since the State Government has, in the first instance, to fulfil certain conditions laid down by the Madras High Court relating to infrastructure etc., it is not practicable to indicate any time frame for establishment of the Bench.

**VPTs in Western Rajasthan**

941. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of VPTs planned and installed in Western Rajasthan especially in Barmer, Jaisalmer, and Jalore district;

(b) whether the firms whose telephones have been installed are not coming forward to render necessary maintenance service inspite of agreement to this effort;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No. of VPTs planned and installed in Western Rajasthan especially in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore districts are as under:

| Telecom District | Total VPTs existing on 31.01.99 | Plan 1998-99 | Installed during 1998-99 upto 31st Jan., 1999 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pali | 699 | 80 | 46 |
| Bikaner | 513 | 45 | 29 |
| * Jaisalmer | 331 | 46 | 22 |
| * Barmer | 844 | 94 | 56 |
| *Jalore | 471 | 40 | 20 |
| Jodhpur | 781 | 100 | 27 |
| Nagore | 958 | 80 | 31 |

(b) to (d) Suppliers provide help during the warranty period as per contract. After the warranty period, the help is provided by the supplier when Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) is signed.

**Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**

942. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to repeal Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and enact a new act in place thereof;

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

(c) the time by which the new act is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to repeal the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 and enact a new act in its place thereof.

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

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

**Targets of ONGC**

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

(a) whether the Government have directed the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to shorten the time horizon of its projected targets to improve oil recovery and provide figures of its plans to achieve the target during the last two to five years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have approved the proposal; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the country is likely to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of 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) No Sir. However, with a view to ensure most optimum recovery from the fields of ONGC, discussions are held with ONGC.

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

**Environmental Panel of WB**

944. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed limiting the scope of environmental panel of the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the other developing countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Government is not aware of any Environmental Panel in the World Bank. Question of limiting the scope thereof does not arise.

**Threat to Coral Reef**

945. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Marine life is dying in man-fouled seas" appearing in the *Times of India*, dated January 24,1999;

(b) if so, whether the tourists are increasingly diving in our coral rich waters at various beaches of Lakshadweep Islands;

(c) if so, whether Government have identified the beaches visited most and made a study to ascertain the extent of damage caused thereby;

(d) if so, details thereof in this regard;

(e) whether any cases of pilferage, theft or smuggling of coral have come to the notice of the Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the preventive measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the examples quoted relate to experiments conducted along the coasts of North America particularly near Florida, New York and Gulf of Mexico.

(b) No Sir. Diving is allowed in very limited numbers and only on 2-3 Islands.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) In order to ensure that no damage is caused to the coral reefs of Lakshdweep through excessive diving by tourists the following measures have been adopted.

(i) Local Islanders and Scientists are being trained by professionally qualified diving instructors to maintain a strict vigil on the quality and variety of marine life.

(ii) Careful monitoring is done by the local Science. Technology and Environment Department.

(iii) Ecology and Environment are the basic parameters Governing all policy decisions in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

**Dealership of Gas, Diesel and Petrol in Karnataka**

946. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for the allotment of LPG, Petrol and Diesel outlets in Karnataka pending as on date;

(b) whether delay in selecting dealership is causing hardship to consumers; and

(c) if so, the likely time by which these are to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) In order to mitigate the hardship being faced by the consumers on account of non-selection of dealers/ distributors, which has been pending for more then two years, Government constituted two Dealer Selection Boards for Karnataka in October, 1998. Oil Companies have already issued large number of advertisements and selection process is in progress. It generally takes about 6 to 12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/ distributorships from the date of interview.

**Opening of MDS Courses in Dental Colleges**

947. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the dental colleges who have been issued Letters of Permission for opening MDS courses in 1998 alongwith specialities and dates of issue of such letters;

(b) the colleges out of them started the MDS courses alongwith specialities; and

(c) the colleges whose applications for issue of LOI and LOP have been pending as on date for upgradation and enhancement of seats at BDS level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Details are given in attached Statement-I

(c) Details are given in attached Statement II.

***Statement-I***

*The Name of Dental Colleges who have been accorded Govt. permission to start MDS courses in 1998*

| S.No. | Name of College | Date of Permission | Specialities | No. of seats | Terms & conditions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | PMNM Dental College, Bagalkot. | 24-03-98 | 1. Oral Pathology<br>2. Conservative Dentistry<br>3. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery<br>4. Orthodontia<br>5. Prosthodontia | 2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2 | Permission is granted for one year with prospective effect which is to be renewed on yearly basis after verification of achievement of the annual targets and revalidation of Performance Bank Guarantee. |
| 2. | J.S.S. Dental College, Mysore | 16-04-98 | 1. Community Dentistry<br>2. Periodontia<br>3. Conservative Dentistry<br>4. Pedodontics<br>5. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery | 2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2 | —do— |
| 3. | J.K.V.G. Dental Colleges, Sullia | 10-06-98 | 1. Prosthodontics | 2 | —do— |
| 4. | Meenaksh Ammal Dental College, Chennai | 17--07-98 | 1. Orthodontia<br>2. Oral Surgery<br>3. Oral Pathology<br>4. Periodontia<br>5. Conservative Dentistry<br>6. Prosthodontia | 4<br>4<br>3<br>4<br>4<br>3 | |
| 5. | DAV Dental College Yamuna Nagar, | 07-08-98 | 1. Prosthodontics<br>2. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery<br>3. Conservative Dentistry | 3<br>3<br>3 | —do— |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Balaji Dental College, Chennai | 10-08-98 | 1. Prosthodontics<br>2. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery.<br>3. Conservative Dentistry<br>4. Orthodontics<br>5. Oral Pathology | 2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2 | Permission is granted for one year with prospective effect which is to be renewed on yearly basis after verification of achievement of the annual targets and revalidation of Performance Bank Guarantee. |
| | KLE Society's Institute of Dental Sciences, Belgaum | 21-08-98 | 1. Pedodontia | 2 | —do— |
| 9. | SDM Dental College Dharwad | 09-09-98 | 1. Pedodontia<br>2. Oral Medicine and Radiology | 2<br>2 | —do— |
| 9. | PMNM Dental College Bagalkot | 17-09-98 | 1. Pedodontia | 2 | —do— |
| 10. | KVG Dental College, Sullia | 25-09-98 | 1. Conservative Dentistry<br>2. Oral Surgery | 2<br>2 | —do— |
| 11. | RMNM Dental College Bagalkot | 06-11-98 | 1. Oral medicines Radiology<br>2. Periodontics | 2<br>2 | —do— |
| 12. | Ragas Dental College Chennai | 30-12-98 | 1. Prosthodontics | 2 | —do— |

***Statement-II***

*The Dental Colleges whose applications for issue of Letter of Intent and Letter of Permission are pending as on date for enhancement of BDS seats*

| Sl. No. | Name of College |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. | Govt. Dental College and Hospital, Ahmedabad. |
| 2. | Santosh Dental College, Ghaziabad (U.P.) |
| 3. | Tamil Nadu Govt. Dental College and Hospital, Chennai. |
| 4. | Meenakshi Ammal's Dental College, Chennai. |
| 5. | Shri Balaji Dental College & Hospital, Chennai. |
| 6. | PMNM Dental College, Bagalkot, Karnataka. |

**Wireless Satellite Telephones Facility in Rural Areas**

948. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing wireless satellite telephones to the remote villages of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of districts covered under said scheme; and

(c) the names and number of private companies permitted to operate in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Wireless satellite telephones for remote and inaccessible areas of the country have been planned to introduced from 1999-2000 by the DoT.

(b) 500 to 1,000 satellite telephone terminals are expected to be provided during 1999-2000 in remote and inaccessible areas of the country *i.e.* J&K, HP, hills of Uttar Pradesh, Assam, North-East, Rajasthan desert etc. where terrestrial technologies are techno-economically non-feasible.

(c) Village public telephones are being provided by Deptt. of Telecom. Licences have been granted to six private companies to provide basic telecom service and also village public telephones in six Circles. There are Essar Commvision for Punjab, Shyam Telelinks for Rajasthan, Reliance Telecom for Gujarat, Bharati Telenet for Madhya Pradesh, Hughes Ispat for Maharashtra and Tata Teleservices for Andhra Pradesh.

*[Translation]*

**Setting up of Bottling Plant in M.P.**

949. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land has been made available to set up bottling plant of Hindustan Petroleum in Maneri industrial area in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry have formulated any scheme to set up the bottling plant within a specific period; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The land has been made available at Maneri Industrial area, Distt. Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh for setting up of 44 TMTPA capacity LPG bottling plant. The plant is proposed to be commissioned by April, 2000.

(c) The plant is being set up under IXth plan approved by Government.

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

*[English]*

**Proposal for Six Lane Highway in Karnataka**

950. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted any proposal for seeking approval of the Union Government for 135 Km. long six lane highway on the outskirts of the city connecting Dobbaspet and Attibele;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Harnessing Herbs**

951. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:
SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a special tribunal/make serious efforts for the promotion, conservation and development of herbs of Indian origin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made for the advancement of Indian herbal science in order to bring it to the world standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Schemes are being

implemented for setting up of Medicinal Plants Gradens and development of Agro-Techniques for growing of medicinal plants. This would help in promotion, conservation and development of Medicinal Herbs.

(c) Pharmacopoeial Standards are being formulated for single drugs and compound formulations of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy.

**Expansion of NTPC Power Plant, Talcher Phase-II**

952. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation Power Plant Talcher Phase-II is being expanded with external assistance and also in collaboration with the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and foreign multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project would be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is setting up Talcher Thermal Power Plant Phase II of 2000 MW (4x500 MW) at Kaniha in Angual district of Orissa. The project is proposed to be funded with debt equity ratio of 70:30. The equity portion would be met through internal resources of NTPC while debt portion is proposed to be financed through domestic borrowings and foreign currency loan. The major package would be awarded through International Competitive Bidding and hence no collaboration with either Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited or any foreign multinational companies is envisaged for implementation of the project.

(c) The synchronisation of the units of the project is envisaged as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Unit I | June, 2003 |
| Unit II | March, 2004 |
| Unit III | December, 2004 |
| Unit IV | September, 2005 |

*[Translation]*

**Setting up of Petrol Pumps in Madhya Pradesh**

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up petrol pumps at Chitrakut, Mazagaon, Birsinghpur, Jaitware in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh in view of the increasing number of tractors and vehicles in the district and demand from the local people of the area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Retail outlet dealerships are opened at the feasible locations meeting Oil Industry's 'Volume-distance norms'. At Jaitware, one retail outlet is already in operation. Location Chitrakoot has been included in the marketing plan for setting up retail outlet dealership. The remaining two locations *viz.* Mazagaon and Birsinghpur have not been found feasible for setting up retail outlet dealership.

*[English]*

**Contracting AIDS**

954. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports have been received that patients who under-went dialysis have contracted the AIDS virus in different parts of the country and especially in Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The total AIDS cases reported to NACO upto 31st December, 1998 is 6693. None of these cases have been attributed to getting infection from dialysis.

*[Translation]*

**Proposals for Road Projects in Rajasthan**

955. SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for road projects of Rajasthan Government is pending for the approval of the Government;

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

(c) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Six proposals pertaining to National Highway projects in Rajasthan are pending for approval.

(b) and (c) Approval of the pending proposals will be given during the current financial year depending upon their meeting technical requirements.

**Amendment in Notary Act, 1952**

956. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Karnataka in respect of making amendments in Notary Act, 1952;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) No, Sir.

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

*[English]*

**Derecognition of Medical Degree**

957. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of students who acquired Medical degree from Russia have been rendered unemployed as a result of the decision taken by the Government to derecognise it;

(b) if so, the numuer of students who suffered as a result of this decision;

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider their decision; and

(d) if so, the time by which the matter is likely to be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (d) Recognition of medical qualification M.D (Physician) granted by Daghestan State Medical Institute, Russia has been limited upto 31st December, 2005. Hence, it is not true that a large number of students who acquired medical degree from Russia have been rendered unemployed as a result of the decision taken by Government in limiting recognition of medical degrees of this institution.

**Allotment of LPG Agencies**

958. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR):
SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT:

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

(a) the number of LPG agencies allotted so far in the country; State-wise;

(b) whether the Government purpose to set up gas agencies in Jhanjharpur, Fulparas and Jainagar Sub-divisions and Vasharhi, Ladniyon, Pandaul, Madhepura, Lokhi Blocks under Madhubani district of Bihar;

(c) if so, the time by which LPG agencies are likely to be set up there; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As on 1.10.1998, there were 5560 LPG distributorships in operation all over the country.

(b) to (d) Economically viable locations are included in the marketing plans for opening of dealerships/ distributorships and for selection of dealers/distributors as per prescribed procedure which include issue of advertisement in Press and selection by Dealer Selection Board on merit. Accordingly, of the locations mentioned in question only locations Jhanjarpur and Jainagar have

been found viable and included in the Marketing Plan. These have been advertised in June, 1998 for selection of distributors through the concerned Dealer Selection Board. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

Further, the oil companies have taken action to set up LPG agencies at the following locations in Madhubani/ Madhepura districts of Bihar:

| | |
|---|---|
| Benipatti | Karmagh |
| Madhubani | Murliganj (Madhepura) |
| Ghoghardiha | |

*[Translation]*

**Quality of Diesel**

959. SHRI RAJBANSHI MAHTO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the diesel produced by the Public Sector oil refineries in the country is 250 times impure in comparison to the best quality of diesel produced in the World; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to improve the quality of the diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Purity of diesel (HSD) is normally measured in terms of Sulphur content. Most of the advanced countries like USA and European countries have Sulphur specification in diesel at 0.05 weight percent maximum. In India, Public Sector Indian Refineries produce diesel strictly as per BIS specifications, which is currently 1% maximum sulphur. In four metros and the Taj Trapezium, Sulphur content in diesel is even now limited to 0.25% maximum. Most of the PSU refineries supply diesel to other places also with Sulphur content much below 1%.

(b) To Supply 0.25% Sulphur diesel throughout the country Public Sector Refineries are implementing diesel hydrosulphurization projects at various location at a cost of about Rs. 5600 crores.

*[English]*

**Adulteration in Petrol/Diesel/Mobile Oil**

960. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Petrol Adulteration Thrives Capital" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 8,1999;

(b) if so, whether adulteration in Petrol; diesel and mobile oil is going on in the capital on a large scale; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to check the adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) There have been no cases of adulteration detected by oil companies through underground hidden/unauthorised tanks, during transit in tankers and adulteration with solvents in Delhi. The company officials cooperate with law enforcing agencies and are in regular touch with State Govt. to check adulteration. Regular inspections/ surprise checks of retail outlets are carried out by the officers of the oil marketing companies. Also special drives are being launched by the industry from time to time for checking malpractices including adulteration. With effect from 31.12.98, only pre-mixed fuel is being dispensed to two stroke vehicles as per directive of Supreme Court.

**Opening of Post Offices/Sub-Post Offices**

961. SHRI N.J. RATHWA:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open post offices/sub-post offices in Vadodara district of Gujarat, Malabar region of Kerala and in the villages of Satna district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and the time by which the said post offices are likely to be opened;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of post offices/sub-post offices functioning in Chandigarh at present, district-wise;

(e) the number of these post offices opened during the last three years;

(f) whether the Government proposed to open some more post offices/sub-post offices in the Union Territory during 1998-99;

(g) whether the Government have also received any requests to open post office/sub-post office in Kerala during the last three years; and

(h) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to open post office/sub-post office in Vadodara district of Gujarat. It is proposed to open four Extra Departmental Branch post offices in Malabar region of Kerala. An Extra Departmental Branch post office is approved for opening in the Satna district of Madhya Pradesh. The details of post offices to be opened in Malabar region of Kerala and Satna district of Madhya Pradesh are given in attached Statement-I.

(c) No specific target alloted for Vadodara district of Gujarat.

(d) The details of post offices functioning in Chandigarh at present are given in attached Statement-II.

(e) The number of post offices opened during the last three years is nil.

(f) Post offices are opened on the norms based justification subject to the availability of resources and budget allocation. Keeping in view the norms for opening of post offices, no further expansion of postal services is justified at present in this area.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) The details of locations for which the requests have been received for opening of post offices, are given in attached Statement-III.

***Statement-I***

*The details of post offices to be opened in Malabar region of Kerala and Satna district of Madhya Pradesh*

Malabar region

Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices ordered to be opened at:

1. Vellur West (Kozhikode) - orders for opening of post office issued on 18.02.99.
2. Chandrapuram (Palakkad)-Orders for opening of post office issued on 22.01.99.
3. Olat (Kasargod)-Orders for opening of post office issued on 22.01.99.
4. Kanjikode Industrial Estate (Palakkad)-Orders for opening of post office are under issue.

Satna district of Madhya Pradesh

1. Extra Departmental Branch Post Office is approved for opening at village Govindpur of Satna district in Madhya Pradesh.

***Statement-II***

*The details of Post Offices/Sub-Post Offices functioning in Chandigarh at present*

| | No. of Post Offices Chandigarh City | No. of Post Offices in villages of Chandigarh UT | Total No. of Post Offices in Chandigarh UT (City & Vill) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Head Post Office | 1 | -- | 01 |
| Deptl. Sub Offices | 41 | 02 | 43 |
| Extra Deptl. Sub. Post Offices. | — | 01 | 01 |
| Extra Dept. Branch Post Offices. | — | 06 | 06 |
| Total | 42 | 09 | 51 |

***Statement-III***

*The Details of Locations for which requests for opening of Post Offices have been Received*

| S.No. | Location | District |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Pt. Chakonagar | Vadakara |
| 2. | Kunnathurpady | Kannur |
| 3. | Peringolam | Kozhicode |
| 4. | Kuniyanipuzha | Kannur |
| 5. | Randukai | Irinjalakuda |
| 6. | K. Ashramon | Idukki |
| 7. | Pathamedu | Idukki |
| 8. | Valambur | Idukki |
| 9. | Mes College | Idukki |
| 10. | Heaven Valley | Idukki |
| 11. | Kurisupara Jn. | Idukki |
| 12. | Kuzhivelipady | Aluwa |
| 13. | Mosko | Kottayam |
| 14. | Thottappally | Kottayam |
| 15. | Nanguthotty | idukki |
| 16. | Avolichal | Aluwa |
| 17. | Piramala | P. Thitta |
| 18. | Payyalakkavu | Kollam |
| 19. | Onambalam | Kollam |
| 20. | Elluvila | Kollam |
| 21. | Venkolla | Kollam |
| 22. | Chelamkonam | TVM |
| 23. | Punnakkad | TVM |
| 24. | Attinpuram | TVM |
| 25. | Kovoor | TVM |
| 26. | Keezhavoor | TVM |
| 27. | Mailom East | Kollam |
| 28. | Uliyanad | Kollam |
| 29. | Kadumeenchira | P. Thitta |
| 30. | C. Thazhom | Kollam |
| 31. | Edayam | Kollam |
| 32. | Appad | Wynad |
| 33. | Chanakundu | Kannur |
| 34. | Chooliyad | Kannur |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 35. | Palukkunnu | Thellicherry |
| 36. | PathoorVattom | Vadakara |
| 37. | Vanchiyam | Kannur |
| 38. | Edumba | Telicherry |
| 39. | Kattusseri | Palakkad |
| 40. | Kuppadithara | Kannur |
| 41. | Perumbadavu | Kannur |
| 42. | Cherumad | Wynad |
| 43. | Valancherry | Wynad |
| 44. | Palathumkadavu | Tellicherry |
| 45. | Perumpally | Kozhicode |
| 46. | Nelliyode | Tellicherry |
| 47. | Makkimala | Kannur |
| 48. | Alikara | Ottapalam |
| 49. | Vakancheri | Wynad |
| 50. | poomala | Mavelikara |
| 51. | Memury | Aluwa |
| 52. | Paipara | Aluwa |
| 53. | Vakkalur | Manjeri |
| 54. | Turuthoor | Aluwa |
| 55. | Swamavilasam | Idukki |
| 56. | Attakandam | Kozhicode |
| 57. | Mookode | Kozhicode |
| 58. | Naika | kozhicode |
| 59. | Perumpallithattu | Kozhicode |
| 60. | puliyannur | Kasargod |
| 61. | Chathama | Ernakulam |
| 62. | Kosarmoola | Tellicherry |
| 63. | Attakandam | Kozhicode |
| 64. | Moukode | Kozhicode |
| 65. | Vidyagiri | Kozhicode |
| 66. | Cherukkala | Kannur |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 67. | Thalamkandam | idukki |
| 68. | Karimukal | Ernakulam |
| 69. | Nethajipuram | TVm |
| 70. | Valpara | Idukki |
| 71. | Pothukallu | Manjeri |
| 72. | Nadakkara | kannur |
| 73. | Vattappara | Kollam |
| 74. | Koshimala | Idukki |
| 75. | Valyavanthi | P. Thitta |
| 76. | Thathiyor | TVM |
| 77. | Pulimpallikonam | TVM |
| 78. | Mankadavu | Manjeri |
| 79. | Madakada | Kannur |

**Oil Exploration by ONGC**

962. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is involved in Oil Exploration in the Mahanadi Delta of the Orissa Coast;

(b) if so, the estimated deposit of Oil and Natural Gas in the region; and

(c) the administrative set up of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in its Oil Exploration project in the State of Orissa?

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

(b) Oil India Limited carried out exploratory activities in Mahanadi Basin in Orissa. However, no commercial hydrocarbon discovery was made.

(c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation does not have any administrative/operational set up in Orissa.

**LPG Bottling Plants**

963. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG bottling plants set up in the country during 1998-99 till date State-wise;

(b) whether preliminary work on the said bottling plants has since commissioned; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Under the VIII Five Year Plan, additional capacity of 1120 TMTPA was proposed to be set up by Public Sector Oil Companies, with bottling plants at 54 locations in the Country. Under the IX Plan, it is proposed to construct 135 new bottling plants all over the country which will result in additional capacity of 3106 TMTPA. Preliminary

work has started at most of the proposed LPG bottling plants.

**Work Progress at Indira Gandhi Institute of Health and Medical Sciences**

964. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of work progress at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Health & Medical Sciences at Shillong (Meghalaya);

(b) whether the draft Bye-Laws and Rules for the Institute are awaiting approval at Centre and the time by which these are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the present status of creation of posts at top administrative/accounts level and time by which the new incumbents are likely to take charge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) All the on-going Civil Works at Interim Facility have been completed. The buildings have been taken over by the Institute. The OPD Clinics started functioning since 20.8.1998. The Medical equipment have already been ordered. At the permanent site the boundary wall is nearing completion. The Report of the Geo-technical investigation carried out by Meghalaya State Electricity Board is expected soon.

(b) The Institute already has its approved Rules. The Bye-laws have also been approved by the President, Governing Council of the Institute.

(c) The Post of Director of the Institute is already filled up. The appointment of Deputy Director (Administration) has been approved. The new incumbent is expected to take over shortly. The post of Accounts Officer is already filled up. The Institute sent a proposal for creation of one post of Financial Adviser in the scale of Rs. 12000-375-18300/-. The proposal was considered in the Ministry and the same has not been approved.

**Intelligent Network Service**

965. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Intelligent Networks Service in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main features of the said service;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be introduced in the State; and

(d) the extent to which it will be beneficial to the subscribers and improve the quality of telecom services in the State?

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

(b) Intelligent Network (IN) Services are proposed to be introduced at Hyderabad with following main features:

1. Free Phone
2. Virtual Card Calling
3. Premium Rate Service
4. Virtual Private Network
5. Account card Calling
6. Televoting

Features at 1, 2 & 3 above are planned to be introduced in Ist phase and the remaining services later.

(c) It is planned to introduce this service at Hyderabad by March 1999.

(d) The details are as follows:—

1. *Freephone Service (FPH)*

   Any user in the Telephone Network can call the FPH Subscriber free of charges. All the charges are levied on the service subscriber (one who subscribers for the service and receives the calls). For the calling user, the calls are free of charge. The service subscriber is allotted a FPH service number (3 to 5 digits). The same FPH service number can have many destination numbers depending on the day of the week or time of the day.

2. *Premium Rate Service (PRM)*

   This service will facilitate information providers to offer service like weather Forecast, Fortune

telling, share market information, Job consultation etc. The service provider is allotted a PRM service (3 to 5 digits) by the Network operator (DoT) and that number can be accessed from any point in the network. For this service, the call chagers will be at a higher rate (these charges will be borne by calling users) i.e. premium rate and the revenue earned is shared between the information provider and the network provider (DoT).

3. *Virtual card calling (VCC):*

This service allows a VCC user to make a call from any telephone to any destination through Intelligent Network by using virtual card. The user is given an Account Number and a Personal Identification Number (PIN). The user invokes the service by dialling account number and his pin. After authentication by SSP, the user is allowed to dial any destination; local, national or international depending on the type of the card. The advantage in this service is that the subscriber need not be a telephone subscriber and need not carry cash for making calls.

With the addition of above features, the quality of service will improve. The subscribers will be benefitted as detailed above.

**New Telephone Exchanges in Assam**

966. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges sanctioned for Nagaon and Kaliabor Districts of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges set up and functional in the said districts during the said period;

(c) the number of telephone connections allotted in these districts from the new exchanges during the said period;

(d) whether any irregularities have been noticed by the Government regarding the excess allotment of telephone connections in the said districts from new exchanges;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government against the officials found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Year-wise new telephone exchanges sanctioned, setup and functional during the last three years are as under:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 2 |
| 1996-97 | 3 |
| 1997-98 | 5 |

(c) The year-wise new telephone connections allotted are as under:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 95 |
| 1996-97 | 146 |
| 1997-98 | 603 |

(d) to (f) No irregularities have been noticed.

**Shortage of Materials**

967. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any developmental projects of th Department of Telecommunications in Kerala and Orissa are pending with the Government due to shortage of telephone materials;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure timely supply of necessary materials in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) All the materials required for the developmental works for 1998-99 have already been ordered and are being received progressively.

*[Translation]*

**Telephone Facility by Private Companies**

968. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of private companies in the country granted permission for providing telephone facility alongwith the terms and conditions for the purpose; and

(b) the number of persons who got telephone connections from these companies during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The information is given in the Statement attached.

(b) Two licensees have started the commercial service in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Circles. The service in Madhya Pradesh was started on 4.6.98 and 10434 connections have been provided in this circle as on 31.01.99. The service in Maharashtra circle was started on 30.10.98. The number of connections provided in this circle is 3816 as on 31.01.99.

***Statement***

*Number and Names of Private Companies Granted Licence for Providing Basic Telephone Services*

| Name of the Licensee | Name of the Circle |
|---|---|
| 1. Bharati Telenet | Madhya Pradesh |
| 2. Reliance Telecom | Gujarat |
| 3. Hughes Ispat Ltd. | Maharashtra |
| 4. Essar Commvision | Punjab |
| 5. Tata Teleservices | Andhra Pradesh |
| 6. Telelink Network India Ltd. | Rajasthan |

*Main Terms and Conditions of the Licence for Basic Service*

1. The licensee must be an Indian registered company.

2. The total foreign equity in the licensee company must not be more than 49% of the total equity.

3. The period of licence shall be for 15 years extendable for a period of 10 years at a time.

4. Licensee shall start the service within 12 months of the issue of the licence.

5. The licensee shall not charge tariff more than the DOT tariff.

6. The licensee can provide long distance service within the circle. Inter-circle long distance is not permitted to the licensees.

**Shortage of LPG**

969. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

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

(a) the number of consumers on the waiting list for cooking gas connections in various districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana as on date;

(b) whether there is an acute short supply of cooking gas cylinders in these districts;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to make arrangements to meet the shortage of LPG supply at the block level in Shekhpura and Lakhisarai districts of Bihar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list registered with the LPG distributors of the PSU Oil Companies in the country

as on 1.1.99 was about 133.5 lakhs including 14.11 lakhs in U.P., 5.05 lakhs in Bihar and 4.46 lakhs in Haryana.

(b) and (c) Presently, there is no LPG backlog in the state of U.P., Bihar and Haryana as reported by the PSU Oil Companies.

(d) and (e) The LPG demand of existing consumers enrolled with PSU oil companies in the State of Bihar is being met by and large in full. However, whenever LPG backlog develop due to law and order problems, floods or any disruption in availability due to emergency shutdowns at any of the productions sources etc., Oil Companies take immediate measures to meet the demand in the affected markets through maximising LPG imports and by operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sundays and holidays to clear the LPG backlogs.

**Proposals for NHs/Bridges Over River**

970. SHRI ADITYANATH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals regarding construction of National highways and bridges over various rivers in the country pending for approval of the Union Government as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to expedite their approvals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Details are given in attached Statement.

(b) All these proposals are targetted for sanction during the current financial year subject to their technical viability and adequacy of funds therefor.

***Statement***

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

| Sl.No. | State | Road Works | | Bridge works | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Nos. | Amt. | Nos. | Amt. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| 2. | Assam | 17 | 14 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. | Bihar | 41 | 31 | 4 | 7 |
| 4. | Chandigarh | 1 | 0.50 | — | — |
| 5. | Delhi | 1 | 7 | 1 | 7 |
| 6. | Goa | — | — | — | — |
| 7. | Gujarat | 2 | 26 | 1 | 17 |
| 8. | Haryana | 5 | 39 | — | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 11 | 14 | 1 | 6 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | — | — | — | — |
| 11. | Karnataka | 2 | 6 | — | — |
| 12. | Kerala | 1 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 11 | 26 | 6 | 8 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| 15. | Manipur | 23 | 29 | — | — |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 21 | 11 | 3 | 20 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 2 | 4 | — | — |
| 18. | Orissa | 33 | 9 | 10 | 12 |
| 19. | Pondicherry | — | — | — | — |
| 20. | Punjab | 2 | 10 | — | — |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 4 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | — | — | — | — |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh | — | — | 4 | 56 |
| 24. | West Bengal | 13 | 39 | 4 | 5 |
| | Total | 190 | 276.50 | 41 | 152 |

**Forestry Development in Bihar**

971. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided to Bihar for forestry development during the last three years, project-wise;

(b) whether the utilization of those funds have been found to be satisfactory;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) Details of the Central Assistance (CA) provided, scheme/project-wise, to Government of Bihar under the centrally sponsored afforestation and related schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the last three years, and their utilisation, are as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

| | Scheme/Project | CA Released (includes revalidated amounts) (1995-96 to 1997-98) | CA Utilised (1996-97 to 1998-99) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project Scheme (IAEPS): Projects in: | | |
| | (i) Palamau district | 22.00 | Progress Report Awaited. |
| | (ii) Hazaribagh district | 7.35 | |
| | (iii) Ajoy watershed, Deogarh | 28.94 | 28.94 |
| | (iv) Giridih watershed, Giridih | 18.69 | 18.69 |
| | (v) Subarnrekha watershed, Ranchi | 21.72 | 21.72 |
| 2. | Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme Project in Bihar | 345.36 | 239.95 |
| 3. | Tree and Pasture Seed Development Scheme | 3.50 | 2.02 |
| 4. | Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme Project | 14.00 | Reconciliation of Progress Report Awaited |
| 5. | Association of Scheduled Tribe and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on usufruct sharing basis | 117.15 | 97.36 |
| 6. | Modern Forest Fire Control Methods' Scheme | 6.07 | 6.07 |

The utilization is, by and large, satisfactory.

*[English]*

**Implementation of Fifth Pay Panel Report**

972. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give necessary direction to the Indian Red Cross Society to implement recommendations of the Vth Pay Commission Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow the Indian Red Cross Society to charge the cost of disposables used in its Blood Banks from the donors as in the case of Government Hospitals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) As the Indian Red Cross Society is an autonomous Organisation, the question of issuing direction by the Government in them matter does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has permitted non-profit Organisations, including Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) to charge the cost of disposables used in the Blood Bank @ Rs. 250/- per unit. The cost of consumables is Rs. 600/- per unit approximately. The IRCS may subside the rest of the cost. However, the final decision is to be taken by the Managing Body of the India Red Cross Society.

**Building Expressways**

973. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "No Takers for building expressway in India" appearing in *Indian Express*, dated January 14,1999;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the proposal of Malaysian Consortium of companies in executing four highway projects has run into rough weather; and

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government to start expressway immediately?

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

(b) The Central Government does not agree with the views expressed therein.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Free Power Supply to Agriculture Sector**

974. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the names of States where power supplied to agriculture sector is free of any charge?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): As per information available in the Central Electricity Authority, presently States of Tamil Nadu and Punjab are supplying power to Agriculture Sector free of charge.

**Setting up a Naphtha Cracker Project in Tamil Nadu**

975. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited propose to set up a Naphtha Cracker Project in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be start functioning; and

(d) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. is exploring the possibilities of setting up naphtha cracker project in Tamil Nadu. The proposal presently is at preliminary stage.

**Gas Cracker Project in Assam**

976. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of Gas Cracker Project in Assam has been going on as per schedule;

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

(c) the amount spent by the State or Union Government on the project; and

(d) the number of local persons given employment in the project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) A Joint Venture Company, Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (RAPL), has been incorporated for the implementation of the project. Government of Assam has identified 1262 acres of land at Tengakhat for setting up the cracker complex, a part of which belonging to the Government of Assam has been handed over to RAPL. The remaining land is under acquisition of the Government of Assam. The Government of India has committed to supply gas for the production of 2 lakh Tonnes Per Annum (TPA) of Ethylene at a concessional price of Rs. 600 per thousand standard cubic meter for 15 years. In this regard Gas Supply Agreement between RAPL and OIL is in advance stage of finalisation. Substantial investment is expected to flow after finalisation of Gas Supply Agreement and handing over of entire land to RAPL. RAPL has started recruitment for the cracker project. 65 graduate engineers belonging to State of Assam have already been recruited and currently undergoing training in various units of Reliance Industries Ltd. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 3600 crore and likely to be completed within 44 months from the date of signing of Gas Supply Agreement or handing over of the entire land, whichever is later.

*[Translation]*

**Telecom Services in Bihar**

977. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of applications are waiting for the telephone connections in various telephone exchanges under the Betia region in Bihar;

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

(c) whether the condition of the telephone services have been found unsatisfactory in Darbhanga district in Bihar;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list, expand the telephone exchanges and to provide better telephone services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The waiting list of various telephone exchanges under Betia region in Bihar is as per the statement attached.

(c) All telephone exchanges in Darbhanga district are electronic. The telephone services in Darbhanga District in Bihar is quite satisfactory. The fault rate of the last three months is given below:—

| | |
|---|---|
| November 98 | 6.9% |
| December 98 | 6.8% |
| January 99 | 6.5% |

(d) Not applicable.

(e) The Government proposes to take the following steps to clear the waiting list, to expand the telephone exchanges and to provide better telephone services.

1. It is planned to provide 185000 lines of switching Capacity and 131000 Direct Exchange Lines in Bihar during 1998-99. Out of this, 51720 lines of switching capacity and 50121 No. of new telephone connections were provided upto 31.1.99.
2. External plants are being expanded and upgraded.
3. Overhead/analong transmission media are being replaced by digital UHF/OFC transmission media.

***Statement***

*Exchange-wise details of Waiting List under Betia Region in Bihar*

| S.No. | Name of Exchanges | Waiting list as on 01-02-99 |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Betia | 701 |
| 2. | Bagaha | 150 |
| 3. | Bhairoganj | 30 |
| 4. | Chanpatia | 17 |
| 5. | Englishiya | 20 |
| 6. | Jogapatti | 18 |
| 7. | Lauriya | 12 |
| 8. | Majhawalia | 08 |
| 9. | Maintand | 06 |
| 10. | Narkatiaganj | 150 |
| 11. | Ramnagar | 15 |
| 12. | Sathi | 20 |
| 13. | Sabava | 30 |
| 14. | Sikta | 04 |
| 15. | Valmikinagar | 05 |

*[English]*

**Inspection Committees for Unani Medicines**

978. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether procedure to constitute the Inspection Committees for fresh approval of unani medicines at CGHS Unani Medical Store Depot (DMSD), New Delhi, was finalised in 1995;

(b) if so, the composition approved by the competent authority for such Inspection Committees; and

(c) the circumstances under which the inspection of medicines is done by the Medical Officers working on ad-hoc basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) The present Inspection Committee was constituted for the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 and is valid upto 31.3.99.

The composition of the Inspection Committee approved by the Competent authority is as under:—

Senior Medical Officer — One

Medical Officer — One

(c) The Inspection Committee comprises of a Senior Medical Officer and a Medical Officer irrespective of whether they hold their post on a regular or ad-hoc basis. It has been constituted, keeping in view the availability of limited number of Unani Physicians and also to keep Members of Purchase Advisory Committee distinct from those nominated for the Inspection Committee.

**Allotment of Petrol Pumps**

979. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE:
SHRI SURESH KURUP:

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

(a) the number of petrol pumps of Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum, Indian Oil, IBP allotted during last three yeas in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of petrol pumps allotted to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Physically Handicapped persons out of them, category-wise;

(c) whether the reservation policy has been implemented while allotting the petrol pumps;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) IOC and AOD, HPC, BPC and IBP have allotted 529 retail outlet dealerships during the last three years *i.e.* 1995-96 to 1997-98. Out of these 162 and 38 dealerships have been allotted to SC/ST and PH category respectively.

(c) and (d) As per prevailing policy on the allotment of dealerships/distributorships reservation of 25% and $7^1/_2$% was provided for SC/ST and PH categories respectively. Locations reserved for a particular category are filled up from the candidate belonging to that category only.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Transfer of Telephone Connections**

980. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for the transfer of telephone connections in Bhopal during 1998-99;

(b) the number of applications considered out of them and the number of applications lying pending;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities committed while transferring of telephone connections in the city;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Sir, 332 applications for transfer of telephone connection were received in Bhopal during 1998-99 (upto 15.02.1999).

(b) All the 332 applications have been considered. Action for transfer of telephones have been completed for 320 applicants and only 12 cases are pending due to subscribers reasons.

(c) No, Sir.

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

*[English]*

**Telephones Out of Order**

981. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any review in regard to the functioning of telephone services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether every day around 20 per cent telephone are not functioning even in the Capital and other States;

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

(e) whether the Government have received any suggestions from individuals/NGOs in this regard; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for providing regular telephone services?

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

(b) Parameter for grade of service for various telecom circles are fixed in the beginning of the financial year. The performance of various units in this regard is being monitored continuously through monthly M.I.S. reports.

(c) No, Sir. On an average about 1.0 percent telephones per day are not functioning in the country.

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

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Following steps are being taken for further improving the service:—

1. Laying of cables in ducts.
2. Upgradation of out-door plant by replacing the old and worn out equipment.
3. Computerisation of fault repair and commercial services.
4. Replacement of electromechanical exchanges by electron type exchanges in a phased manner.
5. Replacement of long spans of dropwires with underground cables.
6. Appraisal of quality of telephone services by an independent outside agency (M/s. IMRB)
7. Introduction of WLL technology.

**Performance of ITI**

982. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of ITI Limited for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up a high powered panel to look into financial claims by ITI;

(d) if so, the details thereof including composition, terms of reference, period for submission of report etc; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure better performance of the Unit?

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

(b) Financial performance of ITI for the last three years is as follows:

| Year | Turn over (in crores) | Profit after Tax (PAT) (in crores) |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 0782.62 | (-) 283.96 |
| 1996-97 | 1021.21 | (-) 50.90 |
| 1997-98 | 1263.05 | (+) 15.26 |

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Committee was set up on 22.4.98 to examine the claims of ITI in respect of the pending dues against DOT and MTNL on account of unutilised inventories, cancellation of orders and unabsorbed overheads etc. created to meet DOT's requirements.

The composition of the team is as follows:

1. DDG (Prod.), DOT 2. DDG(MM-I), DoT, 3. DDG (PF), DoT.

The Committee was to submit its report within three months.

(e) Following steps have been taken/are being taken to help ITI to improve its performance:—

- Reservation of orders to the extent of 20% to 30% outside the tender.
- 75% advance against reserve quota orders
- Expediting payments against supplies mac by the Company.
- Adhoc Payment of Rs. 25 crores pending finalisation of the claims of ITI during 1997-98.
- Compensating prices of certain equipments supplied to DoT.
- Waiver and reimbursement of LD charges:
- Rs. 85 crores reimbursed during 1997-98 recovered by DOT from 1987-88 to 1995-96

— *Compensation for losses in respect of Srinagar Unit;*

— *Out of Rs. 22.30 crores losses suffered by the company in running Srinagar unit from 1989-90 to 1996-97, Rs. 18.15 crores have been reimbursed and balance Rs. 4.15 crores will be paid from the RE provision of budget for 1998-99.*

— Reimbursement of expenditure against VRS;

— Rs. 39 crores have been paid to the Company during the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 from National Renewal Fund for implementing the VRS.

— Government guarantee for floating bonds by the Company;

— Government has given guarantee for floating bonds for Rs. 150 crores during 1997-98 and Rs. 94 crores during 1998-99.

*[Translation]*

**Recognition to Dentistry Degrees**

*983. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:*

(a) the details of the degrees in dentistry conferred by foreign universities and colleges that have been recognised by the Dental Council of India and/or the Union Government; and

(b) the formalities on the completion of which the graduates holding degrees in dentistry from foreign universities not recognised by the Dental Council of India and/or the Union Government become eligible for teaching and practising in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Details of recognised Dental qualifications, conferred by foreign Universities are given in statement attached.

(b) Graduates holding degrees in Dentistry from foreign Universities not recognised by the Central Government are not eligible to teach and practise in India.

***Statement***

*Dentists*

*(The Schedule)*

PART II

[*See* sub-section (3) of section 10]

*Recognised Dental Qualifications for the purposes of registration when the register is first prepared*

| Authority or Institution | | Recognised dental qualification | Abbreviation for registration |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | The University of Vienna (Austria) | Post-graduate Certificate of Dentistry | Z.D.S. (Vienna) |
| 2. | The Tulane University of Louisiana (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery | D.D.S. (Louisiana) U.S.A. |
| 3. | Dusseldorf (Germany) | Zahnarzt Diploma | |

PART III

[*See* sub-section (4) of section 10]

*Recognised Dental Qualifications granted by Authorities or Institutions outside India only when granted to a citizen of India*

| | Authority or Institution | Recognised dental qualification | Abbreviation for registration |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | The University of Punjab, Lahore | Bachelor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery<br>— if granted before the 15th day of August, 1947. | B.D.S. Lahore,<br>M.D.S. Lahore |
| 2. | The Punjab State Medical Faculty, Lahore | Licentiate in Dental Science<br>—if granted before the 15th day of August, 1947. | L.D.Sc. (S.M.F.) Lahore |
| 3. | The Board of Examiners, College of Dentistry, Karachi | Licentiate in Dental Science<br>—if granted before the 31st day of December, 1943. | L.D.Sc. Karachi. |
| 4. | The Royal College of Surgeons, England (U.K.) | Licentiate in Dental Surgery<br>Fellowship in Dental Surgery<br>Diploma in Orthodontic | L.D.S.R.C.S. Eng.<br>F.D.S.R.C.S. Eng.<br>D. Orth. R.C.S. Eng. |
| 5. | The Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburg (U.K.) | Licentiate in Dental Surgery<br>Fellow in Dental Surgery | L.D.S.R.C.S. Edin.<br>F.D.S.R.C.S. Edin. |
| 6. | Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow/Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow (U.K.) | Licence in Dental Surgery<br>Diploma in Orthopaedics<br>Fellowship in Dental Surgery<br>Higher Dental Diplomate<br>—granted only up to 1965 | L.D.S.R.C.P.S.G.<br>D.D.O.R.C.P.S.G.<br>F.D.S.R.C.P.S.G.<br>H.D.D. |
| 7. | The Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland | Licence in Dental Surgery<br>Fellowship of the Faculty of Dentistry | L.D.S.R.C.S. Irel<br>F.F.D.R.C.S. Irel. |

| 1 | | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8. | The University of Newcastle Upon Tyne/The University of Durham, Newcastle Upon Tyne (U.K.) | Licence in Dental Surgery<br>Bachelor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery<br>Doctor of Dental Science<br>— abolished from 1962. | L.D.S. Dunelm.<br>B.D.S. Newcastle/Dunelm.<br>M.D.S. Newcastle/Dunelm.<br>D.D.S. Newcastle/Dunelm. |
| 9. | The University of London (U.K.) | Bachelor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science (Dentistry) | B.D.S. London<br>M.D.S. London.<br>M.Sc. London |
| 10. | The University of Manchester (U.K.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery<br>Bachelor of Dental Surgery<br>Licentiate in Dental Surgery | D.D.S. (U. Manc.)<br>M.D.S. (U. Manc.)<br>B.D.S. (U. Manc.)<br>L.D.S. (U. Manc.) |
| 11. | The University of Birmingham (U.K.) | Bacnelor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery<br>Licence of Dental Surgery<br>— abolished from 1950. | B.D.S. Birmingham.<br>M.D.S. Birmingham.<br>L.D.S. Birmingham. |
| 12. | The University of Liverpool (U.K.) | Bachelor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery<br>Doctor of Philosophy<br>Licence in Dental Surgery<br>— abolished in 1963. | B.D.S. Liverpool<br>M.D.S. Liverpool.<br>Ph.D. Liverpool.<br>L.D.S. Liverpool |
| 13. | The University of Leads (U.K.) | Bachelor of Dental Surgery<br>Diploma in Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery | B.Ch.D.U. Leeds.<br>L.D.S.U. Leeds.<br>M.Ch.D.U. Leeds. |
| 14. | The University of Sheffield (U.K.) | Bachelor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery<br>Licentiate of Dental Surgery | B.D.S.U. Sheff.<br>M.D.S.U. Sheff<br>L.D.S.U. Sheff. |
| 15. | The University of Bristol (U.K.) | Bachelor of Dental Surgery<br>Diploma in Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery | B.D.S.U. Brist.<br>L.D.S.U. Brist.<br>M.D.S.U. Brist. |
| 16. | The University of Dundee/ University of St. Andrews, Dundee (U.K.) | Bachelor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery<br>Doctor of Dental Sciences<br>Diploma in Public Dentistry<br>Diploma in Dental Surgery<br>— abolished in 1950. | B.D.S.U. Dundee/St. And.<br>M.D.S.U. Dundee/St. And.<br>D.D.Sc.U. Dundee/St. And.<br>D.P.D.U. Dundee/St.<br>L.D.S. U. St. And. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 17. | The Queen's University of Belfast (U.K.) | Bachelor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery<br>Licentiate in Dental Surgery — abolished. | B.D.S. Q.U. Belf.<br>M.D.S. Q.U. Belf.<br>L.D.S. Q.U. Belf. |
| 18. | The National University of Ireland, Dublin | Bachelor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery | B.D.S.N.U. Irel.<br>M.D.S.N.U. Irel. |
| 19. | The Emory University, Atlanta (U.S.A.)<br>Atlanta Southern Dental College, Atlanta, Georgia (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science in Dentistry | D.D.S. Atlanta.<br>M.S.D. Atlanta. |
| 20. | University of Illinois, Chicago (U.S.A) | Degree of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science | D.D.S. Illnois.<br>M.S. Illinois |
| 21. | Lyola University, Chicago (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science in Oral Biology | D.D.S. Lyola<br>M.S. Lyola |
| 22. | North Western University, Chicago Illinois (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science<br>Master of Science in Dentistry — discontinued in 1959 | D.D.S. North-Western<br>M.S. North-Western<br>M.S.D. North-Western |
| 23. | Indiana University, Iodianapolis, Indiana (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science in Dentistry | D.D.S. Indiana<br>M.S.D. Indiana. |
| 24. | College of Dentistry, University of Iowa City, Iowa (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science | D.D.S. Iowa.<br>M.S. Iowa |
| 25. | Harvard University, Boston, Massachusett (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Medicine | D.M.D. Harvard |
| 26. | University of Nebrasaka, Omaha, Nebraska (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science in Dentistry | D.D.S. Nebraska.<br>M.S.D. Nebraska |
| 27 | Columbia University, New York City (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery | D.D.S. Columbia. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 28. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Doctor of Dental Medicine — abolished in 1964 | D.D.S. Penn.<br>D.M.D. Penn. |
| 29. The University of Texas at Houston, Texas Dental College, Houston (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery | D.D.S. Texas. |
| 30. University of Minnesota (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science in Dentistry<br>Doctor of Philosophy | D.D.S. Minnesota.<br>M.S.D. Minnesota<br>Ph.D. Minnesota. |
| 31. Saint Louis University, Missouri (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery | D.D.S. St. Louis |
| 32. University of Michigan (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science<br>Doctor of Philosophy | D.D.S. Michigan<br>M.S. Michigan.<br>Ph.D. Michigan. |
| 33. Tufts University, Tufts College, Boston (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Medicine<br>Master of Science<br>Master of Dental Science<br>Doctor of Philosophy | D.M.D. Tufts.<br>M.S. Tufts,<br>M.D.S. Tufts.<br>Ph.D. Tufts |
| 34. The University of Toronto, Ontario (Canada) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Diploma in Dental Public Health<br>Diploma in Oral Surgery and Anaesthesia<br>Diploma in Paedodontics<br>Diploma in Orthodontics<br>Diploma in Periodontics<br>Bachelor of Science in Dentistry<br>Master of Science in Dentistry<br>Doctor of Philosophy | D.D.S. Toronto.<br>D.D.P.H. Toronto<br>Dip. Oral Surg. Toronto<br>Dip. Paedodont. Toronto<br>Dip. Orthodont. Toronto<br>Dip. Periodont. Toronto<br>B.Sc.D. Tomoto.<br>M.Sc.D. Toronto<br>Ph.D. Toronto |
| 35. McGill University, Montreal (Canada) | Doctor of Dental Surgery | D.D.S. McGill |
| 36. Deustsche Zahnserztliche Universitacts Institute, Bonn (Germany) | Diploma | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 37. | Deutscho Zahnerziliche Universitacts Institute, Munich (Germany) | Diploma | |
| 38. | Ecole Denthire de Paris, Paris | Chirugien Dentiste (Diploma of Dental Surgeon) | D.E.D.P. Paris |
| 39. | Ecole Dentaries Francaise, Paris | Diploma of Dental Surgeon | D.E.D.F. Paris |
| 40. | American Dental College, Karachi | Licentiate in Dental Science — if granted on or before the 31st December, 1936 | L.D.Sc. Karachi. |
| 41. | The Faculty of Medicine University of Vienna (Austria) | The qualification of dental specialist granted by the Faculty of Medicine, University of Vienna, after two years course in dentistry prior to which the M.D. Degree of that University has been obtained. | |
| 42. | University of Berlin (Germany) | Zahnaerzt Diploma Doctor Medicine Dentariae | Dr. Med. Dent. |
| 43. | University of Freiburg (Germany) | Zahnaerzt Diploma | |
| 44. | University of Frankfurt (Germany) | Doctor Medicinae Dentariae | Dr. Med. Dent. |
| 45. | Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, University of Maryland U.S.A. | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science | D.D.S. Maryland.<br>M.S. Maryland. |
| 46. | University of Rostock (Germany) | Doctor Medicinae Dentariae | Dr. Med. Dent. |
| 47. | University of Detroit (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science | D.D.S. Detroit<br>M.S. Detroit |
| 48. | University of Rochester (U.S.A.) | Doctor Philosophy | Ph.D. Rochester. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 49. University of Edinburgh (U.K.) | Bachelor of Dental Surgery | B.D.S. Edin. |
| 50. Punjab Dental College/Dental and Optica' College, Lahore (Now defunct) | Licentiete of Dental Science Diploma<br>Bachelor of Dental Science Diploma<br>— if granted on or before the 14th August, 1947. | L.D. Sc. Lahore<br>B.D.Sc. Lahore |
| 51. Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo (Japan) | Dr. of Medical Science — Operative Dentistry | D.M.Sc. Igakuhakushi |
| 52. University of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand | Master of Dental Surgery | M.D.S. New Zealand |
| 53. Ecole de Chirugle Dentairc et de Stomatologie de Paris (France) | Diploma | DECD&S, Paris. |
| 54. University of Sydney, Sydney (Australia) | Bachelor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Dental Surgery | B.D.S. Sydney.<br>M.D.S. Sydney. |
| 55. Georgetown University, Washington (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>master of Surgery in Pedodontia | D.D.S. Georgetown.<br>M.Sc. (Pedo.) Georgetown. |
| 56. University of Alabama, Alabama (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science in Dentistry | D.D.S. Alabama.<br>M.S.D. Alabama |
| 57. University of Otago, Dunedin C.I. (New Zealand) | Master of Dentral Surgery | M.D.S. Otago. |
| 58. Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science | D.D.S. Marquette.<br>M.S. Marquette |
| 59. New York University, New York, (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science in Dentistry | D.D.S. N.Y.<br>M.S.D. N.Y. |
| 60. University of California, San Francisco (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science | D.D.S. Calif<br>M.S. Calif. |
| 61. University of Missouri at Kanas City, Missouri (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science | D.D.S. Missouri<br>M.S. Missouri. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 62. Washington University, St. Lodis, Missouri (U.S.A.) | Doctor of Dental Surgery<br>Master of Science | D.D.S. Washington.<br>M.S. Washington. |
| 63. University of Malaya, Singapore | Bachelor of Dental Surgery | B.D.S. Malaya. |
| 64. University of Pittsburg, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania (U.S.A.) | Master of Science in Dentistry (Pedodontics) | M.S.D. (Pedo.) Pittsburg. |
| 65. University of Alabama in Birmingham (U.S.A.) | Master of Science Degree in (Pathology (Oral Pathology) | M.S.D. (Ora Path.) Birmingham. |
| 66. Karolinska Institute School of Dentistry, Stockhom, Sweden | Doctor of Odontology | Dr. Odont. Karolinska. |
| 67. Westphalia Wilhems University, Munstor (Germany) | Doctor of Dental Medicine | Dr. Med. Dent., Westphalia Wilhems. |
| 68. University of Queensland, Australia | Master of Dental Science-Oral biology (Oral History and Oral Pathology) | M.D.Sc. (Ora Bio. Oral Histo and Oral Path) Queensland. |
| 69. Boston University, Boston Massachusetts (U.S.A.) | Master of Science—Orthodontics | M.Sc.D. Orth. Boston. |
| 70. Georgetown University, Washington, DC (U.S.A.) | Master of Science (Orthodontics) | M.S. (Ortho.) Georgetown. |
| 71. Moscow Medical Stomatological Institute, Moscow (U.S.S.R.) | Diploma in Stomatology | Dip. Stom. Moscow. |
| 72. Dhaka University, Dhaka (Bangla Desh) | Bachelor of Dental Surgery | B.D.S. Dhaka. |
| 73. University of Ibadan Nigeria | Bechelor of Dental Surgery When guaranted on or after 1990 | BDS Ibadan |
| 74. University of North Caroline Hill, U.S.A. | Master of Public Health | MPH (North) Caroline |
| 75. University of Khartoum, Sudan | Bachelor of Dental Surgery (When Granted on or after 15th Nov. 1982). | BDS Khartoum |

**Kerosene Quota for States**

984. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of kerosene being provided to the States and the criteria being adopted by the Government in this regard;

(b) the reasons for providing lesser quota of kerosene to Madhya Pradesh in comparison to other States;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide kerosene to Madhya Pradesh on the basis of national average;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the quota of kerosene to States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The quantity of kerosene allocated to the States/Union Territories during the year 1998-99 is given in attached Statement. Allocation of Kerosene is made to States/Union Territories on historical basis of past year supplies and consumption and additional allocation available out of increased incremental quantity permitted in a year, based on the principle of giving higher increase to those States having lower per capita availability so as to reduce inter-state disparity over the years.

During 1998-99, allocation of kerosene to Madhya Pradesh has been increased by giving a very high increase of 24.23% over the previous year against the national average of 8.5%.

(e) and (f) An overall increase of 8.58% growth has been provided during 1998-99 over the previous year. Future allocations are to be considered in accordance with above factors and other relevant considerations.

*Statement*

| States/UTs | SKO Allocation during 1998-99 (Fig. in MT) |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| Orissa | 316597 |
| Bihar | 863745 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 661812 |
| Rajasthan | 440060 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1391123 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 675056 |
| Kerala | 300006 |
| Haryana | 170563 |
| Karnataka | 528301 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 60737 |
| Tripura | 32386 |
| Nagaland | 14207 |
| Meghalaya | 20847 |
| Mizoram | 8102 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 10240 |
| J & K | 91433 |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| West Bengal | 808013 |
| Assam | 271235 |
| Manipur | 22670 |
| Tamil Nadu | 716830 |
| Punjab | 342376 |
| Lakshadweep | 919 |
| Pondicherry | 15342 |
| Sikkim | 7885 |
| Maharashtra | 1576298 |
| Gujarat | 831600 |
| D.N. Haveli | 3237 |
| Goa | 28257 |
| A & N Islands | 7155 |
| Delhi | 248325 |
| Diu/Daman | 3064 |
| Chandigarh | 21778 |
| Total | 10490199 |

*[English]*

**Conservation of the National Bird Peacock**

985. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are paying due attention to the protection and conservation of the national bird peacock;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any provision has been made so as to draw a distinction between punishment being imposed upon the hunters of peacock and the hunters of other birds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the action being taken now in this regard;

(f) whether any compensation has been paid by the Government to the people got hurt while protecting peacock from the hunters in Rajasthan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Peacock is listed in Part III of Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The animals and birds included in Schedule I are accorded the highest status of protection in the said Act. According to Section 51 of the said Act if an offence is committed in relation to any wild animal of Schedule I or Part II of Schedule II or meat of any such animal, animal article, trophy or uncured trophy derived from such animal or where offence relate to hunting or altering the boundaries of sanctuary or a National park, such offence, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year but may extend to six years and also with a fine which shall not be less than five thousand rupees.

Provided further that in case of a second or susequent offence of the nature mentioned in this sub-section, the term of imprisonment may extend to six years and shall not be less than two years and the amount of fine shall not be less than ten thousand rupees.

(c) to (e) The punishment provided for the offence committed against the animals included in Schedule I

and Part II of Schedule II is higher than the punishment committed in relation the animals mentioned in other Schedules and therefore no further action is required in this case.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Shri Ali Mohammed was killed by hunters as he was protecting peacocks from the hunters at Ummaid Ganj Farm, Rote on 31.7.98. Shri Mohammed was posthumously awarded state level Amrita Devi Award wherein a payment of Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only) was made to the family of Shri Mohammed on 31.8.98. Besides a sum of Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand only) was also given by World Wide Fund for Nature, India to the family of Shri Mohammed.

*[Translation]*

**Increase in Rates of Power for Agriculture Sector**

986. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the rates of electricity for the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the increase is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The rates of electricity for various categories of consumers including agriculture are fixed by the State Governments/SEBs concerned under section 59 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. However, during the Chief Ministers Conference held in December, 1996, it was *inter-alia* agreed that the tariff for Agriculture Sector will not be less than 50 P/KWH to be brought to 50% of average cost of supply in not more than 3 years.

*[English]*

**Hydro Electric Project in Karnataka**

987. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to direct the water of Mhadai river (Goa) into Malaprabha river and also plan to construct a Hydro Electricity Project at Chapoli in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is likely to create problems for the water treatment plant at Dabhos Volpai in Goa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (e) The detailed project report on Mahadavi Hydroelectric Project (2x10 + 2x12.5 + 2x150 MW) was returned to Karnataka Power Corporation Limited in March 1992 for resolving Inter-State aspects. The scheme involves trans-basin diversion (Eastwards) of 113 Mcum/annum of waters of Mahadavi river (from the main reservoir at Kotni) to adjacent Malaprabha river (Krishna basin) for augmenting the irrigation supplies in the Malaprabha irrigation scheme. Government is not aware about the implications for the water treatment plant at Dabhos Volpai in Goa due to this proposed project. However, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited was *inter-alia* requested to obtain concurrence of Goa as the proposed diversion may affect the downstream flows in Goa.

**Solar Energy System**

988. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to use the solar energy system developed in Australia in the country; and

(b) if so, the areas in which this system is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Several solar technologies and products have been developed by institutions and companies in Australia. Some products such as solar water heaters and power conditioning units for solar photovoltaic systems are being sold in India through normal commercial channels.

In addition, Central Electronics Ltd., a Central public sector undertaking, has set up a pilot production facility based on a laboratory scale process developed by an Australian University for manufacturing high efficiency silicon solar cells. The Ministry cf Non-Conventional Energy Source also receives information from time to time regarding developments in Australia in other applications such as solar thermal power generation, water pumping, etc. There is no specific proposal for use of such systems by Government.

**IOC Storage Tanks**

989. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of storage tanks with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC);

(b) the number of these tanks in perfect condition;

(c) whether repairing of these tanks is not being done on regular basis;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to have the tanks of Indian Oil Corporation in functioning order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation has 2955 storage tanks. Out of these 2869 are in perfect condition.

(c) to (e) indian Oil Corporation carries out regular repairing and maintenance/checking of storage tanks in accordance with standard oil industry practices. The storage tanks which are identified for repair are de-commissioned. After carrying out necessary repairs, maintenance, re-testing and inspection of these tanks, the same are put back in service.

**Increase in Strength of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha and State Assemblies**

990. SHRI E. AHAMED:
SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA:

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

(a) whether the Election Commission and other organisations have submitted their opinion to the Law Commission on the question of increase in the strength of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Assemblies in response to a working paper submitted to them by the Law Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) The Law Commission has informed that it is still in the process of receiving responses from the concerned on its Working Paper on Electoral Reforms. No recommendation has, however, been made by the Law Commission to the Government on the subject. Government would form a view on such a recommendation after the same is finalised and conveyed to it by the Law Commission.

*[Translation]*

**Establishment of Specialised Hospitals**

991. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish cardio-vascular diseases related hospitals equipped with air ambulance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost of setting up such hospitals alongwith the number of persons likely to be benefitted therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Cellular Telephone Companies**

992. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cellular telephone companies engaged in providing cellular telephone facility in the country; and

(b) the licence periods, their areas of operation and the time from which these companies are operating, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The names of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) licensee companies alongwith areas licensed to them and the effective date of licences are given in the Statement attached. The period of Cellular Service Licence is ten years at present.

***Statement***

*Cellular Operators*

| Sl. No. | Name and Address of the Company | Service Area | Effective Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| A. | **Metro Cities** | | |
| 1. | M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd. | Delhi | 29.11.94 |
| 2. | M/s Sterling Cellular Ltd. | Delhi | 30.11.94 |
| 3. | M/s BPL Mobile Communications Ltd. | Bombay | 30.11.94 |
| 4. | M/s Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd. | Bombay | 29.11.94 |
| 5. | M/s Modi Telstra Pvt. Ltd. | Calcutta | 30.11.94 |
| 6. | M/s Usha Martin Telecom Ltd. | Calcutta | 30.11.94 |
| 7. | M/s RPG Cellular Services Ltd. | Madras | 30.11.94 |
| 8. | M/s Skycell Communications Pvt. Ltd. | Madras | 30.11.94 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **B. Territorial Telecom Circles:** | | |
| 9. | M/s Aircell Digilink India Ltd. | Haryana<br>Rajasthan<br>U.P. (East) | 12.12.95<br>12.12.95<br>12.12.95 |
| 10. | M/s FASCEL Ltd. | Gujarat | 19.12.95 |
| 11. | M/s Hexacom India Ltd. | North East<br>Rajasthan | 12.12.95<br>22.4.96 |
| 12. | M/s JT Mobiles Ltd. | A.P.<br>Punjab<br>Karnataka | 12.12.95<br>12.12.95<br>15.2.96 |
| 13. | M/s. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. | U.P. (East)<br>U.P. (West)<br>Orissa<br>Bihar | 12.12.95<br>12.12.95<br>12.12.95<br>23.8.96 |
| 14. | M/s Tata Communications Pvt. Ltd. | A.P. | 19.12.95 |
| 15. | M/s Escotal Mobile Communications Pvt. Ltd. | U.P. (West)<br>Haryana<br>Kerala | 12.12.95<br>12.12.95<br>12.12.95 |
| 16. | M/s BPL US West Cellular Telecom Services Pvt. Ltd. | Tamil Nadu<br>Kerala<br>Maharashtra | 12.12.95<br>12.12.95<br>19.12.95 |
| 17. | M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. | H.P. | 12.12.95 |
| 18. | M/s RPG Cellcom Ltd. | M.P. | 12.12.95 |
| 19. | M/s Birla AT&T Communications Ltd. | Gujarat<br>Maharashtra | 12.12.95<br>12.12.95 |
| 20. | M/s Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. | M.P.<br>West Bengal<br>Orissa<br>Bihar<br>North East<br>Assam<br>H.P. | 12.12.95<br>12.12.95<br>12.12.95<br>12.12.95<br>12.12.95<br>12.12.95<br>12.12.95 |
| 21. | M/s Modi Com. Network Ltd. | Punjab<br>Karnataka | 4.4.96<br>4.4.96 |
| 22. | Srinivas Cellcom Ltd. | Tamilnadu | 24.4.98 |

**Construction of Guest Houses from GAP Funds**

993. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some amount out of total amount allocated for Ganga Action Plan has been diverted for the construction of Guest Houses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount spent thereon;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (e) U.P. Jal Nigam had diverted Rs. 4.265 lakhs for the construction of a guest house at Haridwar from the funds allocated for Ganga Action Plan. The expenditure incurred on the construction of the guest house was not accepted by National River Conservation Directorate of this Ministry. The above diversion was brought to the notice of U.P. Government to examine the matter and take necessary action. The U.P. Jal Nigam has informed that on the orders of U.P. Government, they have transferred the above expenditure to their other project head and that it is not being charged to the Ganga Action Plan.

No amount has been diverted from the Ganga Action Plan for the construction of guest houses in Bihar and West Bengal.

*[English]*

**Compensation for setting up Petroleum Refinery**

994. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agitation is going on by the local people losing their land for the seting up of the proposed petroleum refinery at Paradeep, Orissa with regard to the rate of compensation;

(b) if so, the rate of compensation offered by the Government; and

(c) the measures the Government intend to take to pacify the persons involved in the agitation?

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

(b) and (c) IOC have filed an application with Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (OIIDCO), Bhubaneswar for acquisition of land for the Eastern India Refinery Project at Paradip. The land acquisition is in progress.

**Environment Courts and Tribunals**

995. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has proposed that all environment courts, tribunals and appellate authorities should include a sitting or retired High Court or Supreme Court Judge and Scientist or group of scientists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated January 27,1999 in respect of civil appeal Nos. 368-371 of 1999 arising out of SLP(C) Nos. 10317-10320 of 1998 has observed that "...the Government of India should, in our opinion, bring about appropriate amendments in the environmental statutes, Rules and notification to ensure that in all environmental Courts, Tribunals and appellate authorities there is always a Judge of the rank of a High Court Judge or a Supreme Court Judge, — sitting or retired — and Scientist or group of Scientists of high ranking and experience so as to help a proper and fair adjudication of disputes relating to environment and pollution.." The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 and the National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997 contain commensurate provisions.

*[Translation]*

**Petrol/LPG Agencies in Bihar**

996. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:

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

(a) the number of L.P.G. agencies and petrol pumps separately working in Bihar as on date;

(b) whether there is any scheme to cover all blocks by increasing the number of L.P.G. outlets and Petrol pumps in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of applications pending with the Government for the allotment of LPG agencies in the State;

(e) whether quota of LPG agencies for the reserved categories has been fulfilled; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As on 1.10.1998, 1121 retail outlet dealerships and 213 LPG distributorships were in operation in Bihar.

(b) to (d) Viable locations are included in the Retail outlet and LPG Marketing Plans of the Oil Industry. Reservation for different social objective categories is provided as under:

| | |
|---|---|
| Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) | 25% |
| Physically Handicapped Persons (PH) | 5% |
| Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP) | 8% |
| Defence Personnel (DC) | 8% |
| Freedom Fighters (FF) | 2% |
| Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP) | 2% |
| Open (O) | 50% |

Also, 33% of the dealerships/distributorships in all the categories mentioned above are reserved for Women belonging to that category. Other things being equal Unmarried women above 40 years of age without earning parents and Widows are given priority over others.

In addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, a total of 99 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98, which covers most of the urban areas even small ones, including adjoining rural areas.

The selection of dealers/distributors is made through normal selection procedure of advertisement of the locations and selection by the Dealer Selection Board on merit.

(e) Locations earmarked for a particular category are filled from that category only.

(f) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Wastage of Petrol and Diesel**

997. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK.

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

(a) whether the Government have assessed annual losses due to wastage of petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by Petroleum Conservation Research Association in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to check the wastage of petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Inter-ministerial Working Group on Utilization and Conservation of Energy 1981, however, identified an energy saving potential of 20-30% for the three sectors of Transport, Industry and Agriculture.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Petroleum Conservation Research Association had sponsored a study through Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) in 1996 to quantify fuel losses due to idling of vehicles at traffic intersections of Delhi. The per day loss of petrol and diesel was 3 lakhs and 1 lakh litres, respectively, amounting to annual loss of Rs. 245 crores.

(e) State Governments and Union Territories have been advised to adopt the traffic engineering, educatior and enforcement measures recommended by the study

In addition, the National Oil Companies have sponsored a 10 km. stretch of road for synchronization of signals in the metro cities of New Delhi, Calcutta, Pune Chennai and Bangalore of which the one at Calcutta has been commissioned while the others are in progress.

*[Translation]*

**Power Crisis**

998. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 12-point power improvement scheme is not functioning properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to monitor the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Power Reform Initiative was adopted in the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference on 18th December, 1998. This has been circulated among all States/Union Territories for its implementation. The Government is taking regular steps to ensure that all the actions are implemented in a time bound manner. Detailed reviews are undertaken of projects with each State to ensure that the targets are met.

**Expansion of Telephone Exchanges in Bihar**

999. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of the telephone exchanges at present functioning in Bihar, exchange-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand the present capacity of the existing telephone exchanges in the State;

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

(d) the total expanditure involved therein; and

(e) the time by which the expansion work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The capacity of exchanges as on 31.12.98 is available in attached Statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details are available in attached Statement-II.

(d) Allocation of fund under capital head for 1998-99 is given below (in crores of Rupees):—

| Cash | Store | Total |
|---|---|---|
| 308.7 | 30 | 338.7 |

(e) Expansion work is likely to be completed by March, 99 subject to availability of equipment, store and accommodation.

***Statement-I***

*The capacity of the Telephone Exchanges as on 31-12-1998 functioning in Bihar Exchange-wise*

| Sl.No. | Name of Exchange | Capacity |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Arrah | 4680 |
| 2. | Akhgaon | 184 |
| 3. | Gajrajgang | 184 |
| 4. | Gidha | 88 |
| 5. | Jamalpur | 88 |
| 6. | Koilwar | 336 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 7. | Narayanpur | 152 |
| 8. | Sandesh | 184 |
| 9. | Udwant Nagar | 88 |
| 10. | Buxur | 2400 |
| 11. | Baruna | 88 |
| 12. | Chausa | 336 |
| 13. | Itarhi | 88 |
| 14. | Manjharia | 88 |
| 15. | Rajpur | 88 |
| 16. | Pratapsagar | 152 |
| 17. | Dumraon | 592 |
| 18. | Brahmpur | 336 |
| 19. | Dumri | 88 |
| 20. | Koransarai | 184 |
| 21. | Nawanagar | 88 |
| 22. | Simri | 184 |
| 23. | Piro | 207 |
| 24. | Behea | 304 |
| 25. | Garhani | 184 |
| 26. | Hasanbazar | 152 |
| 27. | Jagdishpur | 368 |
| 28. | Khuthabazar | 152 |
| 29. | Sahpur | 368 |
| 30. | Bhagalpur | 1300 |
| 31. | Akbarnagar | 152 |
| 32. | Sultanganj | 1000 |
| 33. | Dariyapur | 88 |
| 34. | Jamsi | 152 |
| 35. | Khirlbandh | 152 |
| 36. | Puraini | 336 |
| 37. | Pithna | 152 |
| 38. | Sabour | 240 |
| 39. | Sajour | 56 |
| 40. | Sahjadpur | 240 |
| 41. | Shahkund | 56 |
| 42. | Kahalgaon | 1400 |
| 43. | Pirpainti | 240 |
| 44. | Ghogha | 152 |
| 45. | Ishlpur | 152 |
| 46. | Dighi | 152 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 47. | Mathurapur | 152 |
| 48. | Sanokhar | 152 |
| 49. | Sonhaula | 152 |
| 50. | Banka | 1000 |
| 51. | Baunsi | 336 |
| 52. | Barahat | 168 |
| 53. | Bijayahat | 88 |
| 54. | Amarpur | 696 |
| 55. | Dhoraiya | 152 |
| 56. | Kumarpur | 88 |
| 57. | Rajpur | 168 |
| 58. | Sadpur | 184 |
| 59. | Shambhuganj | 168 |
| 60. | Katoria | 168 |
| 61. | Chapra | 4000 |
| 62. | Veldl | 86 |
| 63. | Garkha | 264 |
| 64. | Parsa | 160 |
| 65. | Revelganj | 184 |
| 66. | Dariganj | 152 |
| 67. | Ekma | 336 |
| 68. | Baniapur | 264 |
| 69. | Daudpur | 152 |
| 70. | Jalalpur | 184 |
| 71. | Manjhi | 184 |
| 72. | Nagra | 264 |
| 73. | Marhaurah | 184 |
| 74. | Amnar | 184 |
| 75. | Mashrakh | 160 |
| 76. | Taraiya | 184 |
| 77. | Issapur | 88 |
| 78. | Sonepur | 488 |
| 79. | Digwara | 336 |
| 80. | Nayagaon | 152 |
| 81. | Siwan | 4000 |
| 82. | Barharia | 184 |
| 83. | Gopalpur | 232 |
| 84. | Hassanpara | 232 |
| 85. | Pachrukhi | 184 |
| 86. | Kaghumathpur | 88 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 87. | Tarwara | 88 |
| 88. | Ziradai | 152 |
| 89. | Maharajganj | 1000 |
| 90. | Basatpur | 264 |
| 91. | Daraunda | 28 |
| 92. | Goreyanathi | 28 |
| 93. | Maircia | 368 |
| 94. | Ander | 88 |
| 95. | Gopalganj | 1600 |
| 96. | Majhagarh | 88 |
| 97. | N. Jalalpur | 88 |
| 98. | S. Sasamussa | 160 |
| 99. | Thawe | 232 |
| 100. | Hathua | 1000 |
| 101. | B. Gaon | 88 |
| 102. | B. Bazar | 152 |
| 103. | Kateya | 152 |
| 104. | Baraipatti | 88 |
| 105. | Bhare | 160 |
| 106. | Sidhwalia | 88 |
| 107. | Barauli | 88 |
| 108. | Dighwaduhauli | 88 |
| 109. | Daltanganj | 3280 |
| 110. | Lesliganj | 152 |
| 111. | Satharwa | 152 |
| 112. | Panki | 484 |
| 113. | Balumath | 152 |
| 114. | Barwadih | 152 |
| 115. | Betla | 88 |
| 116. | Chhipadohar | 88 |
| 117. | Bhawanathpur | 272 |
| 118. | Mathiaon | 83 |
| 119. | Rehla | 336 |
| 120. | Patan | 88 |
| 121. | Garhwa | 568 |
| 122. | Rankaraj | 152 |
| 123. | Japla | 240 |
| 124. | Hariharganj | 336 |
| 125. | Chhaterpur | 152 |
| 126. | Haidernagar | 184 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 127. | Latehar | 336 |
| 128. | Chandwa | 336 |
| 129. | Nagarutari | 336 |
| 130. | Ramana | 152 |
| 131. | Meral | 88 |
| 132. | Babhangama | 88 |
| 133. | Bachwara | 184 |
| 134. | Bakhari Bazar | 336 |
| 135. | Barauni | 1600 |
| 136. | Bhagwanpur | 152 |
| 137. | Bihat | 808 |
| 138. | Manjhaul | 184 |
| 139. | Mansoorachak | 152 |
| 140. | Rani | 88 |
| 141. | Ch. Barianpur | 152 |
| 142. | Garhpura | 152 |
| 143. | Begusarai | 4000 |
| 144. | Birpur | 56 |
| 145. | Bishanpur | 184 |
| 146. | Lakhinia | 368 |
| 147. | Mathihani | 88 |
| 148. | Rajaura | 184 |
| 149. | Ramdiri | 88 |
| 150. | Sahebpurkamal | 184 |
| 151. | Arer | 56 |
| 152. | Basitha | 88 |
| 153. | Benipatti | 384 |
| 154. | Bisri | 88 |
| 155. | Saharghat | 56 |
| 156. | Murliachak | 96 |
| 157. | Benipur | 336 |
| 158. | Birauli | 152 |
| 159. | K. Asthan | 56 |
| 160. | Alinagar | 184 |
| 161. | Dalsingsarai | 808 |
| 162. | Mohiuddinnagar | 88 |
| 163. | Patory | 240 |
| 164. | S. Rajan | 96 |
| 165. | Tajpur | 240 |
| 166. | Ujiarpur | 152 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 167. | V. Nagar | 88 |
| 168. | Andama | 56 |
| 169. | Baghant | 96 |
| 170. | Baheri | 88 |
| 171. | Bhalpatti | 152 |
| 172. | Darbhang | 7000 |
| 173. | Hathouri | 56 |
| 174. | Kansi | 88 |
| 175. | Kushothar | 56 |
| 176. | Lahta | 88 |
| 177. | Nehra | 184 |
| 178. | Paghari | 56 |
| 179. | Purkhopatti | 96 |
| 180. | Sakatpur | 88 |
| 181. | Sonki | 56 |
| 182. | Surha | 152 |
| 183. | Tarsarai | 152 |
| 184. | Ujan | 88 |
| 185. | Beldpur | 112 |
| 186. | Khajraitha | 88 |
| 187. | Maheshkhut | 384 |
| 188. | Maraiya | 56 |
| 189. | Muskipur | 264 |
| 190. | Parbatta | 56 |
| 191. | Pasraha | 184 |
| 192. | Satishnagar | 56 |
| 193. | Basapatti | 184 |
| 194. | Jainagar | 568 |
| 195. | Kothia | 88 |
| 196. | Andhrathrhi | 88 |
| 197. | Harri | 56 |
| 198. | Jhanjharpur | 1000 |
| 199. | Madhepur | 152 |
| 200. | Sarishopahi | 152 |
| 201. | Simra | 88 |
| 202. | Tamuria | 88 |
| 203. | Tulapatganj | 152 |
| 204. | Alauli | 56 |
| 205. | Belasimri | 88 |
| 206. | Chautham | 56 |

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|---|---|---|
| 207. | Jalkaura | 184 |
| 208. | Khagaria | 1036 |
| 209. | Mansi | 184 |
| 210. | Marar | 192 |
| 211. | Sonbarsaghat | 56 |
| 212. | Babubarhi | 54 |
| 213. | Gandhbari | 88 |
| 214. | Kaluahi | 184 |
| 215. | Khajauli | 184 |
| 216. | Koilakh | 184 |
| 217. | Madhubani | 2130 |
| 218. | Rahika | 336 |
| 219. | Rajnagar | 184 |
| 220. | Rampatti | 152 |
| 221. | Sakeri | 184 |
| 222. | Ghamghaur | 152 |
| 223. | Ekhattha | 88 |
| 224. | Ghoghardiha | 152 |
| 225. | Khutauna | 88 |
| 226. | Laukaha | 88 |
| 227. | Nirmali | 144 |
| 228. | Phulparas | 152 |
| 229. | Bhirha | 152 |
| 230. | Hasanpur | 152 |
| 231. | Kapan | 336 |
| 232. | Karian | 152 |
| 233. | Rosera | 1424 |
| 234. | Singhia | 152 |
| 235. | Singhiaghat | 88 |
| 236. | Chatauna | 88 |
| 237. | Kalyanpur | 56 |
| 238. | Kishanpur | 144 |
| 239. | Musrigharari | 152 |
| 240. | Pusa | 368 |
| 241. | Samastipur | 4384 |
| 242. | Waini | 184 |
| 243. | Bharwara | 152 |
| 244. | K. Chakauti | 184 |
| 245. | Hayaghat | 152 |
| 246. | Jathmalpur | 152 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 247. | Jalley | 152 |
| 248. | Kemtaul | 184 |
| 249. | Karjapatti | 96 |
| 250. | Keoti | 88 |
| 251. | Ladari | 56 |
| 252. | Maghaulia | 184 |
| 253. | Panchony | 96 |
| 254. | Pindaruchh | 152 |
| 255. | Raiyam | 56 |
| 256. | Saraiya | 56 |
| 257. | Simari | 183 |
| 258. | Tektar | 152 |
| 259. | Dhanbad (S) | 6000 |
| 260. | Dhanbad (N) | 7000 |
| 261. | Jharia | 4000 |
| 262. | Loyadad | 1000 |
| 263. | Baliapur | 88 |
| 264. | Sindri | 1584 |
| 265. | Baghmare | 184 |
| 266. | CTPS | 368 |
| 267. | Sinidih | 384 |
| 268. | Katras | 1400 |
| 269. | Topchanchi | 184 |
| 270. | Gomoh | 733 |
| 271. | Rajganj | 184 |
| 272. | Govindpur | 1000 |
| 273. | Kandra | 176 |
| 274. | Chirkunda | 856 |
| 275. | Nirsa | 384 |
| 276. | Tundi | 184 |
| 277. | Mugma | 192 |
| 278. | Maithon | 368 |
| 279. | Gomia | 1000 |
| 280. | Lalpania | 88 |
| 281. | Tenughat | 88 |
| 282. | BTPS | 184 |
| 283. | Bokaro | 8000 |
| 284. | Chas | 3000 |
| 285. | Chandankiyari | 88 |
| 286. | Balidih | 1000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 287. | Bermo | 1400 |
| 288. | Kathera | 272 |
| 289. | Turkadih | 83 |
| 290. | Petarhar | 184 |
| 291. | Bahadurpur | 88 |
| 292. | Namadih | 88 |
| 293. | Dumka | 2552 |
| 294. | Raneshwar | 88 |
| 295. | Singharsi | 152 |
| 296. | Deoghar | 3800 |
| 297. | Jasidih | 336 |
| 298. | Mohanpur | 152 |
| 299. | Sarawan | 152 |
| 300. | Godda | 1000 |
| 301. | Poraiyahat | 152 |
| 302. | Jamtara | 272 |
| 303. | Karmatar | 152 |
| 304. | Mihijam | 240 |
| 305. | Narayanpur | 56 |
| 306. | Jarmundi | 152 |
| 307. | Hansdiha | 152 |
| 308. | Naunihat | 56 |
| 309. | Saraihat | 56 |
| 310. | Kathikund | 56 |
| 311. | Kahalpahari | 56 |
| 312. | Madhupur | 1024 |
| 313. | Chitra | 152 |
| 314. | Palajori | 152 |
| 315. | Sarath | 152 |
| 316. | Mahagama | 304 |
| 317. | Bhagaiya | 96 |
| 318. | Gangti | 56 |
| 319. | Korka | 56 |
| 320. | Lalmatiya | 56 |
| 321. | Naraini | 56 |
| 322. | Parsa (Godda) | 56 |
| 323. | Pathargama | 184 |
| 324. | Maheshpur Raj | 152 |
| 325. | Nala | 152 |
| 326. | Pakur | 768 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 327. | Hiranpur | 152 |
| 328. | Rajmahal | 184 |
| 329. | Bakudiah | 86 |
| 330. | Barharha | 304 |
| 331. | Tal-jhari | 56 |
| 332. | Tinpahar | 88 |
| 333. | Udhwa | 56 |
| 334. | Sahebganj | 1368 |
| 335. | Barhait | 152 |
| 336. | Mirzachowki | 152 |
| 337. | Arwal | 192 |
| 338. | Shankerpur Imamganj | 88 |
| 339. | Aurangabad | 1552 |
| 340. | Bharthauli | 152 |
| 341. | Jambhore | 152 |
| 342. | Barun | 152 |
| 343. | Poiwan | 88 |
| 344. | Simrabazar | 88 |
| 345. | Amba | 88 |
| 346. | Deo | 88 |
| 347. | Sheoganj | 88 |
| 348. | Rajoi | 88 |
| 349. | Pawai | 88 |
| 350. | Daudnagar | 384 |
| 351. | Goh | 160 |
| 352. | Obra | 240 |
| 353. | Hisapura | 240 |
| 354. | Gaya | 13096 |
| 355. | Bodhgaya | 1000 |
| 356. | Manpur | 1000 |
| 357. | Chakand | 152 |
| 358. | Cherki | 152 |
| 359. | Guraru | 88 |
| 360. | Belaganj | 384 |
| 361. | Tekari | 184 |
| 362. | Bithosharif | 88 |
| 363. | Paraiya | 88 |
| 364. | Kako | 184 |
| 365. | Jehanabad | 1400 |
| 366. | Tehta | 88 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 367. | Kurtha | 88 |
| 368. | Makhdumpur | 152 |
| 369. | Ghosi | 88 |
| 370. | Nabinagar | 184 |
| 371. | Amba | 88 |
| 372. | Nawadan | 2400 |
| 373. | Hasua | 336 |
| 374. | Gobindpur | 152 |
| 375. | Warsaliganj | 336 |
| 376. | Orahanpur | 88 |
| 377. | Pakri Warama | 152 |
| 378. | Kowakl | 152 |
| 379. | Rafiganj | 280 |
| 380. | Madanpur | 184 |
| 381. | Rajauli | 184 |
| 382. | Akbarpur | 152 |
| 383. | Raniganj | 88 |
| 384. | Sherghati | 384 |
| 385. | Dobhi | 152 |
| 386. | Bhadeya | 184 |
| 387. | Bankeyabazar | 88 |
| 388. | Guraru | 88 |
| 389. | Khijarsarai | 152 |
| 390. | Wazirganj | 384 |
| 391. | Fatehpur | 152 |
| 392. | Hazaribag | 4336 |
| 393. | Bishungarh | 152 |
| 394. | Charhi | 344 |
| 395. | Daru | 88 |
| 396. | Demotand | 88 |
| 397. | Giddi | 192 |
| 398. | Jhumra | 88 |
| 399. | Meru | 100 |
| 400. | Bagodar | 240 |
| 401. | Atka | 88 |
| 402. | Aura | 88 |
| 403. | Dwar Prahri | 88 |
| 404. | Sariya | 336 |
| 405. | Barhee | 424 |
| 406. | Barkatha | 88 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 407. | Barkagaon | 152 |
| 408. | Badam | 88 |
| 409. | Keredari | 56 |
| 410. | Chatra | 680 |
| 411. | Chauparan | 240 |
| 412. | Chandwara | 88 |
| 413. | Garidhi | 2800 |
| 414. | Bengabad | 88 |
| 415. | Chapuadhi | 88 |
| 416. | Gandey | 88 |
| 417. | Maresh | 88 |
| 418. | Ichak | 262 |
| 419. | Isri Bazar | 360 |
| 420. | J. Telaiay | 2000 |
| 421. | Domchanch | 168 |
| 422. | Godakhar | 88 |
| 423. | Jainagar | 88 |
| 424. | Koderma | 336 |
| 425. | Makrroro | 88 |
| 426. | Satgama | 88 |
| 427. | Telaiyadam | 56 |
| 428. | Mandu | 88 |
| 429. | Bhol | 88 |
| 430. | Bharech Nagar | 184 |
| 431. | Chatotond | 336 |
| 432. | Kujo | 240 |
| 433. | Pat-Ratu | 264 |
| 434. | Rajdhanwar | 336 |
| 435. | Arkango | 88 |
| 436. | Mirjaganj | 272 |
| 437. | Ramghar | 4000 |
| 438. | Argada | 256 |
| 439. | Barkakana | 192 |
| 440. | Bhurkunda | 352 |
| 441. | Gola | 96 |
| 442. | Rajrappa | 352 |
| 443. | Simaria | 152 |
| 444. | Tandwa | 56 |
| 445. | Tisri | 88 |
| 446. | Deori | 88 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 447. | | |
| 448. | | |
| 449. | Bahragera | 336 |
| 450. | Chakulia | 336 |
| 451. | Chaibasa | 1584 |
| 452 | Chaliama | 88 |
| 453. | Chakratharpur | 768 |
| 454. | Karaikela | 88 |
| 455. | Kera | 88 |
| 456. | Sonia | 88 |
| 457. | Bsil (Mumd) | 184 |
| 458. | Chandil | 358 |
| 459. | Chowka | 152 |
| 460. | Dalbhumgarh | 240 |
| 461. | Ghatshila | 1024 |
| 462. | Mahalia | 88 |
| 463. | Surda | 88 |
| 464. | Mosabari | 368 |
| 465. | Haldipokar | 240 |
| 466. | Jadugda | 784 |
| 467. | Jamshedpur | 28000 |
| 468. | Mango | 3000 |
| 469. | Natin | 88 |
| 470. | Naswapahar | 336 |
| 471. | Patamda | 88 |
| 472. | parsudih | 2000 |
| 473. | Telco | 6000 |
| 474. | Jhinkpani | 320 |
| 475. | Jagannatihpur | 160 |
| 476. | Hangmiaia | 152 |
| 477. | Bara Amda | 88 |
| 478. | Kharsawagarh | 88 |
| 479. | Manoharpur | 152 |
| 480. | Gua | 240 |
| 481. | Para Jamda | 240 |
| 482. | Noamundi | 384 |
| 483. | Meghahatubura | 320 |
| 484. | Adityapur | 5000 |
| 485. | Kandra | 152 |
| 486. | Saraikela | 240 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 487. | Sini | 88 |
| 488. | Araria | 1104 |
| 489. | Jekihat | 152 |
| 490. | Balurkaliaganj | 152 |
| 491. | Madanpur | 152 |
| 492. | Banmankhi | 304 |
| 493. | Champanagar | 152 |
| 494. | Jankinagar | 152 |
| 495. | Kajha | 88 |
| 496. | Barsoi | 240 |
| 497. | Azamnagar | 152 |
| 498. | Salmari | 152 |
| 499. | Sonali | 152 |
| 500. | Bhawanipur | 184 |
| 501. | Dhamdaha | 152 |
| 502. | Meerganj | 152 |
| 503. | Forbesgaj | 1584 |
| 504. | Jogbani | 368 |
| 505. | Narapatganj | 88 |
| 506. | Parwaha | 152 |
| 507. | Katihar | 5000 |
| 508. | Lava | 152 |
| 509. | Manihari | 304 |
| 510. | Bahadurganj | 296 |
| 511. | Belwa | 152 |
| 512. | Bishanpurhat | 184 |
| 513. | Kishanganj | 1552 |
| 514. | Tulsia | 152 |
| 515. | Falka | 152 |
| 516. | Gurubazar | 336 |
| 517. | Korha | 336 |
| 518. | Kurusela | 152 |
| 519. | Semapur | 152 |
| 520. | Bharmarpur | 88 |
| 521. | Gauripur | 88 |
| 522. | Jhandapur | 152 |
| 523. | Kharikbazar | 152 |
| 524. | Narayanpur | 152 |
| 525. | Naugachhia | 568 |
| 526. | Saidpur | 152 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 527. | Baisi | 152 |
| 528. | Barsoni | 152 |
| 529. | Gulabbagh | 1184 |
| 530. | Harda | 152 |
| 531. | Jalalgarh | 152 |
| 532. | Kasba | 336 |
| 533. | Purnea | 5500 |
| 534. | Rauta | 304 |
| 535. | Raniganj | 152 |
| 536. | Pawakhali | 152 |
| 537. | Pothia | 88 |
| 538. | Thakurganj | 288 |
| 539. | Areraj | 368 |
| 540. | Harsidhi | 88 |
| 541. | Sataha | 80 |
| 542. | Malahi | 80 |
| 543. | Bagaha | 1000 |
| 544. | Bhairaganj | 88 |
| 545. | Englishia | 80 |
| 546. | Lauriya | 184 |
| 547. | Barachakia | 1024 |
| 548. | Damodarpur | 184 |
| 549. | Kalyanpur | 184 |
| 550. | Kesariya | 184 |
| 551. | Kotwa | 184 |
| 552. | Mehai | 200 |
| 553. | Piprakothi | 184 |
| 554. | Puran-Chhapra | 80 |
| 555. | Bettiah | 3224 |
| 556. | Chanpatia | 184 |
| 557. | Jogapatti | 152 |
| 558. | Majhaulia | 88 |
| 559. | Dhaka | 184 |
| 560. | Chiraiya | 184 |
| 561. | Ghorasahan | 368 |
| 562. | Sekhauna | 152 |
| 563. | Motihari | 4000 |
| 564. | Semra | 88 |
| 565. | Sugauli | 368 |
| 566. | Turkaulia | 280 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 567. | Narkatiaganj | 1000 |
| 568. | Mainatad | 96 |
| 569. | Sathi | 88 |
| 570. | Sikta | 208 |
| 571. | Patahi | 80 |
| 572. | Pakaridayul | 200 |
| 573. | G. Madhuban | 184 |
| 574. | Ramnagar | 1000 |
| 575. | Sabeya | 184 |
| 576. | Valmikinagar | 88 |
| 577. | Raxaul | 2400 |
| 578. | Bhelahi | 152 |
| 579. | Champapur | 152 |
| 580. | Chauradano | 208 |
| 581. | Narkakabazar | 152 |
| 582. | Ramgarhwa | 360 |
| 583. | Adapur | 360 |
| 584. | Munger | 4000 |
| 585. | Bariapur | 304 |
| 586. | Jamalpur | 768 |
| 587. | Patam | 168 |
| 588. | Hemjapur | 88 |
| 589. | Chakai | 56 |
| 590. | H. Kharagpur | 336 |
| 591. | Asarganj | 336 |
| 592. | Sangrampur | 152 |
| 593. | Tarapur | 304 |
| 594. | Majhgain | 88 |
| 595. | Janui | 1000 |
| 596. | Aliganj | 88 |
| 597. | Khaira | 56 |
| 598. | Sikandra | 152 |
| 599. | Jhajha | 344 |
| 600. | Simultalla | 56 |
| 601. | Sono | 56 |
| 602. | Lakhisarai | 1608 |
| 603. | Amarpur (M.C.) | 152 |
| 604. | Barhatiya | 336 |
| 605. | Ghosalth | 152 |
| 606. | Kajara | 152 |

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|---|---|---|
| 607. | Ramgarh | 152 |
| 608. | Surajagarha | 336 |
| 609. | Mallehpur | 160 |
| 610. | Gidhpur | 88 |
| 611. | Laxmipur | 56 |
| 612. | Sheikhpura | 1000 |
| 613. | Barbigha | 336 |
| 614. | Hathiyama | 88 |
| 615. | Mehus | 56 |
| 616. | Chewara | 152 |
| 617. | Muzaffarpur | 2500 |
| 618. | Aurai | 152 |
| 619. | Bochaha | 152 |
| 620. | Dholi | 240 |
| 621. | Jamalbad | 152 |
| 622. | Kerma | 88 |
| 623. | Kurhani | 160 |
| 624. | Minapur | 88 |
| 625. | M.I.T. (MZ) | 3000 |
| 626. | Narma | 152 |
| 627. | Pachdahi | 56 |
| 628. | Ratwara | 3000 |
| 629. | Sarfuddinpur | 152 |
| 630. | Turki | 152 |
| 631. | Motipur | 336 |
| 632. | Barkagaon | 56 |
| 633. | Deoria | 88 |
| 634. | Jaitpur | 88 |
| 635. | Kanti | 360 |
| 636. | Karnaul | 232 |
| 637. | Sariya | 88 |
| 638. | Hajipur | 3000 |
| 639. | Beilsar | 56 |
| 640. | Bhagwanpur | 240 |
| 641. | Ghataro | 152 |
| 642. | Lalganj | 240 |
| 643. | Phulhara | 152 |
| 644. | Sarai | 312 |
| 645. | Vaishali | 152 |
| 646. | Prataptand | 88 |

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| 647. | Bidupur | 368 |
| 648. | Chaksikandar | 152 |
| 649. | Desari | 240 |
| 650. | Kanchanpur | 152 |
| 651. | Dharampur | 152 |
| 652. | Mahnar | 240 |
| 653. | Sahdei Buzurg | 88 |
| 654. | Barnalakhanesen | 80 |
| 655. | Chaprakhurd | 56 |
| 656. | Chainpur | 88 |
| 657. | Goraul | 152 |
| 658. | Harpurbelwa | 56 |
| 659. | Jandaha | 152 |
| 660. | Mahua | 456 |
| 661. | Patepur | 88 |
| 662. | Bairgania | 336 |
| 663. | Belsand | 152 |
| 664. | Bhutahi | 56 |
| 665. | Deheng | 88 |
| 666. | Majaulia | 56 |
| 667. | Majorganj | 56 |
| 668. | Parihar | 152 |
| 669. | Parsauni | 152 |
| 670. | Riga | 192 |
| 671. | Runisaidpur | 152 |
| 672. | Sitamarhi | 2500 |
| 673. | Sonbarsa | 88 |
| 674. | Sheohar | 344 |
| 675. | Bajpatti | 88 |
| 676. | Janakpur Road (Pupri) | 520 |
| 677. | Raipur | 88 |
| 678. | Sursand | 152 |
| 679. | Barh | 1000 |
| 680. | Athmalgola | 184 |
| 681. | Bakhtiarpur | 424 |
| 682. | Salimpur | 152 |
| 683. | Bhiarsharif | 3512 |
| 684. | Asthawan | 184 |
| 685. | Bind | 88 |
| 686. | Deepanagar | 88 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 687. | Dhamauli | 88 |
| 688. | Durawan | 152 |
| 689. | Gunama | 88 |
| 690. | Harnaut | 152 |
| 691. | Noorsarai | 272 |
| 692. | Pawapuri | 152 |
| *693.* | *Rahui* | *152* |
| *694.* | *Sarmera* | *152* |
| 695. | Danapur | 3000 |
| 696. | Bihta | 432 |
| 697. | Dayalchak | 152 |
| 698. | Maner | 336 |
| 699. | Painal | 152 |
| 700. | Bikram | 336 |
| 701. | Dulhinbazar | 152 |
| 702. | Naubatpur | 368 |
| 703. | Paliganj | 192 |
| 704. | Hilsa | 424 |
| 705. | Chandi | 240 |
| 706. | Ekangarsari | 336 |
| 707. | Ganupar | 184 |
| 708. | Islampur | 184 |
| 709. | Jogipur | 88 |
| 710. | Karaipessurai | 88 |
| 711. | Nagernasua | 152 |
| 712. | Parwalpur | 240 |
| 713. | Salalpur | 88 |
| *714.* | *Telhara* | *88* |
| 715. | Nokama | 1008 |
| 716. | Guwasashakpur | 88 |
| 717. | Hathidah | 296 |
| 718. | Pandarak | 152 |
| 719. | Patna | 21376 |
| 720. | Anisabad | 4000 |
| 721. | Daniawan | 184 |
| 722. | Dhanurwa | 152 |
| 723. | Fatuha | 1000 |
| 724. | Kankerbagh | 11000 |
| 725. | Khuusrupur | 184 |
| 726. | Masaurhi | 1000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 727. | Patelnagar | 9000 |
| 728. | Patliputra | 10000 |
| 729. | Patnacity | 8000 |
| 730. | Punpun | 336 |
| 731. | Rajendra Nagar | 22000 |
| 732. | Simra | 240 |
| 733. | Walmi | 152 |
| *734.* | *Sampatchak* | *152* |
| 735. | Rajgir | 336 |
| 736. | Ben | 56 |
| 737. | Giriyak | 152 |
| 738. | Katarisarai | 152 |
| 739. | Naland | 184 |
| 740. | Silao | 184 |
| 741. | Basia | 88 |
| 742. | Bundu | 336 |
| 743. | Tamar | 152 |
| 744. | Ghagra | 152 |
| 745. | Netarhat | 88 |
| 746. | Bishanpur | 152 |
| 747. | Gumla | 1152 |
| 748. | Sisai | 88 |
| 749. | Bhano | 88 |
| 750. | Itki | 152 |
| 751. | Bero | 152 |
| 752. | Khunti | 576 |
| 753. | Kolebira | 88 |
| *754.* | *Lachragarh* | *88* |
| 755. | Lohardaga | 1152 |
| 756. | Kura | 152 |
| 757. | Serha | 56 |
| 758. | Bhandra | 88 |
| 759. | Mandar | 152 |
| 760. | Mackusking | 152 |
| 761. | Khelari | 240 |
| 762. | Piparwar | 152 |
| 763. | Tharurgarm | 88 |
| 764. | Chanhg | 152 |
| 765. | Dakra | 168 |
| 766. | Muri | 240 |

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| 767. | Sikidari | 184 |
| 768. | Palkut | 88 |
| 769. | Ranchi | 14000 |
| 770. | Siemens | 10000 |
| 771. | Hindo | 8000 |
| 772. | Dhurwa | 5000 |
| 773. | Saharsa | 3000 |
| 774. | Baijnathpur | 152 |
| 775. | Baluaha | 88 |
| 776. | Baluahat | 304 |
| 777. | Bangaon | 304 |
| 778. | Bhaptia | 152 |
| 779. | Dhabouli | 152 |
| 780. | Golma | 88 |
| 781. | Kapasia | 152 |
| 782. | M. Rajhanspur | 80 |
| 783. | Murjpur | 88 |
| 784. | Nawhatta | 152 |
| 785. | Panchgachhia | 304 |
| 786. | Rahuatulsiya | 152 |
| 787. | Sour Bazar | 184 |
| 788. | J. Raghopur | 384 |
| 789. | Birpur | 1000 |
| 790. | Karjan Bazar | 152 |
| 791. | Pratapganj | 152 |
| 792. | Madepura | 1552 |
| 793. | Gamaharia | 152 |
| 794. | Murliganj | 344 |
| 795. | S. Asthan | 304 |
| 796. | S. Bakhtiyarpur | 384 |
| 797. | Biratpur | 80 |
| 798. | Haripur | 152 |
| 799. | Mangaur | 88 |
| 800. | Salkhua | 88 |
| 801. | Sardhia | 88 |
| 802. | Sonbarsaraj | 336 |
| 803. | Supaul | 1000 |
| 804. | Bela Tehra | 88 |
| 805. | Binbabhangan | 152 |
| 806. | Kishanpur | 152 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 807. | Pipra | 152 |
| 808. | Saraigarh | 152 |
| 809. | Sukhpur | 192 |
| 810. | Pandra | 4000 |
| 811. | Mesra | 1000 |
| 812. | Tatisiwal | 1000 |
| 813. | Gramanjhi | 184 |
| 814. | Kanke | 1000 |
| 815. | Pithona | 88 |
| 816. | Nagari | 152 |
| 817. | Namkum | 500 |
| 818. | Bariatee | 3000 |
| 819. | Simdega | 576 |
| 820. | Torpa | 336 |
| 821. | Murhu | 152 |
| 822. | Banjari | 456 |
| 823. | Bikramganj | 552 |
| 824. | Dinara | 272 |
| 825. | Karakat | 88 |
| 826. | Nisriganj | 240 |
| 827. | Natwar | 184 |
| 828. | Rajpur | 152 |
| 829. | Sanuihauli | 184 |
| 830. | Sasaram | 3800 |
| 831. | Akorhigola | 272 |
| 832. | Ayerkotha | 184 |
| 833. | Dalmia Nagar | 2400 |
| 834. | Jamuhar | 184 |
| 835. | Kargahar | 272 |
| 836. | Kochas | 272 |
| 837. | Nokha | 272 |
| 838. | Raipurchora | 184 |
| 839. | Shivsagar | 184 |
| 840. | Tilovthu | 184 |
| 841. | Chenari | 184 |
| 842. | Bhabhua | 1144 |
| 843. | Chainpur | 352 |
| 844. | Rampur | 176 |
| 845. | Mohnia | 1000 |
| 846. | Durgawati | 184 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 847. | Kudra | 632 |
| 848. | Pusauli | 184 |
| 849. | Ramgarh | 288 |
| 850. | Triveniganj | 304 |
| 851. | Bluabazar | 152 |
| 852. | Chhatapur | 152 |
| 853. | Udakishanganj | 192 |
| 854. | Alam Nagar | 152 |
| 855. | Bihariganj | 304 |
| 856. | Gawalpara | 152 |
| 857. | Puraini | 152 |

***Statement-II***

*Expansion Plan for the Year 1998-99*

1. Madhubani
2. Sakari
3. Dumka
4. Bettiah
5. Kankarbagh (Patna)
6. Patliputra (Patna)
7. Dhanbad
8. Jamshedpur
9. Jamalpur
10. Sabaur
11. Benibad
12. Sitamarhi
13. Hajipur
14. Vaishali
15. Sarai
16. Lalganj
17. Bhagwanpur
18. Manpur
19. RCH-CM PDIL
20. RCH-Ashok Nagar
21. RCH-Kantitola
22. Bokaro Main
23. Darbhanga Main
24. Munger Main
25. Ramgarh Main
26. Sindri (RLU New)
27. Laheriasarai (RLU New)
28. Sariadhela Main
29. Patna Main
30. Gaya Main
31. Rajendra Nagar (Patna)
32. Piro
33. Brahampur
34. Pirpaintee
35. Barahat

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| 36. | Masrakh |
| 37. | Gopalganj |
| 38. | Benipur |
| 39. | Simri |
| 40. | Biraul |
| 41. | Jainagar |
| 42. | Muskipur |
| 43. | Chandwa |
| 44. | Balumath |
| 45. | Chainpur |
| 46. | Mahagama |
| 47. | Jamtara |
| 48. | Mihijam |
| 49. | Godda |
| 50. | Arwal |
| 51. | Hasua |
| 52. | Warsaliganj |
| 53. | Isribazar |
| 54. | Kuju |
| 55. | Kasba |
| 56. | Bhawanipur |
| 57. | Dhamdaha |
| 58. | Salmari |
| 59. | Barsoi |
| 60. | Manihari |
| 61. | Dhaka |
| 62. | Areraj |
| 63. | Jhajha |
| 64. | Bhadaiya |
| 65. | Mahua |
| 66. | Pupri |
| 67. | Katihar |
| 68. | Biharsarif |
| 69. | Udakishanganj |
| 70. | Madhepura |
| 71. | Kudra |
| 72. | Durgabattee |
| 73. | Akhorigola |
| 74. | Bikramganj |
| 75. | Lakhimnia |
| 76. | Ratwara |
| 77. | MIT |
| 78. | Upgradation of 125 to C-DOT 256P. |

*[English]*

**Water Pollution**

1000. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA:

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

(a) whether the Government have failed badly to control water pollution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made to enforce the admissible limits fixed for effluent and emission under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Emission and effluent standards prescribed by the Government under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 are enforced by concerned State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees through their consent mechanism. Periodic monitoring of the pollution control facilities is undertaken for all polluting industries. Industries in the 17 categories of Highly Polluting Industries have been persuaded to install the requisite pollution control systems. Out of a total of 1551 such industries, only 155 industries do not have the necessary pollution control facilities. Legal action has been taken against all defaulting units, under the Environment (Protection) Act. For small scale units, a scheme for providing Common Effluent Treatment Plant have been established. A network of water and air quality monitoring stations has also been established in different parts of the country. A National River Action Plan has been launched to check water pollution in river stretches.

**Optical Fibre Cables**

1001. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Department propose to link Jammu, Srinagar, Kargil, Leh, Manali and *vice-versa* through optical fibre cables system in view of the erratic satellite telecom system functioning at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the time by which the said work are likely to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) The plans of Department of Telecommunications for linking these stations are as follows:

(i) *Jammu-Srinagar (Optical Fibre Cable):*

Jammu-Udhampur section has already been commissioned. Work is in progress in Udhampur-Srinagar route and it likely to be completed by March, 2001.

(ii) *Srinagar-Kargil-Leh (Optical Fibre Cable):*

A joint project between Department of Telecommunications and Army is under consideration and the same is likely to be commissioned within two years after the same is approved by both the Ministries.

(iii) Manali is already connected on optical fibre *via* Kullu.

(iv) To improve the present satellite service working at Jammu, Srinagar, Kargil and Leh IDR facility using digital equipment have been planned.

(d) In view of reply to (a), (b) & (c) above, question does not arise.

**Subsidy on Power**

1002. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the subsidy on power being supplied to domestic and agricultural consumers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The tariff for various

categories of consumers are fixed by State Governments/ SEBs concerned under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 wherever the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have not been set up. The Central Government has no role to play in fixing the tariff for various categories of consumers in the states.

**Development of Oilfields by Private Companies**

1003. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to award Oilfields for development to the private companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for not developing the fields by the National Oil Companies themselves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Since 1992, Government has signed 17 contracts for development and production of discovered fields. Further, 12 discovered fields have been awarded for private participation.

(b) and (c) Some of the reasons for awarding of these fields for private participation are:—

— The marginal economics of the fields;

— Considerable investment required;

— To augment production;

— To tide over the resource crunch;

— To obtain state fo art technology.

**Scheme for Dredging of Haldia Navigational Channel**

1004. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Calcutta Port Trust has submitted to the Government a comprehensive scheme of capital dredging of Haldia Navigational Channel; and

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

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

(b) The proposal is under consideration.

**Construction of By-Pass on NH-4**

1005. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the By-pass of Akola on National Highway-4 has been finalised;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to take up the construction of Akola by-pass on National Highway No. 6 in the Maharashtra State on B.O.T. (Build-Operate-Transfer) basis. The pre-qualification of the bidders has also been completed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The work is likely to commence by June, 2000.

**Targeted Traffic Projection of Major Ports**

1006. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major ports achieved the targeted traffic projections for the period between April to December, 1998;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b). The cargo traffic handled by Major Ports during April to December, 1998 fell short of the

proportionate target. However, some of the individual Ports like, Cochin, J.L. Nehru and Kandla, achieved the targeted traffic during this period. The details of cargo traffic handled by Major Ports during April-December, 1998 are as under:—

| Port | Proportionate Target ('000 Tonnes) | Achievement ('000 Tonnes) | % Variation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Calcutta | 7123 | 6202 | -12.93 |
| Haldia | 15360 | 14454 | -5.90 |
| Paradip | 9965 | 9704 | -2.62 |
| Visakhapatnam | 27071 | 26893 | -0.66 |
| Madras | 27367 | 26204 | -4.25 |
| Tuticorin | 7654 | 7474 | -2.35 |
| Cochin | 9137 | 9210 | +0.80 |
| New Mangalore | 11173 | 10617 | -4.98 |
| Mormugao | 13132 | 12025 | -8.43 |
| Bombay | 25305 | 23252 | -8.11 |
| J.L. Nehru | 7440 | 8547 | +14.88 |
| Kandla | 29345 | 29699 | +1.21 |
| Total | 190072 | 184281 | -3.05 |

(c) The shortfall in achieving the targeted traffic by Major Ports during April-December, 1998 was mainly on account of the slow down of economy and resultant dip in exports particularly of Iron ore and general cargo followed by lower throughput of petroleum crude and products.

**Foreign Equity in Road and Port Projects**

1007. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow hundred per cent of direct foreign investment in road and port projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Central Government in January 1999 has approved a policy for permitting foreign equity participation upto 100% on the automatic basis both for road and port projects provided the total foreign equity in any such project does not exceed Rs. 1,500 crore.

*[Translation]*

**Malnutrition in Children**

1008. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :
DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Indians 64 per cent children underweight, says report" appearing in the *Pioneer* dated January 18, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the assessment made by the Government in this regard;

(d) the reasons for the children being underweight and malnourished in the country; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to take care of the underweight and malnourished children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the "Indian Nutrition Profile" based on studies conducted in 187 districts from 18 States/ Union Territories, 49.2 per cent of children under five years were found to be underweight during 1995-96;

(d) The reasons for prevalence of malnutrition include poor feeding practices, inequate food intake, seasonal variations in food supply, frequent episodes of illness (especially diarrhoea), low level of female literacy and socio-economic deprivation.

(e) The Government is seized of the problem of malnutrition and a number of direct and indirect interventions through different sectors are being undertaken to address the problem of malnutrition. The National Nutrition Policy was adopted in 1993 to provide inter-sectoral and sustainable action in agriculture, health and education for reducing malnutrition. Integrated Child Development Services, Balwadi Nutrition Programme and Mid-day meal programmes are being implemented. Micro-nutrient deficiencies of iron, iodine and Vitamin A are being prevented through iodization of salt and supply of ferrous sulphate and folic acid tablets and vitamin A solution. Other initiatives of the Government which contribute to improving nutritional status include Poverty Alleviation Programme, Public Distribution System for essential foodgrains Urban Basic Services and Awareness Generation on nutrition and health.

**Illegal use of Domestic LPG Cylinders**

1009. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the LPG cylinders for domestic use are still being commercially used in restaurants as a result of which the I.O.C. has been incurring losses to the tune of lakhs of rupees each year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to check the said misuse or to conduct and independent inquiry into the matter from time to time;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) IOC have detected 7 cases diversion of domestic product during 1997-98 and 11 cases during April-December, 1998-99.

(b) The price differential between domestic and non domestic product has been found to be the main reason for such diversion.

(c) to (e) Oil Industry has an established system of checking diversion of domestic cylinders to commercial purpose through the field officers by conducting inspection and raids at distributors as well as at commercial premises. Suitable action is taken against the distributors who are found to be indulging in various malpractices as per the revised LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

**Measures to Check Defection**

1010. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any legislation to check the rising trend of defection from the political parties in order to avoid elections at the short intervals;

(b) if so, the details of the measures proposed in this regard; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (c) Government would consider about bringing a legislation for giving effect to such measures for strengthening Anti-defection Laws on which consensus emerges amongst political parties. It is not possible to indicate any time-frame for taking a decision in this respect.

**Creation of New Post of an Additional Postman**

1011. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the rules for creating a new post of an additional postman in any sub-post office;

(b) whether any cases of violation of these rules have come to the notice of the Government in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The justification of a new post of an additional Postman in a Sub Post Office is determined on the basis of increase in workload assessed by application of standards laid down by this Department which include norms for delivery of various articles of mail with suitable weightage for delivery in multistorey buildings, payment of money orders and distance traversed on foot or on bicycle. A justified post may be created with the approval of the Ministry of Finance.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of the reply to part (b), the question does not arise.

**Heart Patients**

1012. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of people dying due to heart diseases is increasing in the country;

(b) the average annual increase in the number of people dying of heart diseases;

(c) the ratio of people dying of heart attack in the country in comparison to other countries;

(d) whether the Government intend to make the treatment of heart diseases cheaper so that the poor heart patients can be saved; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other preventive and remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Survey of cause of death (1992) from Registrar General of India indicate that 10.8% deaths were due to cardio-vascular diseases.

(b) and (c) No such figures are available.

(d) Most of heart ailments are treated free in Government Hospitals while certain intervention treatments like by pass surgery, valve replacement etc. involve some expenditure to be borne by patients.

(e) Various IEC strategies are used to educate the public about harmful effects of tobbacco, smoking, alcohol, obesity etc. for prevention of cardiac diseases.

*[English]*

**Joint Venture by Oil Companies**

1013. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to prevent oil companies to set up joint venture for explorations in the country; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Telecommunication Services in M.P.**

1014. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the telecommunication services in rural areas of Dhar and Badwani districts of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the number of microwave towers and battery operated telephone exchanges functioning and not functioning properly in the said districts separately; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make them properly functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The amount spent on the telecommunication services in rural areas of Dhar and Badwani districts of Madhya

Pradesh during the last three years is furnished below :

(Rs. in thousands)

| | Dhar District | Badwani District |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 427.43 | 2078.00 |
| 1996-97 | 56.43 | 2112.00 |
| 1997-98 | 337.78 | 2670.00 |

(b) All telephone exchanges in Dhar and Badwani are battery operated and are working satisfactorily. The district-wise figures are given below :

| | Dhar District | | Badwani District | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Working | Not working | Working | Not working |
| M/W Towers | 4 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Telephone exchanges | 108 | Nil | 42 | Nil |

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

**Decentralisation of Sale and Distribution of LPG, Petrol and Diesel**

1015. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to decentralise the sale and distribution of cooking gas, petrol/diesel at tehsil/block level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) As on 1.10.1998 there were 16981 retail outlet dealerships, 6384 SKO/LDO dealerships and 5560 LPG distributorships in operation all over the country.

New retail outlet dealerships are opened at places meeting Oil Industry's viability norms.

With regard to LPG in order to cater to the requirement of rural areas, the LPG marketing plan 1996-98 was formulated on the following basis :

To cover all urban locations irrespective of its viability with a population of 10000 and above taking into account potential of adjoining villages within a radius of 15KMs.

*[English]*

**Integrated Population Stabilisation Programme**

1016. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a committee to develop and implement integrated population stabilisation programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the population crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) In the recent past the Government had constituted several high level committees and expert groups to advise to on the steps to be taken for stabilishing popuation in the country. Taking into consideration suggestions from these Committees, a draft

National Population Policy has been prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the same is at present under Government's active consideration. The draft policy seeks to address all relevent issues relating comprehensive inter-sectoral coordination for reaching the desired goal of population stabilisation within the shortest possible time.

The Government has already taken several policy initiatives to change the direction and the scene for the Family Welfare Programme. Contraceptive method specific targets have been given up; a process of decentralised planning and implementation of the programme has been initiated and a countrywide Reproductive and Child Health Programme for upgrading and expanding services in the area of maternal and child health has been launched. There is a renewed emphasis on male participation in the programme. The support of the non-government organisations and the private sector is being enlisted. The IEC (Information, Education and Communication) campaign is being strengthened. Government proposes to intensify and integrate all such programmes.

**Development of Cochin Shipyard**

1017. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the development of the Cochin Shipyard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Augmentation, upgradation and modernisation of shipbuilding/Shiprepair facilities is a continuous process and it is done through the Plan Schemes.

During the 8th Five Year Plan a sum of Rs. 33.55 crores was spent for the purpose in Cochin Shipyard Limited. In the 9th Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 65 crores has been provided. A sum of Rs. 10 crores was released for implementing various Plan Schemes during 1997-98. A sum of Rs. 10 crores has also been allocated for implementing Plan Schemes, included in the Annual Plan for 1998-99.

**Fraudulent use of Telephones**

1018. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether fradulent use of telephones are allegedly going on in some major cities like Bombay, Bangalore, Calcutta, New Delhi and other cities by connivance with departmental staff, enabling long time and large scale STD and ISD calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a departmental Suo Moto vigilance inquiry in this regard has been ordered; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) 44 cases of fraudulent use of telephones from various cities have come to notice.

(c) and (d) Of these 44 cases, 19 cases have been made over to CBI. Disciplinary action as per rules against the employees found guilty has been initiated/ taken in 19 cases. 6 cases are under departmental investigations.

*[Translation]*

**Out of Order STD Lines at Kanpur**

1019. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the STD lines at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh generally remain out of order due to technical problems;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which they are likley to be in the working condition; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for providing uninterrupted S.T.D. service in the town?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir. STD circuits have been provided on Fibre Optic and Digital Microwave system. The performance and reliability of these transmission systems is very good.

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

(c) As a part of continuous Technology upgradation, DTAX of new technology switch is scheduled to be commissioned in the year 1999-2000.

*[English]*

**Inefficient Handling of Oil Imports**

1020. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "inefficient handling of Oil Imports adds to forex drain" appearing in the *Hindustan Times*, dated December 14, 1998.

(b) if so, the facts reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The news-item, *inter alia*, reported demurrage paid for ships carrying HSD and LPG and also regarding prices of petroleum products. Imports of petroleum products are made in line with the approved plan to meet the demand and having regard to the processing schedule of refineries, the monthly demand pattern within the country and the need to maintaining strategic inventory levels. Infrastructural constraints result in congestion at the ports. The oil industry incurs demurrage partly due to non-availability of berth/ullage and partly due to requirement of keeping some inventory floating in high seas. With a view to optimize utilization fo available port infrastructure nad to achieve reduction in the detention of the tankers to the extent feasible, a number of measures have already been initiated; which, *inter alia* include Commissioning of two virtual jetties at Kandla by IOC and HPC, Offshore lighterage of product import tankers at Kandla, offshore lighterage of crude tankers at Saugor (Haldia), augmentation of tankage at coastal/inland locations etc.

**Import Demand of Petroleum Products**

1021. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import demand for petroleum products has gone down during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of petroleum products imported during 1998-99, product-wise in comparison with the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The import requirement of petroleum products during 1998-99 through PSUs was projected to be 19.312 MMT. As against this, the actual import of petroleum products during the period April-December, 1998 was of 14.14 MMT. Quantity of petroleum products imported during last three years and 1998-99 (April-December, 1998) is as under:—

(Quantity : '000 Tonnes)

| Products | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98* | 1998-99* (April-December) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| LPG | 678 | 1035 | 1087 | 1039 |
| Mogas | 435 | 449 | 331 | 251 |
| Naphtha | — | — | — | 40 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NGL | — | — | — | — |
| SKO | 5001 | 4279 | 3812 | 4422 |
| ATF | 101 | 156 | 59 | 2 |
| HSD | 12852 | 13608 | 14075 | 7868 |
| LDO | — | — | — | — |
| FO | 1209 | 694 | 141 | 514 |
| LSHS | — | — | — | — |
| Bitumen | — | — | — | — |
| Lubes/Greases | 58 | 44 | 25 | 11 |
| Others | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 20334 | 20265 | 19530 | 14147 |

*Provisional.

**Supply of Kerosene through PDS**

1022. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of Kerosene through Public Distribution System is erratic and thus breeding inefficiency, corruption and black-market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to arrest this malpractices;

(d) whether the Government propose to direct the oil companies to market kerosene freedly at a non-subsidised rate fixing the price close to that of high speed diesel so as to give relief to the public; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) The annual allocation of kerosene is made by the Central Government to various States/Union Territories. Distribution of kerosene within the State and its monitoring

is the responsibility of the concerned State Govt. The district-wise allocation within the State, the quantity of kerosene to be allocated to the ration card-holders and the retail selling price are fixed by the State Government authorities. State/UTs have been advised by the Central Govt. to streamline the distribution of kerosene in order to prevent its diversion and to ensure its distribution to the right people at the prescribed price. The oil cos. have introduced a system of inspection of retailers through its offices on regular basis. To prevent diversion of PDS kerosene, the oil companies are supply blue dyed kerosene. Furfural doping of kerosene is done at depots/ terminals of oil companies. The Govt. has formulated a scheme for allotment of SKO dealerships for unemployed persons in Block Headquarters for sale of kerosene at non-subsidized rate.

It has been decided by Govt. to reduce subsidy on kerosene in phases, in accordance with its Resolution of 21 November, 1997.

**Natural Gas to Power and Fertiliser Plants**

1023. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement and demand of natural gas in the country for the fertilizer and power plants, State-wise and plant-wise;

(b) the total demand for natural gas in various power and fertilizer plants in U.P. and Maharashtra and the extent to which demand has been met; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The demand for natural gas has been assessed only Region-wise by an Export Group constituted by the Government, and the same is in the order of 30 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD) and 72 MMSCMD for the Fertilizer and Power sector, respectively by the year 2004-05. Details are as below:—

(in MMSCMD)

| Region | Power | Fertilizer |
|---|---|---|
| Northern | 28.85 | 17.18 |
| Western | 26.10 | 9.19 |
| Sourthern | 17.06 | 3.52 |

(b) The present allocations and supply of natural gas for the Power and Fertilizer sectors in U.P. and Maharashtra are as follows:—

(in MMSCMD)

| | Allocation | Supply |
|---|---|---|
| *U.P.* | | |
| Power | 5.12 | 5.02 |
| Fertilizer | 8.80 | 7.80 |
| *Maharashtra* | | |
| Power | 6.00 | 4.70 |
| Fertilizer | 6.19 | 5.01 |

(c) The steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of natural gas are as under:—

(i) developing the discovered fields for optimum production;

(ii) augmentation of production, and reviewing & optimising the inputs of gas producing fields;

(iii) accretion of reserves through continuous exploration and putting the new discoveries on production;

(iv) offering of acreages for private participation under exploration bidding rounds;

(v) exploring possibility of obtaining gas from Coal Bed Methane; and

(vi) exploring possibilities of importing LNG.

**Hydrocarbon in Assam**

1024. SHRI ARJUN SETH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil India Limited has found very prospective areas of Hydrocarbon in Assam and in the North-East; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Some discoveries in the older and deeper Paleocence/ Eocene formations in Kathaloni, Dikom etc. have been made in the recent past. The latest of such discoveries include Kagorijan and Moran. With the discovery of hydrocarbons in Kagorijan which is located in the vicinity of Brahmaputra river bed and its north bank, the prospectivity of these areas has been further enhanced. Further, the deeper discovery in the older Paleocene/ Eocene formations in Moran has opened up new opportunities for exploration beyond the so far provided limits. The life of depleting Moran oilfield will now be further enhanced.

**Telecom, Post and Telegraph Facilities in J&K**

1025. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices, telephone exchanges, telegraph offices proposed to be set up in J&K during 1999-2000;

(b) the number of places proposed to be connected with STD during the said period;

(c) the places connected with STD so far in the Distt. of Kathua, Udhampur and Doda; and

(d) the details of the development plan for the posts and telecommunications sectors during Ninth Five Year Plan in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) *Department of Post:*

Post Offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of resources and targets. Targets are fixed postal circle-wise for each Annual Plan at the beginning of each Annual Plan.

*Department of Telecom:*

It is proposed to open 30 exchanges in J&K Circle. Telegraph offices to be opened; Nil

(b) 85 stations are planned to be connected with STD facility during the said period (1999-2000) subject to availability of resources.

(c) The places connected with STD facility so far in Kathua, Udhampur and Doda districts are shown in the attached statement.

(d) *Department fo Posts:*

The outlay for the draft Ninth Year Plan is yet to be finally approved and has been pruned from Rs. 580 crores to Rs. 507.25 crores. State-wise or postal Circle-wise outlays have not been proposed in the Ninth Plan. Postal Circle-wise provision of funds is made when Annual Plans are implemented. During 1997-98 the first year of the Ninth Plan, 11 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 1 Departmental Sub Post Office has been opened in the state. Apart from this, 22 PC based counter machines, 5 Electric franking machines have been provided to the Circle during the said year, and 1 post office was modernised.

During 1998-99, there is a target for opening 30 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 1 Departmental Sub Post Office, subject to availability of resources. Further, there is a target for providing 10 PC based counter machines and 106 stamp hand cancellers in the state during the said year. 1 post office namely, Anantnag head post office has been taken up for modernisation during the current year.

*Department of Telecom:*

For Ninth Year Plan, broad objectives are to provide telephone on demand, STD facility on stable media for all exchanges and village public telephones in all remaining villages.

***Statement***

The following stations are covered with STD facility so far:—

| District Kathua | District Udhampur | District Doda |
|---|---|---|
| Kathua | Udhampur | Doda |
| Nagriparol | Kud | Khillani |
| Lakhanpur | Patnitop | Chanderkote |
| Chadwal | Mantalai | Kishtwar |
| Barwal | Chenani | Bhaderwah |
| Barnoti | Manwal | Ramban |
| Ghagwal | Round-dumail | Batote |
| Hiranagar | Reasi | Banihal |
| Bani | Adhkuwari | |
| | Katra | |
| | Vaishnovdevi | |
| | Jyotipuram | |
| | Talwara | |
| | Ramnagar | |
| | Mansar | |

**Review of Obsolete Laws**

1026. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Obsolete laws responsible for delays" appearing in the *Statesman* dated January 9, 1999;

(b) if so, whether most of the laws are outdated and there is urged need to review such laws; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With the approval of the Prime Minister, Commission on review of administrative Laws under the Chairmanship of Shri P.C. Jain was set up with the objective of:

(i) Undertaking an overview of steps taken by different Ministries/Departments for the review of laws and regulations;

(ii) Identifying proposals for amendment to laws and regulations having intersectoral impact.

(iii) Examining specific changes in existing rules and procedures in the case of selected economic and social sectors so as to make them transparent and predictable.

Recommendations of the said Commission have since been received and steps are being taken to implement the said recommendations.

**One Child Norm**

1027. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to popularise one-child norm to check the increase in population;

(b) the special provision being made for families with two children;

(c) whether the Government have taken any special steps to check population during last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) One child norm does not constitute the policy of the Government. Special provisions in the form of special pay, 1/2 percent rebate in the

interest on House Building Advance, and a day's Special Casual Leave are available for Government employees who adopt the Small Family norm. For the general public compensation for loss of wages has been provided for in the sterilisation and Intra Utring Devices (IUD) schemes out of the funds provided by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) During the last three years the Government have been taking several important steps to re-orient the Family Welfare Programme in a new direction. The earlier contraceptive method specific target approach has now been given up. In its place a process of decentralised planning and implementation of the programme at the grassroot level has been initiated. A country wide Reproductive and Child Health Programme has been launched for upgrading and expanding the services in the entire area of Matemal and Child Health. There is a renewed emphasis on male participation in the programme. The focus is on providing a wide range of choice to the couples for selecting their preferred methods of birth control and spacing of children. The involvement of the Non Governmental Organisations and professional bodies is also being enlisted for this programme. The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign is being strengthened.

**Production of Natural Gas in Gujarat**

1028. SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the volume of production of Natural Gas from Tapti field in Gujarat is satisfactory; and

(b) if not, the measures being considered for the optimum production of Natural Gas there?

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, as per production rate envisaged in the Production Sharing Contract and initial development plan for Tapti field, the production of gas from Tapti field in Gujarat is satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Power Projects in U.P.**

1029. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new power projects sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh and locations thereof;

(b) the number of thermal power stations sanctioned for the construction with locations thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received some new proposals from the Uttar Pradesh State Electric Council for the construction of Thermal Power Stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The following projects in Uttar Pradesh have been accorded Techno Economic Clearance by the CEA.

| Sl.No. | Name of the project & location | Type | Capacity (MW) | Date of TEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Anpara 'C' (Sonebhadra Dt.) | Thermal | 2x500 | 9.8.96 |
| 2. | Vishnuprayag HEP (Chamoli Dt.) | Hydel | 4x100 | 3.6.97 |
| 3. | Rose TPP (Ph-I) (Shahjahanpur Dt.) | Thermal | 2x283.5 | 20.8.97 |
| 4. | Tehri Dam ST. II HEP (Tehri Garhwal Dt.) | Hydel | 4x250 | 10.10.88 |
| 5. | Auraiya CCGT ST. II (Auraiya Dt.) | Thermal | 1x650 | 28.9.98 |

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Expressway in Kerala**

1030. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Kerala Government to include from Kasaragod to Trivandrum, Cochin, Calicut and Mangalore in the proposed Kashmir-Kanyakumari Expressway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) A Task Force on Infrastructure, set up under the Chairmanship of Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, has been given the mandate "to determine the routes for Expressways".

**Performance of Telephones based on MARR Technology**

1031. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Performance of telephones based on MARR technology provided in rural areas of the country is unsatisfactory and the fault rate is inordinately very high;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to replace the said technology by an alternative technology in order to reduce the fault rate and cost involved therein to rectify such telephones?

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

(b) The reliability of MARR technology has not been proved satisfactory. The incidence of high fault rate is also due to:

— frequent and prolonged power failure in rural areas.

— low voltage main power supply.

— inaccessibility, leads to delay in repair and transportation of standby equipments.

— misuse of batteries and equipments.

— inadequate care by VPT holders.

(c) The Government has stopped further procurement of the MARR technology system. From the year 1999-2000 the following new technologies are being introduced.

— WLL technology.

— C-DOT—TDMA—PMP

— Satellite based system for inaccessible and remote areas where other two technologies are not suitable. These new technologies will be introduced from 1999-2000 for providing VPTs in the remaining villages. It is expected that these technologies will reduce fault rate and the cost involved in repairing.

**Backlog of Reserved Posts**

1032. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of a reserved posts of Doctors, Nurses and other categorise of employees in the Ministry and their subordinate offices as on May 1, 1998; and

(b) the details of the steps taken to fill up this backlog during the last ten months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

**Construction of Projects in Kerala**

1033. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made with regard to construction of Calicut Bypass Phase-I, Trivandrum Bypass Phase-I, Link Road Project of NH: 47-A, Varappuzha and Arappuzha Bridges;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon so far separately; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

***Statement***

| | Name of work | Progress | Expenditure incurred | Likely date of completion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Calicut Bypass PH-I including Neelithod· bridge and Arapuzha bridge. | About 60% | About Rs. 16.44 Cr. | October 2000. |
| 2. | Trivandrum Bypass Phase-I | | | |
| | (i) Chainage 0 to 5600 M. | About 85% | About Rs. 7.84 Cr. | During 2001. |
| | (ii) Ch. 5600 to 5750 M. & Ch. 6119 to 10617 M | About 20% | About Rs. 8.38 Cr. | |
| | (iii) Ch. 5750 to 6119 M | About 45% | About Rs. 3.82 Cr. | |
| | (iv) Ch. 10617 to 20720 M. | | | Completed |
| | (v) Ch. 20720 to 22630 M. | About 25% | About Rs. 0.70 Cr. | During 2000. |
| 3. | Link Road NH-47 A Phase-II including 1.72 Km. long bridge, ROB and approach road. | About 98% | About Rs. 56.44 Cr. | During 1999 |
| 4. | Varapuzha bridge along with Vaiduct | About 60% | About Rs. 22.94 Cr. | By the end of 2000. |

**Oil Exploration Proposals of ONGC**

1034. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the proposals of ONGC for exploration of same blocks which were deferred in bidding for private participation; and

(b) if so, the time by which the contracts for these blocks are likely to be finalised?

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) Whenever blocks which have been offered, are not bid for by private companies, ONGC is free to apply for Petroleum Exploration Lease for these blocks, and in order to expedite exploration, Govt. considers such applications.

*[Translation]*

**Power Projects in North Eastern Region**

1035. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission has been granted to some foreign companies for investment in power projects in North-Eastern states;

(b) if so, whether any policy has been framed by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Government has recently reviewed the existing guidelines for automatic approval for foreign equity for electric generation, transmission and distribution projects, and has decided to enlarge the provisions for automatic approval for such projects. Accordingly, projects for electric generation, transmission and distribution will be permitted foreign equity participation up to 100% on the automatic approval route provided the foreign equity in any such project does not exceed Rs. 1500 crore. These guidelines apply equally to the whole of the country including Assam and the North-Eastern States. As per information available, no proposal has been received for investing for power projects in Assam and the North-Eastern States of the country nor has any such proposal been cleared by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

*[English]*

**Delimitation of Constituencies and Criminalisation in Politics**

1036. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

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

(a) whether the Election Commission have urged the Government to take up issues of delimitation of constituencies and criminalisation of politics with appropriate amendments in the law;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether conference of State ECs was held recently; and

(d) if so, the details of discussions held in the conference and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The Election Commission, while favouring the proposal of rotation of seats reserved for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates, which is one of the proposals on electoral reforms currently under discussion with political parties, has also suggested that the work of delimitation of the Constituencies be assigned to it. The Election Commission has also proposed strengthening of Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 by providing that any person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for six months or more should be debarred from contesting elections for a period totalling the sentence imposed plus an additional six years. The Commission has further suggested that any person accused of any offence punishable with imprisonment for five years or more should be disqualified after the competent court has framed charges against him. The views/proposals of the Commission would be discussed with political parties.

(c) and (d) A Statement containing the gist of discussions held during the Second Annual Meeting of the Election Commission with the State Electior Commissioners (SECs) on 11.1.99 at New Delhi is attached.

***Statement***

*Gist of Discussions held during the Second Annual Meeting of the Election Commission with the State Election Commissioners (SECs) on 11.1.1999 at New Delhi*

1. Stress was laid by the Election Commission of India on Annual Meeting with SECs.

2. Stress was laid by the Commission on improving the inter-relations with SECs.

3. Need was felt for coordination between all Electoral Registration Authorities to avoid duplication of efforts, labour and expenditure in respect of preparation and revision of Electoral Rolls.

4. The SECs held different views with respect to the proposal of the Commission for indicating Ward Numbers in the Assembly Electoral Rolls.

5. The benefits of the Scheme of Computerisation of Electoral Rolls and having a common data base in this respect were discussed.

6. The Commission and the SECs assured each other on sharing of electoral material between them on approved rates.

7. Use of EVMs in recent Assembly Elections was appreciated and need was felt for amending State Laws to include enabling provisions for the use of these machines in relation to local bodies' elections.

8. Utility of Photo Identity Cards in local bodies' elections was discussed.

9. The SECs welcomed the offer of Commission for imparting training to their officers and staff on various Electoral Laws, Procedures and related matters.

10. The need for insisting on an affidavit/ declaration from candidates regarding their antecedents in respect of criminal activities was felt.

11. The Commission's proposal for disqualifying candidates who had been chargesheeted by appropriate Courts for an offence leading to a sentence of five years or more, during pendency of trial, found favour among participants.

12. Need was felt to entrust the job of delimitation of Wards to SECs in view of the fact that some of the State Governments have reserved this power on-to themselves.

13. Need to harmonise the terms and conditions of appointment of SECs giving them the same status, salaries and other service benefits as available to High Court Judges was discussed.

14. Need for making the expenses of the SECs 'Charged' on the Consolidated Fund of the States was discussed.

15. Debarring delinquent officers from election related duties, mutual coordination between Election Commission and SECs in this regard and need for having disciplinary jurisdiction over the officers deputed on election duties was also discussed.

16. Some SECs desired that the Election Law Reports and Annual Reports of the Commission should be revived.

**Power Generation by NHPC during Ninth Plan**

1037. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) propose to enhance power generation during the Ninth plan;

(b) if so, the number of new power projects proposed to be constructed by NHPC in the said plan period;

(c) whether NHPC also proposes to expand its existing power projects during this period; and

(d) if so, the target fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Rangit Hydro-electric Project (3x20 MW) in Sikkim and the Dulhasti Hydro-electric project (3X130 MW) in Jammu and Kashmir are under construction by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC). Both these projects are

scheduled for commissioning during the IX Plan. There would, therefore, be a capacity addition of 450 MW through NHPC Projects at the end of the IX Plan.

(c) and (d) NHPC would also be taking up Renovation and Modernisation of its existing plants at Baira Siul in Himachal Pradesh and Salal-I Project in Jammu & Kashmir.

*[Translation]*

**Increase in gap between Tariff and Production Cost of Power**

1038. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the difference between the average tariff received and the production cost of power has been continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the details of such difference during the last three years with reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The difference between average cost of supply and average realisation of the SEBs in the country, based on the Annual Statements of Accounts for the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, is given attached in statement. The difference between average cost of supply and average realisation has come down in the year 1996-97 as compared to the difference in the year 1995-96.

(c) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has since been set up by Central Government. The structural reforms in the power sector are being undertaken by various State Governments and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERC) have been/are being established in the states for tariff rationalisation.

***Statement***

*Average Cost of Supply of Power and Average Realisation*

| S. No. | Year | Average Cost of supply | Average realisation | Difference | Difference % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 1994-95 | 156.44 | 134.49 | 21.95 | 14 |
| 2. | 1995-96 | 179.76 | 148.71 | 31.05 | 17.3 |
| 3. | 1996-97 | 204.37 | 176.13 | 28.24 | 13.8 |

**Bungling in Telephone Bills**

1039. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from the telecom office Ghaziabad regarding bungling in the telephone bills;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken thereon;

(c) whether the telephone bills in question have since been corrected; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Two cases of errors in wrong data feeding were noticed in March, 1998. No complaints were, however, received.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The bills were corrected as soon as the mistake was detected.

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

*[English]*

**Supply of less quantity LPG Cylinders**

1040. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints of supply of LPG Cylinder for domestic use with lesser quantity of gas from the consumers' in the country;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Public Sector Oil Companies have received complaints from LPG consumers regarding supply of underweight cylinders.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Public Sector Oil Companies conduct elaborate regular/surprise checks and inspections of functioning of their LPG distributors and also investigate complaints on their receipt. Suitable action is taken against the distributors who are found to be indulging in various malpractices related to underweight cylinders as per the Guidelines in vogue.

***Statement***

| Sl. No. | State | No. of established cases detected April-Dec. 98 | Action taken | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Caution Letter | Warning Letter | Other including fine etc. |
| 1. | Haryana | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| 2. | Himachal Pradesh | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| 3. | Uttar Pradesh | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| 4. | West Bengal | 1 | — | 1 | — |

*[Translation]*

**Alternative route from Swaarghat to Bilaspur on NH-21**

1041. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bridges have given way the road has been badly damaged due to landsides at various places on the route from Swaarghat to Bilaspur, National Highway No. 21 in Himachal Pradesh because of which the traffic gets impeded;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make any alternative route from Swaarghat to Bilaspur;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Bridge over Ghambrola Khad at km. 122 had collapsed and traffic remained disrupted from 15.3.98 to 29.4.98. A temporary bailey bridge has been erected and necessary repairs to the road carried out to restore

traffic. A permanent bridge at a cost of Rs. 253.20 lakhs has been sanctioned on 24.12.98. Occurrence of land slides is a natural phenomenon in hilly region. This section of the NH-21 is being maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No technical proposal has been received from State Government for alternative route from Swaarghat to Bilaspur.

*[English]*

**Discriminatory Import Duty Structure**

1042. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present import duty structure is highly discriminatory to the indigenous manufacturers because the counterveiling duty is zero, while local equipment manufacturers have to pay 18% excise duty; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to create a level playing field for Indian manufacturer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and reply will be placed on the table of the House.

**State Funding of Elections**

1043. SHRI K. YERRANNADIU:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI K.P. NAIDU:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided the funding of elections on the basis of the Report of the Indrajit Gupta Committee;

(b) if so, the extent to which the funding would be allowed;

(c) whether the Government have examined the Report;

(d) if so, the salient features of the Report; and

(e) the reaction of the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (e) A Statement containing the gist of recommendations of the Committee on State Funding of Elections is attached. The recommendations of the Committee would be discussed with political parties.

***Statement***

*Gist of Recommendations of Committee on State Funding of Elections*

1. *State Funding of Elections:* The Committe has recommended, to begin with, only partial State assistance, in kind only in the form of certain facilities, to recognised political parties in a way that it provides them relief not only in carrying out their electoral activities and meeting partly the cost of essential items of electioneering campaigns of their candidates, but also helps them partially in the current administration of their day to day functioning during non-election period. Gradually, more and more of their expenses' burden can be progressively shifted to the State so that ultimately all their legitimate expenses become a charge on the State. In this respect, the Committee has recommended creation of a separate Election Fund to which the Central Government may contribute at the rate of Rs. 10/- per elector *i.e.* about Rs. 600 crores annually. The State Governments also, all taken together, may contribute proportionately Rs. 600 crores annually to the Fund.

In its report, the Committee has also specified the nature of facilities to be provided to the recognised political parties and their candidates at State cost. These include:—

(I) *For Recognised Political Parties:*

(i) Suitable rent-free accommodation for its headquarter.

(ii) One rent-free telephone, with STD facility with a specified number of telephone calls over and above the free calls permitted to any subscriber.

(iii) Sufficient free air time on the State owned media; certain additional time on the basis of votes polled; permission to use the allotted time for their propaganda in the manner they like and not necessarily for speeches alone.

(iv) Regulation of private channels for fair and balanced presentation of the views of all parties.

(II) *For Candidates of Recognised Parties:*

(i) Specified quantity of petrol/diesel.

(ii) Specified quantity of paper for printing.

(iii) Postal stamps of a certain specified amount.

(iv) Five copies of electoral rolls in addition to the copies of the rolls persently being provided as per rules.

(v) For an assembly election, one set of loudspeakers and for a parliamentary election, one set of loudspeakers for every assembly segment, subject to a maximum of six such sets.

(vi) For an assembly election, one telephone with a specified number of free calls, and for a parliamentary election, at the rate of one telephone for every assembly segment, subject to a maximum of six telephones.

(vii) On the day of poll, some minimum arrangements may be made for the candidates' camps at each polling station.

(viii) Supply of refreshments and food packets to the counting agents inside the counting hall.

2. *Maintenance of Accounts by Political Parties and Audit thereof:*

(i) Political parties should compulsorily submit their annual accounts regularly to the Income Tax Authorities showing all details of their receipts and expenditure.

(ii) No political party which has failed to submit its annual return for the previous assessment year under the Income Tax Act should be eligible for any State funding.

(iii) The Chartered Accountant may be selected by the political party itself. The Income Tax authorities will, however, be free to have a further check by their own agencies of returns submitted by parties.

(iv) Each party receiving State subsidy should also file a complete account of its election expenditure during an election to the Election Commission in the format prescribed by the Commission.

(v) All subscriptions, donations received by a party above the amount of Rs. 10,000/- should be by means of a cheque/bank draft and should be mentioned in party accounts.

3. *Ban on donation by Companies to Political Parties:*

The question whether there should be any ban on donations by companies and corporate bodies for political purposes may be decided by the Government and Parliament in their collective wisdom. Ban on donation by Government Companies for political purposes should continue.

4. *Inclusion of Expenses of Political Parties in the Election Expenses of Candidates for the purposes of Celling on Election Expenses:*

The question whether election expenses of political parties and other bodies or associations and individuals should be included or not in the accounts of election expenses of candidates may be decided by the Government/Parliament in their collective wisdom. However, apparent contradiction between the provisions of Section 77(1), Explanation 1 of Representation of the People Act, 1951 and Section 171H of Indian Penal Code needs to be resolved as the former permits political parties and all other bodies or associations or individuals to make election expenses for any candidate without his authorisation whereas the latter prohibits it.

5. *Empowering of the Election Commission of India to fix Celling on Election Expenses before every general election:*

Periodic revision of election expenses may continue to be done by the Central Government in consultation with the Election Commission of India as at present.

*[Translation]*

**Strengthening of Judicial System**

1044. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI MADAN PATIL:

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

(a) whether the judiciary is not able to provide cheap and speedy justice to the common people;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the strength of Judges is disproportionate with population in comparison to other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to expedite judicial procedure and to dispose of the pending cases and augment the strength of judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The delay in disposal of cases in courts, besides the inadequate strength of Judges, is due to various factors including increased institution of cases, rise in population, radical change in the pattern of litigation, awareness of rights on the part of the citizens, etc. However, in order to provide inexpensive and speedy justice, Lok Adalats have been given statutory base with the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, w.e.f. 9.11.1995. Lok Adalats have proved to be an effective and successful supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

(c) and (d) The Law Commission in its 120th Report had, inter-alia, recommended that the present strength of 10.5 Judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population. With regard to the strength of Judges in High Courts, it has been decided not to accept the proposal to increase Judge-strength only on the basis of population. In so far as the matter relating to Subordinate Judiciary is concerned, their strength is determined by the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts.

(e) Various measures have been taken by the Government including amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of other alternative modes of dispute resolution. In addition, the Supreme Court and High Courts have taken a number of steps for expeditious disposal of cases, *viz*; grouping and classification of cases involving similar question of law, setting up of specialised benches, computerization of listing of cases, etc.

*[English]*

**Development of Cochin Port**

1045. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the development of Cochin Port is under consideration of the Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time frame within which the development work is likely to be completed and the total cost involved therein?

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

(b) The major capacity yielding schemes proposed to be undertaken in Cochin Port during the 9th Plan are as under:—

(i) LNG/LPG terminal at Puthuvypeen with a capacity of 2.5 million tonnes.

(ii) Multi-purpose berth of long wharf area with the capacity of 0.5 million tonnes.

(iii) Deepening of channel with the capacity of 3 Million tonnes.

(iv) Conversion of Q6 and Q7 berths into container berths with the capacity of 1 million tonnes.

(v) Upgradation of Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal in Willingdon Island and International Container Transhipment Terminal at Vallarpadam.

(c) Project Development and tendering for the above schemes has been started. Some of the works are

proposed to be taken up through private investment. It is, therefore, too early to indicate the capital cost of the schemes and their completion period.

**Eco-development Projects in West Bengal**

1046. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received an aid to the tune of Rs. 260 crore from World Bank for implementing seven eco-development projects;

(b) if so, the details of projects to be undertaken therewith and amount earmarked for each project; and

(c) the quantum of fund allocated for various eco-development projects in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir. Government have, however, entered into agreements with the International Development Agency and Global Environment Facility Trust Fund for an Eco-development Project to be implemented in seven States including West Bengal at a total cost of Rs. 294.93 crores (US $ 67 millions) which is to be financed by a loan of Rs. 122.10 crores (US $ 28 millions) from International Development Agency and a grant of Rs. 87.98 crores (US $ 20 millions) from Global Environment Facility Trust Fund. The balance cost is to be met by the Government of India, Governments of Project States and the beneficiaries.

(b) and (c) The funds allocated to seven States including West Bengal activity-wise are indicated in the statement attached.

***Statement***

*Statement showing the Funds Allocated to the Project States of Eco-development Project*

| State | Improved Protected Area Management | Village Eco-development | Environmental Education & Awareness Campaigns | Improve Impact Monitoring and Research Systems (Rs. in crores) | Project Management | Preparation of Future Bio-diversity Project | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Bengal | 14.70 | 16.73 | 0.69 | 2.67 | 0.91 | — | 35.70 |
| Gujarat | 6.85 | 22.04 | 0.64 | 2.60 | 2.07 | — | 34.20 |
| Karnataka | 7.96 | 26.96 | 0.79 | 2.15 | 1.63 | — | 39.49 |
| Bihar | 11.28 | 23.01 | 0.84 | 1.91 | 1.03 | — | 38.07 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 7.43 | 16.75 | 0.74 | 1.96 | 1.02 | — | 27.90 |
| Kerala | 9.78 | 23.90 | 0.81 | 2.83 | 3.22 | — | 40.54 |
| Rajasthan | 6.78 | 27.12 | 0.78 | 2.30 | 1.40 | — | 38.38 |
| National Level Activities | 0.34 | 2.94 | — | 0.27 | 25.93 | 11.17 | 40.65 |
| Grand Total | 65.12 | 159.45 | 5.29 | 16.69 | 37.21 | 11.17 | 294.93 |

**Production and Consumption of Crude Oil**

1047. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of crude oil produced in the country during the year 1997-98, month-wise;

(b) the estimated actual consumption of oil during the year 1998-99, State-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the import of the oil in the corresponding period;

(d) the target fixed for the production of oil for the year 1998-99: and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the production of oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The total ptroduction of the crude oil in the country (including JVc production) during the year 1997-98 is 33.858 MMT. The month-wise details are given in attached Statement-I.

(b) The State-wise consumption of oil during the year 1998-99 is given in attached Statement-II.

(c) The estimated cost of import of oil during April-December, 1998 was Rs. 11066.39 crores.

(d) The crude oil production target during the year 1998-99 is 34.72 MMT.

(e) Steps to increase the production of crude oil and natural gas are:—

(i) 3D seismic survey for better understanding of the oil fields especially to identify the underained/by passed oil.

(ii) Rectificatory measures for Bombay High and Neelam Oil Fields.

(iii) Adoption of specialised technologies such as ERD, horizontal and drain hole drilling, scale removal treatment jobs & long drift side tracking of wells.

(iv) Implementation of new schemes of oil/gas development.

(v) Improving the recovery percentage from the producing fields.

(vi) Reducing R/P ratio of fields having high R/P.

(vii) Installation of artificial lift and stimulation of wells.

(viii) Intensive and extensive exploration including in frontier areas and deep waters to augment reserve base.

***Statement-I***

*Crude Oil Production during 1997-98*

(Figures in MMT

| Month | Crude Oil Production |
|---|---|
| April, 1997 | 2.804 |
| May, 1997 | 2.878 |
| June, 1997 | 2.738 |
| July, 1997 | 2.847 |
| August, 1997 | 2.890 |
| September, 1997 | 2.750 |
| October, 1997 | 2.873 |
| November, 1997 | 2.795 |
| December, 1997 | 2.864 |
| January, 1998 | 2.876 |
| February, 1998 | 2.635 |
| March, 1998 | 2.908 |
| Total | 33.858 |

***Statement-II***

*Consumption of Oil (State-wise) during the year 1998-99*

| Sl.No. | State | Consumption of Oil (April-December, 1998) (in MMT) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Assam | 2.186 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2.449 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 1.630 |
| 4. | Haryana | 8.044 |
| 5. | Karnataka | 3.048 |
| 6. | Kerala | 5.616 |
| 7. | Maharashtra | 10.902 |
| 8. | Tamil Nadu | 4.914 |
| 9. | Uttar Pradesh | 6.665 |
| 10. | West Bengal | 3.368 |
| | Total | 50.133 |

**Power Plants in Western Rajasthan**

1048. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lignite deposits have been found in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Jhunjhunu districts of Western Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to install Power Plants to generate more power to overcome the power shortage in the Western Rajasthan for exploration of Lignite; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Lignite resources have been found in Barmer, Bikaner, and Nagaur districts of Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) The following lignite based thermal power station is proposed in Rajasthan for exploitation of lignite potential:—

| Name of the power station | Capacity (MW) | Name of Developer | Quantity of lignite to be used | Mine proposed to be utilised |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barsingsar Lignite based Power plant Bikaner Distt. (Techno-Economic Clearance by Central Electricity Authority on 20.4.1998) | 2 x 250 | Hindustan Vidyut Corp. Ltd. | 3.46 MMTPA (Main) | Barsingsar<br>Barsingsar (N.E. & West) Palana Gurha) Bithnok |

**Production of Crude Oil and Gas**

1049. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of crude oil and gas from various wells located in Gujarat;

(b) whether there is any increase in production of crude oil and gas from the wells in comparison to the last two years;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to increase the production;

(d) whether any study have been undertaken to locate the new areas of oil and gas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER

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

*[Translation]*

**Saving Schemes in Post Offices**

1050. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total deposits made in the post offices of the country particularly in Bihar during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce some new schemes to attract people to deposit more amount in post office saving schemes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Savings Deposits

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | India | Bihar |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 15976.8 | 928.0 |
| 1996-97 | 16470.6 | 942.4 |
| 1997-98 | 22621.4 | 1185.1 |

Savings Certificate

(Rs. in Crores)

| Year | India | Bihar |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 16832.9 | 1013.3 |
| 1996-97 | 16868.5 | 1163.5 |
| 1997-98 | 23573.1 | 1676.2 |

Public Provident Fund

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | India | Bihar |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 413.3 | 18.7 |
| 1996-97 | 503.4 | 22.4 |
| 1997-98 | 644.5 | 31.2 |

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

*[English]*

**Tatkal Scheme for LPG Connection**

1051. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tatkal Scheme for LPG in Karnataka has been revived;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of consumers provided LPG connections under this scheme till date;

(d) the total amount of non refundable received;

(e) whether the domestic LPG connections issued under Tatkal Scheme are being misused for commercial purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Tatkal Scheme was revived all over the country including the State of Karnataka with the Government approval of the LPG enrolment plan for 1998-99 in Sept., 1998. As per the directive of the Govt., 10% of the total new enrolment is earmarked for release of connection under Tatkal scheme.

(c) and (d) PSU Oil Companies have released 73,503 connections under Tatkal scheme in the State of Karnataka, since the introduction of the scheme till 31.12.98 and collected Rs. 29.44 crores as non-refundable amount for connections released under Tatkal scheme in the State of Karnataka.

(e) and (f) PSU Oil Companies have not come across with specific instances of domestic LPG connections issued under Tatkal Scheme being misused for commercial purpose. Oil Industry has an established system of checking diversion of domestic cylinders to commercial purpose through the field officers by conducting inspections and raids at distributors as well as at commercial premises.

**Recognition to Medical Degrees**

1052. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Students who pass out BDS examination of an Indian University are ineligible for admission for MDS course in different foreign countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Indian and Foreign universities recognised different medical degrees awarded by their respective universities on a reciprocal basis;

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

(e) if not, the steps, if any, taken/contemplated in thsi regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) There are at present no arrangements for reciprocal recognition with any foreign University in respect of dental education. However, foreign Universities generally use the WHO publication 'World Directory of Medical Schools' as a guideline to accept students for further studies. Details of dental degrees awarded by Indian Universities which may have been recognised abroad are not known.

(c) to (e) No reciprocity exists with any country in case of Dental Degrees. However in regard to medical degrees, the reciprocity in the mutual recognition of degrees has been established by India with Nepal, Bangladesh and Ireland. There is no reciprocity in the matter of mutual recongition of medical qualification with any other country. The details of the Medical degree recognised under reciprocity provision in respect of Nepal, Bangladesh and Ireland are given in attached statement.

***Statement***

*The name of Universities country-wise whose medical degrees are recognised under reciprocity provisions*

| Country | Title | Name of Qualification |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| *Nepal* | | |
| 1. Tribuvan University | M.B.B.S. | Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. |
| *Bangla Desh* | | |
| 1. Chitagong University | M.B.B.S. | - do - |
| 2. Dhaka University | M.B.B.S. | - do - |
| 3. Rajshahi University | M.B.B.S. | - do - |
| *Republic of Ireland* | | |
| 1. University of Dublin | M.B., B.Ch. | Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 2. National University of Ireland | M.B., B.Ch. | Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery |
| 3. Roayal College of Physicians of Ireland | L.R.C.P. | Licentiate |
| 4. Royal College of L.R.C.S. Surgeons, Ireland. | L.R.C.S. | - do - |
| 5. Apothecaries' Hall of Dublin | L.R.H. | - do - |

**Oil Reserve in North-East**

1053. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have found any new oil reserves in the North-East region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Petroleum Products produced in the region during the last years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Exploratory and development efforts expended in the North East have resulted in establishment of inplace reserves of 16.62 MMT of oil during 1997-98. The results of exploratory and development efforts during 1998-99 are under evaluation.

(c) A statement giving the requisite information is attached.

***Statement***

*Petroleum Products produced in North-East Region during the years 1995-96 to 1997-98*

(Figures TMT)

| Products | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| LT DIST | | | |
| LPG | 80.4 | 82.1 | 88.5 |
| MS | 192.3 | 194.5 | 207.8 |
| NAPHTHA | 179.1 | 203.7 | 222.5 |
| OTHERS | 10.7 | 26.4 | 19.5 |

| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MD DIST | | | | |
| | MTO | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| | ATF | 67.2 | 71.9 | 68.7 |
| | SKO | 262.4 | 281.7 | 305.4 |
| | HSD | 881.6 | 696.4 | 1089.8 |
| | LDO | 370.0 | 399.5 | 410.4 |
| | IOMEX/AROMEX | 13.4 | 14.3 | 14.5 |
| | JBO | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| | OTHERS | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| HEAVY ENDS | | | | |
| | FO | 132.4 | 119.0 | 136.2 |
| | HPS/LSHS | 33.2 | 25.1 | 40.6 |
| | BITUMEN | 10.7 | 10.3 | 4.6 |
| | SLACK WAX | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| | PARAFFIN WAX | 25.8 | 15.0 | 21.1 |
| | RPC | 104.4 | 127.2 | 139.6 |
| | CPC | 20.9 | 22.4 | 25.1 |
| | OTHERS | 0.0 | 105.4 | 80.5 |
| | TOTAL PRODUCTION | 2,385.4 | 2,695.9 | 2,875.6 |

**Occupational Therapy**

1054. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of trained occupational therapists, their actual availability and the educational facilities available for training them, State-wise; and

(b) the details of steps taken/proposed to ensure proper growth of occupational therapy in the country and directions issued to the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) There is no official data available about the requirements of trained Occupational Therapists. However, as per information available in the recent bulletin of the 'All India Occupational Therapists Association', the estimated requirement of Occupational Therapists has been indicated as ninty thousand for 900 million people. Against this requirement, there are at present about 4000 trained Occupation Therapists available all over India. A Statement indicating the names of recognised institutions in the country imparting education in Occupation Therapy is attached.

(b) The need for Occupational Therapy is an emerging concern. The steps to be taken are to expand training opportunities and spreading awareness among the general population for taking therapy treatment for simple ailments as it is cheaper and more cost effective.

***Statement***

1. *Occupational Therapy*
   Training School & Centre
   Seth, G.S. Medical College,
   Parel, Mumbai 400 012.

2. *Occupational Therapy School & Centre*
   T.N. Medical College &
   B.Y.L. Nair Hospital,
   Mumbai 400 008. Maharashtra.

3. *The Institute for the Physically Handicapped*
   4, Vishnu Digambar Marg,
   New Delhi 110 001.

4. *Occupational Therapy Training School*
   N.I.O.H. Bon Hooghly,
   B.T. Road, Calcutta, West Bengal.

5. *Bihar College of Occupational Therapy*
   Patna Medical College,
   Rajendra Surgical Blocks,
   2nd Floor, Patna, Bihar.

6. *Occupational Therapy Education*
   Christian Medical College and Hospital,
   Vellore-4, Tamil Nadu

7. *Occupational Therapy School & Centre*
   Govt. Medical College and Hospital,
   Nagpur, Maharashtra

8. *Occupational Therapy School & Centre*
   L.T.M. Medical College
   & Sion Hospital,
   Sion,
   Mumbai 400 022
   Maharashtra

9. *Occupational Therapy School NIRTAR,*
   Olatpur,
   P.O. Bairoi,
   Dist. Cuttack 754 010
   Orissa.

10. *College of Occupational Therapy,*
    *Kovai Medical College*
    P.O. Box No. 3209,
    Avainashi Road,
    Coimbatore 641 014.

11. *Santosh College of Occupational Therapy*
    No. 1, 7th Avenue,
    Besant Nagar, Chennai-90.
    Tamil Nadu.

**People Displaced due to Execution of Ib Thermal Plant**

1055. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people displaced due to the execution of Ib Thermal Power plant in Orissa;

(b) whether the affected people have been suitably rehabilitated;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the rehabilitation process?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Government of Orissa have informed that 142 numbers of families were displaced due to execution of Ib-Thermal Power Plant in Orissa and 187 nos. families lost their land. The affected people have been suitably rehabilitated as per the rehabilitation policy of Govt. of Orissa.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Road Projects**

1056. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have requested the State Governments for co-operating in making land available for the road projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the State Government thereto?

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

(b) the States were requested for their strong support for expeditious acquisition of land, permission for change in land use and assurance of local assistance in provision of services during construction and operation phases. It was indicated that sections where land is available first and is provided free of cost by the State Govt. will be given priority over others for taking up National Highway project.

(c) The response has not been encouraging.

**Chicken Pox**

1057. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some children and adults have died due to the outbreak of chicken pox in several parts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the efforts being made to check this menace;

(c) whether any team has been sent to assess the situation there;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to send a team there; and

(e) the preventive and curative measures proposed to be taken to deal with its outbreak in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) As per information furnished by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh no outbreak of CHICKEN POX has been reported from any part of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (e) Does not arise. However, Health Education is undertaken as a preventive measure.

**Facilities for Fishermen on Mumbai Port**

1058. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from fishermen working under Mumbai Port for providing fishing trawllers for fishing in deep sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Sheep and Goat**

1059. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Sheep and Goat rearing plays an important role in providing employment and income to the economically backward rural masses;

(b) if so, the details of the strategy worked out for the development of this sector;

(c) the funds allocated and physical targets fixed for Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Fourth Plan a Central Sheep Breeding Farm was established in collaboration with Australian Government at Hissar, to produce exotic pure-bred and cross-bred rams and distribute them to State Governments.

Since 7th Five Year Plan a Centrally sponsored scheme on National Ram/Buck Production Programme and Programme for Rabbit Development is in operation for strengthening of infrastructure, purchase of equipment/ machinery and animals.

The recommendations of the Task Force on Sheep, Goat and Rabbit production (April 1996) have been circulated to the respective State Governments, for adhering to the strategies of:

(i) Breeding for more efficient, Sturdy, prolific type of animals for both extensive (low inputs) and intensive (feed-let) system.

(ii) To improve and develop the infrastructure including livestock market, transportation and holding facilities, abattoirs, disease control, quality certification laboratories, farmer organisations, export promotion, and

(iii) Breed improvement through selection by using nucleus flocks and farms, open nucleus production programme and ram rearing units; and by cross-breeding of non-descriptive sheep.

The thrust of goat development is towards enhancing meat production, processing and marketing, enhancing goat milk production in dual performance breeds to meet household requirements and emerging market for goat milk-cheese.

(c) Funds allocated and physical target fixed for Ninth Five Year Plan are as follows:

| | Scheme | Ninth Plan (Rs. in crores) | Physical target |
|---|---|---|---|
| (i) | National Ram/Buck/Rabbit Development | 15.00 | First cum first served |
| (ii) | Central Sheep Breeding Farm Hissar. | 12.50 | 4250 Rams |
| (iii) | National Sheep Goat Development Board. | 2.50 | — |

(d) Question does not arise in view of the above.

**Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme**

1060. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines have been revised by the Government to include minor irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that funds earmarked for minor irrigation projects under AIBP during 1998-99 are utilised during the current financial year itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (c) A proposal *inter alia* to include Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes of North-Eastern States and Hilly States of Himachal Pradesh, J&K and Sikkim has been prepared. No funds has been earmarked separately for Minor Irrigation Projects under AIBP during current financial year *i.e.* 1998-99.

**Awards for Agricultural Production**

1061. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the productivity awards are given for increased production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of criteria fixed for such awards during the last three years; and

(d) the action being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) National productivity Awards are given for increased productivity to agencies and organisations engaged in agriculture production and post-harvest operations.

(b) Fourteen awards are given each year. Details are given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) For each sub-sector, an Expert-cum-Jury Committee determines specific sets of parameters for evaluation of the entries received. The parameters are both quantitative and qualitative. The quantitative parameters in various sub-sectors of agriculture include Yield Performance, Cropping Intensity, Irrigation Intensity, adoption of High Yielding Varieties, use of modern inputs, Manpower Productivity, Extension activities etc. The qualitative factors include Product Quality and Quality Improvement, Export Orientation, Human Resource Development, Farm Women Empowerment.

The awards given by the Government recognize excellence in performance within each sub-sector to motivate others to enhance productivity.

***Statement***

*National Productivity Awards in Agriculture Sub-Sector*

1. Agricultural Extension Services
2. Animal Feed Processing Industry
3. Bio-Fertilizer Producers
4. Command Area Development and Irrigation Projects
5. Dairy Development & Production in Cooperative and Public Sector
6. Dryland Farming Projects
7. Horticulture Development in Co-operative Sector
8. Inland and Marine Fish Production in Co-operative Sector
9. Poultry Production and Development
10. Seeds Corporation in Public Sector
11. State Agro Industries Corporation
12. State Farms Corporation
13. State Marketing & Oilseeds Federation in Co-operative Sector
14. Warehousing Corporations.

*[Translation]*

**Support Price for Paddy and Wheat**

1062. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed the minimum support prices for paddy and wheat for the year 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the support prices are likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The Government has already fixed the minimum support prices for paddy and wheat for the 1998-99 crop year as under:—

| | (Rs. per quintal) |
|---|---|
| Paddy common | 440 |
| Paddy Grade 'A' | 470 |
| Wheat | 550 |

*[English]*

**Motorisation of Traditional Craft**

1063. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to provide assistance to motorise traditional craft of fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for the scheme during 1998; and

(d) the assistance being given to the State of Maharashtra under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Motorisation of Traditional Craft is under implementation in the country from Seventh Five Year Plan onwards. The scheme helps the traditional fishermen to extend the area of their fishing operation, to reduce physical strain and to return to shore quickly with the catch in prime condition. Fifty percent cost of the engine is provided as subsidy under the scheme limited to Rs. 10,000/- per outboard motor and Rs. 12,000/- per inboard motor. The cost of subsidy is shared equally by the Centre and the State and met fully by the Centre for Union Territories.

(c) An amount of Rs. 100 lakhs has been earmarked under the scheme during the financial year 1998-99.

(d) No assistance has been given to the State of Maharashtra so far during 1998-99 since there is no demand from the State Government.

*[Translation]*

**Agricultural Forestry and Orchard**

1064. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote agricultural forestry and orchard in the country especially in Bihar;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) As regards promotion of Orchards is concerned, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on "Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits" since the 8th Five Year Plan. Under this scheme, assistance is being provided for production of quality planting material through small and large nurseries, establishment of tissue culture units in the public and private sector, area expansion, improving productivity of old/senile orchards, taking up of publicity measures and training of farmers. The scheme is being continued during 1998-99 at an outlay of Rs. 25.00 crores in all States including Bihar. The position regarding release of funds to the Government of Bihar during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as follows:

(Rs. in lakh)

| Year | Allocation | Funds released |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 81.72 | 71.72 |
| 1998-99 | 71.00 | 20.00 (till 2/99) |

As regards Agro-forestry is concerned, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

**Age for Government Service**

1065. SHRI VAIKO:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have raised the ecruitment age for various posts in Central Government )epartments including autonomous bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any notice from the Delhi High Court in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the latest point of view of the Union Government n regard to retirement age of Central Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Consequent to raising of the retirement age from 58 years o 60 years, the upper age limit for recruitment to All ndia Services and various Central Services through the Civil Services Examination, 1999 has been increased by ! years. Further, general orders have also been notified in 21st December, 1998 providing for increase by two 'ears in the upper age-limit for recruitment through Direct )pen Examination to all the Central Civil Services and Civil Posts under the Central Government with effect from st April, 1999 vide Central Civil Services and Civil Posts Upper Age-limit for Direct Recruiemtn) Rules, 1998. The aid Rules are not directly applicable to autonomous odies and it is for the respective autonomous body to lecide whether or not to increase the retiement age of neir own employees.

(c) and (d) Government in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has not received any Notice rom the Delhi High Court in this regard.

(e) At present, there is no proposal to change the existing retirement age of Central Government employees.

**Re-unification of Korea**

1066. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the new proposal made by the Government of Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Government of South Korea for reunification of Korea on the basis of "Independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity" without any foreign interference;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A high level meeting held in Pyongyang on 3 February 1999 approved a letter which was forwarded to prominent leaders of South Korea, including President Kim Dae-Jung and Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil.

The letter called for (i) declaring 1999 as a year of national independence and great unity; (ii) honest implementation of the three principles of national reunification, i.e. independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity; and (iii) dialogue between the authorities and other wide ranging dialogues between the North and South Koreas.

(c) The Government of India favours the reunification of the two Koreas in a peaceful manner through bilateral dialogue.

*[Translation]*

**Sale of Seeds**

1067. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether seeds are being sold by foreign companies in the country;

(b) whether these seeds are beng produced in the country or abroad;

(c) whether foreign companies have taken permission from Union Government and concerned State Governments for the sale and distribution of seeds; and

(d) whether the Union Government or State Governments test the quality of seeds being sold by the foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, these seeds are being produced in the country as well as abroad.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Testing of seeds of imported varieties/hybrids is being facilitated by Indian Council of Agricultural Research as per the guidelines contained in the New Policy on Seed Development, 1988 as far as seeds of Cereals, Pulses, Oilseeds and Foodders are concerned, whereas no testing is required for seeds of vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants as these seeds are under Open General Licence.

*[English]*

**Milk Quota for Disabled**

1068. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Milk Scheme allocates any quota for milk to the disabled persons;

(b) if so, the number of disabled who have applied for and the number out of them allotted this quota;

(c) the reasons for not allotting quota to the remaining applicants; and

(d) the time by which they are likely to be allotted quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Delhi Milk Scheme does not allocate any quota for milk to the disabled persons. However, there is scheme under which home delivery agents are authorised to draw 20 litres of milk per head for supply at the customers' doorstep. Though the delivery of milk at home is continuing, new agents are not being engaged for the last two years. Any disabled person can also apply to became a home delivery agent.

(b) to (d) 62 disabled persons have applied for issue of home delivery card during the last two years but none has been issued as the issue of new card under home delivery scheme has been under suspension for the last two years. No decision has been taken regarding the opening of scheme for the issue of home delivery card.

**Talks with Nepal**

1069. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government took up the issue of managing the open border with the King of Nepal during his recent visit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The visit of the King of Nepal was essentially a ceremonial event as he was invited as Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations. Nevertheless, the visit did provide occasion for an overview of bilateral relations and exchange of views on matters of mutual interest, including issues of concern to both sides relating to the management of the open Indo-Nepal border. Shared concern on this matter was also evident from the determination expressed by both sides to take urgent necessary steps to control misuse of the open border between the two countries.

*[Translation]*

**Watershed Development Scheme**

1070. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work has been started under National Watershed Development Scheme in the rainfed areas of Bihar during the Eighth Five Year Plan particularly in Jahanabad;

(b) whether the desired target has not been achieved under the said project; and

(c) if so, the details of target set and achieved during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir, but no watershed in Jahanabad district could be taken up for development as none of the blocks qualified for taking up the works as per approved guidelines.

(b) and (c) An area of 23189 ha. has been developed against the target of 101485 ha. during the VIII Plan.

*[English]*

**Fruits and Vegetables**

1071. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a Corporation/Board which can provide loans to the fruits and vegetables producer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Corporation/Board is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government for constituting a separate corporation for providing loan to the fruit and vegetable producers in the country. The Co-operative Banks, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks provide short term production loan for raising such crops in the country. In addition to these rural financial institutions, State Land Development Banks/Primary Land Development Banks also provide medium and long term loans for raising fruits and vegetables particularly for development of orchards and Horticultural units in various parts of the country. Besides, National Horticulture Board is also providing soft loan for creating marketing infrastructure support and production on improved technologies.

**C.I.F.T.**

1072. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of studies/new projects undertaken by Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training, Calicut and Kochin, in Kerala during 1997 and 1998;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal for he expansion/development/modernisation of CIFT at Calicut and Cochin; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the allocation made herefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET) is a subordinate office of Fisheries Division of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, having Headquarters at Cochin and units at Madras and Vishakhapatnam. It is the only National Institute in India for training manpower for ocean going fishing vessels. This Institute has not undertaken any studies/new projects in Kerala during 1997 or 1998. However, details of studies/new projects undertaken by Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), a premier research institute for Fisheries under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research having Headquarters at Cochin and a research centre at Calicut, are given below:

— Development of resource specific trawl gear system and assessment of commercial trawling practices.

— Processing and product development from finfish and shell fish species.

— Development of viable technologies for the utilisation of crustacean wastes, fishery by products and sea weeds.

— Quality assurance and management in seafoods.

- Appropriate packaging for fish and fishery products.

— Production and Evaluation of biopolymers and biochemicals from aquatic organisms.

— Biochemical, nutritional and functional properties of fish constituents.

— Harvest and Post-harvest Technology Transfer and evaluation in fisheries.

— Nutrients, toxicants, pollutants and growth promoters in aquaculture systems and processed marine products.

(b) Yes, Sir. it is proposed to expand and modernise the CIFT Hqrs. at Cochin and its Calicut Research Centre during the IX Plan.

(c) During the IX Plan a tentative allocation of Rs. 21 crores has been made to CIFT in comparison to the VIII Plan allocation of Rs. 6.50 crores. During the current plan period, it is proposed to import a modern research vessel for vessel based fisheries programmes at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crores. In addition to the plan allocation, a one time catch up grant to the extent of Rs. 5 crores has also been proposed for CIFT for renovation of the existing infrastructure and modernization of the laboratories for its all research centres, including Calicut. The Calicut Centre of the CIFT is being strengthened as an extension unit to undertake technology transfer programmes through demonstration, training and extension education activities.

**Plan Sanctioned for J&K**

1073. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned for J&K for the year 1998-99 and the funds released during the current financial year;

(b) whether there is any difference between the sanctioned and released amount;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the precautions being taken in the coming year so that financial crunch is not repeated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) In the agreed Plan outlay of Rs. 1900 crore for 1998-99 (net of negative resources of the State), total Central Assistance allocated to J&K is Rs. 2459.24 crore. Central Assistance to State is released in instalments. In the current financial year, total Central Assistance released to the Government to the Jammu & Kashmir upto 22.2.1999 is Rs. 2191.81 crore.

**Repatriation of Indian Money**

1074. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian Government have refused to repatriate Indian corporates money stuck in the Russian Commercial banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have intervened in the matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Financial Crisis**

1075. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre and Jammu and Kashmir are at logger heads over financial crisis of the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

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

*[Translation]*

**Allowance to Unemployed**

1076. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of male and female youths of the country being graduates, post graduates and diploma holders are still unemployed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to provide any allowance to them for their sustenance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The comprehensive estimate of employment and unemployment in the country is available from the quinquennial surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The latest round of NSSO Survey conducted in 1993-94 (50th round) indicates 7 million unemployment approximately as per Usual Status (for 15 years and above), and that 63.55% of these total unemployed are educated at the level of secondary and above.

(c) to (e) No proposal is there with the Union Government to provide an allowance to all the unemployed educated persons. However, the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) provides employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth.

*[English]*

**Price of Milk**

1077. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is resentment amongst masses on the hike in the price of the milk supplied by the Government agencies in Delhi in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons for the increase in price of milk; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to roll back the prices of milk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The milk in Delhi is suppiied by Delhi Milk Scheme has not increased the price of the milk whereas the Mother Dairy has increased the selling price of toned milk sold through bulk vending system form Rs. 11/- to Rs. 12/- per litre with effect from 1.2.1999. The Government has not received any report regarding the resentment among the masses on this issue.

(b) and (c) The hike in the prices has been done due to the rise in the cost of raw material, milk commodities, transport, electricity etc. Hence there is no proposal to roll back the price of milk.

**New Transport Policy**

1078. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently announced the new Transport Policy to involve the private sector and foreign participation in this sector;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister has not announced any new Transport Policy involving the private sector and foreign participation so far.

However, a Task Force on Infrastructure has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission comprising both Government and industry representatives, with the aim of attracting investment to specific projects of national and regional importance, and ensuring their timely completion.

Initially, the Task Force will deal with the projects relating to the development of roads and airports. It will also formulate an Integrated National Transport Policy to strengthen the transport infrastructure in the country.

**Oustees of Cauvery Irrigation Project**

1079. SHRI M.SELVARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of measures taken/propose to be taken by the Government for the rehabilitation and welfare of the families whose land has been acquired for cauvery irrigation project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): This is no project by name "Cauvery Irrigation Project".

**National Cooperative Development Corporation**

1080. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes implemented by National Cooperative Development Corporation;

(b) whether the loans were sanctioned or released for various agro-processing projects in co-operative sector during each of the last three years and current years also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Details of the schemes implemented by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and funds released by NCDC for agro-processing projects during last 3 years (1995-96 to 1997-98 and current financial year 1998-99 upto 19.2.99) are given in the attached Statements-I and II.

***Statement-I***

*Name of the Scheme Implemented by NCDC*

A. Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

1. Assistance to Cooperative Marketing, Processing and Storage programme in Cooperatively Under Developed States/UTs.
2. Share Capital participation in Cooperative Sugar Mills.
3. Share Capital participation in Cooperative Spinning Mills (Growers)
4. Share Capital participation in Coopcrative Spinning Mills (Weavers)
5. EEC assisted Development of Rural Growth Centres in Bihar.
6. EEC assistance Coconut Development Project in Kerala.
7. Assistance for strengthening of NAFED.
8. Integrated Cooperative Development Projects in selected Distt.'s (Subsidy).

B. Corporation Sponsored Schemes:

1. Margin money to MARKFED's.
2. Strengthening of Share Capital Base of primary/district marketing Societies.
3. Assistance to Processing Units:—
   (i) Sugar
   (ii) Spinning Mills
   (iii) Powerloom cooperative
   (iv) Other Processing Units.
4. Assistance to Cooperative Storage/Cold Storage.
5. Assistance for distribution of consumer articles in Rural Areas and Student Consumer Stores.
6. Assistance for Agricultural Services.
7. Integrated Cooperative Development Project in selected District (Loan)
8. Assistance for Weaker Section:—
   (i) Fisheries
   (ii) Dairy
   (iii) Poultry
   (iv) Tribal Cooperatives
   (v) SC Cooperatives
   (vi) handloom
   (vii) Coir
   (viii) Sericulture
9. Assistance for Computers.
10. Equipment Financing Scheme.
11. Assistance for Promotional and Developmen Programme.

***Statement II***

*State-wise Releases made by NCDC from 1995-96 to 1998-99 for Agro-Processing Projects*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| State/Institution | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 (upto 19.2.99) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 673.000 | 10.380 | — | — |
| Assam | 288.186 | — | — | — |
| Gujarat | 936.400 | 2080.195 | 513.545 | 86.780 |
| Himachal Pradesh | — | 17.612 | 75.989 | — |
| Karnataka | 1481.290 | 803.340 | 2329.356 | 1300.734 |
| Kerala | 128.870 | 398.350 | 887.345 | 155.965 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 155.300 | 34.380 | — | 96.320 |
| Maharashtra | 7264.550 | 2612.387 | 8509.137 | 5356.325 |
| Manipur | 1.399 | — | — | — |
| Meghalaya | 23.830 | — | — | — |
| Nagaland | — | 7.930 | — | — |
| Orissa | 605.120 | — | — | — |
| Punjab | 83.515 | 157.500 | 22.500 | — |
| Tamil Nadu | 2390.105 | 497.616 | 192.536 | 58.254 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 897.890 | — | 1873.750 | 5419.625 |
| West Bengal | 6.828 | 400.032 | 45.000 | 24.300 |
| Total | 14936.283 | 7019.722 | 14449.158 | 12498.303 |

**Heavy Industries in Eastern Uttar Pradesh**

1081. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the resource constraints and financial viability has since improved to set up some heavy industries in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh particularly in Ghazipur and Jaunpur districts; and

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to set up some heavy industries during the Ninth Five Year Plan indicating the specific date by which the industries are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) In the prevailing economic environment, the private sector is expected to set up industries in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and elsewhere. There is no proposal to set up any heavy industry in public sector.

*[Translation]*

**Corruption Cases**

1082. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Senior Officers found guilty of corruption during each of the last three years; and

(b) the number of officer out of them sent to jail or punished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

**Corruption Charges**

1083. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of the Central Government officials (Class I & Class II) against whom corruption charges, mis-appropriation of funds etc. have been levelled during each of the last four years, Ministry-wise;

(b) the number of Central Government employees against whom corruption charges have been levelled during each of the last four years, Ministry-wise; and

(c) the number of backlog pending cases with the investigating agencies, Ministry-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

**IAS/IPS/IFS**

1084. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Foreign Service in the country as on date;

(b) the number of officers of these services posted in the Union Government and in various States;

(c) the number of officers of Indian Foreign Service posted in the country and the abroad; and

(d) the number of new officers being recruited each year in various Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Details in respect of number of officers in position in

respect of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Foreign Service (IFS) are as follows:

| Sl. No. | Details sought | Indian Administrative Service | Indian Police Service | Indian Foreign Service |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | No. of officers in position as on date | 5033 | 3136 | 600 |
| 2. | No. of officers posted at the Centre | 786 | 425 | Not applicable |
| 3. | No. of officers posted in the States | 4247 | 2711 | Not applicable |
| 4. | No. of IFS officers posted in the Country | Not applicable | Not applicable | 144 |
| 5. | No. of IFS Officers posted abroad | Not applicable | Not applicable | 456 |
| 6. | No. of new officers recruited during last 5 years | | | |
| | 1993 | 80 | 98 | 15 |
| | 1994 | 79 | 98 | 14 |
| | 1995 | 80 | 99 | 16 |
| | 1996 | 76 | 96 | 14 |
| | 1997 | 55 | 84 | 16 |

**Unemployment**

1085. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL:
DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed youths at present in each State;

(b) the number of unemployed persons at the beginning and end of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether unemployment is likely to raise to 38 crores by the turn of this century;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to launch employment creation schemes in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the target set and likely to be achieved by the end of current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Quinquennial Survey on employment and unemployment conducted by the NSSO are the comprehensive source of information on employment and unemployment situation in the country. The latest such survey relates to the year 1993-94 (50th round of NSSO).

A statement showing the number of unemployed youth in 1993-94 is attached.

(b) Estimate of number of unemployed is available from the quinquennial surveys on employment and unemployment which were done by the NSSO in the years 1987-88 and 1993-94. The total number of unemployed, as per Usual Principal Status, in 1993-94 is estimated to be 9.0 million compared to 11.5 million in 1987-88.

(c) and (d) The average annual unemployment during the 9th Plan is projected to be 7 million for persons aged 15 years and above, estimated on Usual Status basis.

(e) and (f) The Special Employment Programmes, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) are continuing in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(g) The Ninth Plan aims at reduction in the average rate of unemployment of persons aged 15 years and above to 1.66% compared to 1.87% in 8th Plan, estimated on Usual Status basis.

***Statement***

*Estimated Number of Unemployed Youth* in 1993-94*

*('000)*

| States | Number of Unemployed Youth (15-29 years) |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 401 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 4 |
| Assam | 553 |
| Bihar | 696 |
| Goa | 47 |
| Gujarat | 274 |
| Haryana | 123 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 111 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 69 |
| Karnataka | 346 |
| Kerala | 966 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 394 |
| Maharashtra | 770 |
| Manipur | 13 |
| Meghalaya | 4 |
| Mizoram | 2 |
| Nagaland | 6 |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| Orissa | 342 |
| Punjab | 145 |
| Rajasthan | 100 |
| Sikkim | 2 |
| Tamil Nadu | 775 |
| Tripura | 29 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 621 |
| West Bengal | 1030 |
| All India | 7900 |

* Estimated on Usual Principal Status basis.

**Terminator Genes**

1086. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Strains of terminator genes have been found in the imported seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to prevent the import of these seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that seeds containing Terminator Genes do not enter the Indian market include:

(i) Issue of instructions to all permit issuing authorities to ensure that seeds imported into India do not have terminator genes.

(ii) In the proposed Plant Varieties & Farmer's Rights Protection legislation, necessary provisions have been made to prohibit seeds with terminator technology being registered for plant breeder's rights.

(iii) the ICAR and Deptt. of Biotechnology are developing suitable techniques for detecting the terminator genes or their combinations to the seeds.

*[English]*

**Visa Fee**

1087. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people visiting US Embassy in New Delhi for obtaining Visa have to pay heavy prices besides they have to stand on their foot as benches are not provided to sit;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring this matter to the US Embassy; and

(c) whether the Government propose to approach the Embassy for reduction in Visa Fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The visa applicants at the US Embassy are required to pay a fee which is roughly equivalent to the fee being charged by India for similar services. As far as arrangements to receive visitors are concerned, all Embassies would be aware of the need to provide appropriate facilities.

(c) No, Sir.

**Scheme for K.B.K**

1088. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have announced the schemes for Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput Plan of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds provided during the year 1998-99, scheme-wise;

(c) whether the funds provided to Government of Orissa since 1995-96 upto 1997-98 for KBK Plan has been utilised and the State Government has furnished the utilisation information to the concerned Ministries/ Department; and

(d) if so, the details of funds provided and achievements made in this regard, year-wise and Ministry-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Long Term Action Plan for development of undivided districts of Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) in Orissa was launched in 1995. However, in order to focus on high priority schemes which would deal with the basic problems of these districts, the Government of Orissa was asked to prepare a revised plan. The Revised Long Term Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07) consists of Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors, namely agriculture, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, irrigation, health, drinking water, emergency feeding, welfare of SCs/STs and rural connectivity.

(b) In addition to the normal flow of funds under Central Plans and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, various steps have been taken to ensure a certain level of funding to these districts in 1998-99. These include doubling of the first instalment of funds under Employment Assurance Scheme and provision of additionality of Rs. 37 crore in the Annual Plan 1998-99 of Orissa for these districts. Further Rs. 7 crore have been provided for Emergency Feeding Programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units under Basic Minimum Services.

(c) and (d) The details of the additional Central Assistance made available under the Long Term Action Plan for KBK districts from 1995-96 to 1997-98 as communicated by the State Government of Orissa is given in the attached Statement.

***Statement***

| Year | | Scheme/Sector | Amount (Rs. lakh) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | (i) | Agriculture | 97.98 |
| | (ii) | Horticulture | 115.80 |
| | (iii) | Animal Resource Development | 211.39 |
| | (iv) | Mobile Health Units | 410.00 |
| | (v) | Emergency Feeding (Out of P.M's Relief Fund) | 400.00 |
| 1996-97 | | | — |
| 1997-98 | (i) | Mobile Health Unit (out of N.F.C.R.) | 200.00 |
| | (ii) | Emergency Feeding (out of N.F.C.R.) | 200.00 |
| | (iii) | Million Wells Scheme | 414.00 |
| | | Total: | 2049.17 |

**Ties with Nepal**

1089. DR. SANJAY SINH:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to establish long-term bilateral cooperation with Nepal;

(b) whether any high level talk was held in this regard while the King of Nepal visited New Delhi on the eve of Republic Day; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. while bilateral ties with Nepal are historical, close and friendly, constant endeavour is made to build further on this foundation for a mutually beneficial long-term bilateral cooperation.

(b) and (c) the King's visit was essentially a ceremonial event as he was invited as Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations. However, the visit did provide occasion for an overview of bilateral relations and exchange of views on matters of mutual interest. High level talks held during the King's visit covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations, in particular the potentials for long-term cooperation between India and Nepal in core sectors, including water resources. The two Governments would now be taking follow-up action in pursuance of this objective.

**Import of Dairy Products**

1090. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board has asked the Government to formulate suitable policy to stop indiscriminate import of dairy products into India;

(b) whether the prospect of lower subsidies has already led economies in Europe to reduce milk production;

(c) whether the Government have committed a zero tariff binding on skimmed milk powder at the World Trade Organisation; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon and steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (d) The information is being collected from the concerned departments and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as the same is received.

*[Translation]*

**Visit of Heads of State**

1091. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of President, Prime Minister, Head of States and other dignitaries who visited our country during the last one year; and

(b) the agreements reached with them during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The following are the details of Prime Ministers/Presidents/Heads of State/Government who visited India during the last one year (from March 1998 to February 1999) and the agreements signed during their visits:—

*Canada*

Mr. Romeo Le Blanc, Governor General of Canada visited India from March 26-April 3, 1998. Two MoUs, on Telecommunications Framework Project and on Telecommunications Operation Project were signed during the visit.

*Nauru*

Mr. Kinza Godfrey Clodumar, President of Nauru visited India from March 31 to April 5, 1998. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Bangladesh*

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh visited India on June 16, 1998 and from January 27-29, 1999. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Maldives*

President MA Gayoom of Maldives visited India from June 30-July 1, 1998. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Bhutan*

The King of Bhutan HM Jigme Singye Wangchuk visited India from October 5-8, 1998. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Mauritius*

Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius visited India from October 13-19, 1998. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Bulgaria*

Mr Peter Stoyanov, President of Bulgaria visited India from October 25-28, 1998. An agreement on Bilateral Investment Promotion was signed during the visit.

*Switzerland*

Mr Flavio Cotti, President of the Swiss Confederation visited India from November 20-25, 1998. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Russia*

Mr Yevgeny Primakov, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation visited India from December 20-22, 1998. The following seven MoUs/agreements were signed during the visit:

(i) Extradition Treaty

(ii) Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal matters

(iii) Consular Convention

(iv) Agreement on Military-Technical Cooperation up to the year 2010

(v) Joint Document on Development of Trade, Economic, Industrial, Financial, Science and Technology Cooperation.

(vi) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Communications.

(vii) Air Transport Agreement

*Sri Lanka*

President Chandrika Kumaratunga Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka visited India from December 27-30, 1998. A Free Trade Agreement between India and Sri Lanka and A MoU to set up India-Sri Lanka Foundation were signed during the visit.

*Luxembourg*

Mr Jean Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg visited India from January 10-13, 1999. An MoU for cooperation in the steel sector was signed during the visit.

*Tajikistan*

Mr. Emamali Rakhmanov, President of Tajikistan visited India from January 22,1999. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Nepal*

HM King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal visited India from January 24-29, 1999. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Estonia*

Mr. Lennart Meri, President of Estonia visited India from February 3-10, 1999. An Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science & Technology was signed during the visit.

*Republic of Korea*

Mr Kim Jong Pil, Prime Minister of Republic of Korea visited India from February 10-12, 1999. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*[English]*

**Uranium Mines**

1092. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of uranium mines in the country alongwith their locations;

(b) whether radiation in some of these mines particularly from Jaduguda in Bihar is affecting the workers and nearby villagers;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the preventive measures taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) a public sector undertaking (PSU) of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) at present operates three underground uranium mines at Jaduguda, Bhatin and Narawapahar, a mill at Jaduguda for processing the ore from all the mines and two plants at Mosabani and Rakha for recovering uranium from the copper tailings from the Hindustan Copper Limited. All these facilities are located in the East Singhbhum District of Bihar.

(b) to (e) Neither any employee of UCIL nor any nearby villager has been affected by radiation due to the mining operations of the company. Since the inception of this company, the radiation exposure to the employees and the radiation level in and around the plants have been constantly monitored by the Health Physics Unit of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, a constituent unit of this Department. The radiation exposure to miners are well below the prescribed permissible limits and the background radiation level at Jaduguda is also similar to that in the surrounding areas. Recently, a door-to-door health survey of inhabitants residing within 2 Km. radius area around UCIL was conducted by a team of medical officers from the State Government and UCIL hospital along with the scientists at the Health Physics Unit of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, stationed at Jaduguda. The team visited seventeen villages and examined about 4000 persons. Initial survey was followed by detailed pathological and other tests at UCIL Hospital, Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur and Tata Mehrabai Cancer Hospital at the end of which 29 cases were short-listed for further examination. Accordingly an expert team of Medical Doctors & Health Physicists from BARC, Mumbai visited the Jaduguda site. These experts alongwith Doctors from the State Government, UCIL and Tata Main Hospital re-examined the short listed cases.

Their unanimous conclusion is that the disease pattern in the area cannot be attributed to radiation exposure in any of these cases. All steps required for controlling radiation within permissible limits have always been and continue to be taken as a preventive measure.

*[Translation]*

**Production of Food Product**

1093. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to increase the production of food products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the action plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Government is implementing a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes within the frame-work of the 9th Five Year Plan to increase the production of food products in the agriculture sector.

(b) and (c) For the Ninth Five year Plan the Planning Commission has made an allocation of Rs. 9153.86 crore inclusive of an allocation of Rs. 1400 crore under the Special Action Plan for Doubling Food Production in next ten years to the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. With this, foodgrain production will go up to 234 million tonnes at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan as compared to a target of 210 million tonnes set by the Planning Commission for the Eighth Five Year Plan.

*[English]*

**Economic Advisory Council**

1094. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have revived the Economic Advisory Council;

(b) if so; the composition thereof; and

(c) the reasons for taking a decision to revive the Economic Advisory Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The present Economic Advisory Council is a new initiative of the Prime Minister and is called the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. The composition of the Council is as under:

| | |
|---|---|
| Chairman | Prime Minister |
| Members | Dr. I.G. Patel<br>Prof. P.N. Dhar<br>Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia<br>Dr. Arjun Sengupta<br>Dr. Kirit Prikh<br>Dr. Amaresh Bagchi<br>Dr. Ashok Desai<br>Shri G.V. Ramakrishna<br>Principal Secretary to Prime Minister |
| Member Secretary | Secretary to Prime Minister |

The Economic Advisory Council will afford an opportunity for a policy dialogue on crucial economic issues between the Prime Minister and Members of the Council.

**Production of Paddy**

1095. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the varieties of paddy grown in the country at present;

(b) the details of the yield of these varieties per acre;

(c) the varieties of paddy which have been successful in increase the production rice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A total of 530 rice varieties have been released in the country for various ecosystems since the establishment of All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project in 1965. the currently popular varieties of paddy are given in attached statement.

(b) The varieties released for irrigated ecosystems have yield potential of 20-28 q. per acre. Rainfed uplands varieties have a yield potential of 12-16 q. per acre and those for rainfed shallow lowlands have a yield potential of 16-20 q. per acre.

(c) A number of improved varieties of paddy have been successful in increasing the production of rice. A few important ones are: IR8, Jaya, Mahsuri, Ratna, Kalinga III, IR36, PantDhan4, Savitri, Gayatri, Swarna, Manoharsaku, Rasi, Kranti, PR106, PR108.

(d) The introduction and rapid spread of high yielding varieties since late sixties and the early seventies resultec in phenomenal increase in production of rice. The growth in area was from 36.44 million hectare in 1967-68 tc 43.28 million hectare in 1996-97. The production during the period increased form 37.6 million tonnes to 81.31 million tonnes. During this period, the grain yield per acre is almost doubled.

***Statement***

*Popular Rice varieties released for different eco-systems*

| State | Eco-system | Names of the varieties |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | Irrigated | Tella Hamsa, Surekha, Erramallelu, Krishna Hamsa, Triguna* |
| | Rainfed upland | Tulasi*, Aditya* |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Rainfed shallow | Phalguna, Swarna, Samba Mahsuri, Krishnaveni Chaitanya, |
| 2. Assam | Irrigated | Rasi* |
| | Rainfed shallow water | Lakhmi, Bhadur, Kushal, Ranjit, Manoharsali, Mahsuri |
| | Post-flood | Kalinga-III |
| 3. Bihar | Irrigated | Gautam, Rajendradhan-201, Rajendradhan-202 |
| | Rainfed upland | Vandana, Heera* |
| | Rainfed shallow Water | Mahsuri, Jayashree, Janaki |
| | Rainfed semi-deep water | Sudha, Jogen |
| | Rainfed deep water | Vaidehi, Jalmagna |
| 4. Goa | Irrigated | Suraksha*, Rasi*, Karjat-2 |
| | Rainfed upland | Goa-1 (Annada) |
| 5. Gujarat | Irrigated | Gaur-10, Ambika, Narmada, Jaya* |
| | Rainfed upland | GR-3 |
| 6. Haryana | Irrigated | Haryana Basmati, Taroari Basmati, Basmati-370, Pusa Basmati-1, PR 108 |
| 7. Himachal Pradesh | Rainfed upland | VL Dhan-221, RP 2421, Himalaya 741 |
| 8. J & K | Irrigated | Pusa Basmati-1*, Kasturi*, Ratna |
| 9. Karnataka | Irrigated | Prakash, Red Annapurna, Mandya Vani |
| | Rainfed upland | IET 7564, Tulasi* |
| 10. Kerala | Irrigated | Pavizham, Mata Triveni, Kairali, Ranjani* |
| | Saline | Vytilla-2 |
| 11. M.P. | Irrigated | Mahamaya |
| | Rainfed upland | Tulasi*, Aditya*, Jawahardhan 3-43* |
| | Rainfed shallow water | Phalguna, Mahsuri, Kranti |
| 12. Maharashtra | Irrigated | Pusa Basmati*, Karjat-2 |
| | Rainfed upland | Ratnagiri 73-41, Terna |
| | Saline | Panvel-I, Panvel-2, CST7-1* |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 13. Manipur | Irrigated | Punshi, Maniphouibi-I |
| 14. Meghalaya | Rainfed shallow water | NEH Megha Rice-1, NEH Megha Rice-2 |
| 15. Orissa | Rainfed shallow water/ Irrigated<br>Rainfed semi-deep water | Rajeswari, Urbashi, Samalei, Mahalakshmi, Sonamani<br>Utkalprabha, Kanchan |
| 16. Punjab | Irrigated | IR8*, Jaya*, PR106, PR108, Basmati-370, Basmati-385, Pusa 44-43*, Pusa Basmati-1*, PR 111 |
| 17. Pondicherry | Irrigated<br>Shallow water | Bharatidasan, Aravindar Savitri*<br>Savitri* |
| 18. Rajasthan | Irrigated | BK 79, Basmati-370 |
| 19. Tamil Nadu | Irrigated, Kuruvai, Thaladi<br>Early<br>Medium<br>Shallow water | <br>IR64*, IR50*<br>Co43, ADT39, White Ponni<br>Savitri*, Ponni, TPS3, ADT40 |
| 20. U.P. | irrigated<br>Upland<br>Shallow water<br>Semi-deep/deep<br>Jitendra*, Chakra-59<br>Hilly region | Govind<br>Narendradhan-118<br>Mahsuri<br>Jal Lahri, Jalnidhi, Jalpriya,<br><br>Pantdhan-11 |
| 21. West Bengal | Irrigated<br>upland<br>Shallow water<br>Semi-deep<br>Deep<br>Saline | Ratna*<br>Rasi*<br>Swarnadhan*, nbl RAJ, jt 42<br>Jogen, Purnendu, Jalapriya<br>Jaladhi-1, Jaladhi-2<br>CSR 10* |

*Varieties released by Central Variety Release Committee. Others are released at state level.

SPECIAL PURPOSE VARIETIES:

| Soil Problem | Improved varieties |
|---|---|
| 1. Saline | CSR-10, Lunishree, CST 7-1, Narendra Usar-2 |
| 2. Alkaline | Vikas (CSR-5) |

HIGH YIELDING VARIETIES OF BASMATI QUALITY FOR TRADITIONAL BASMATI AREAS:

Pusa Basmati-1, Kasturi

RICE HYBRIDS RELEASED.

| State | Hybrid |
|---|---|
| STATE RELEASES: | |
| Andhra Pradesh | APRH-1, APPRH-2, DDRH-1 |
| Tamil Nadu | MGR-1, CORH-1, ADTRH-1, PHB-71 |
| Karnataka | KRH-1, KRH-2 |
| West Bengal | CNRH-3 |
| Maharashtra | Sahyadri, PHB-71 |
| Uttar Pradesh | Pant Shankar Dhan-1, Narender Shankar Dhan-2, PHB-71 |
| Haryana | PBH-71 |

**Natural Calamity**

1096. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "A night no one wants to be in the largest graveyard on earth" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated February 3, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to make this largest graveyard liveable and put to proper use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

**Production of Oilseeds**

1097. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the research and development work has been undertaken in the agricultural research institutions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount spent by these research institutions in the States during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the national level research and development work for improvement of oilseed crops has been carried out by three National Research Centres (NRC's) viz. NRC on Groundnut, Junagarh, NRC on Soyabean, Indore, NRC on Rapeseed and Mustard, Bharatpur and one Directorate of Oilseed research located at Hyderabad. In addition, research is also conducted under All India Coordinated Research Project on different oilseed crops at over 100 centres in different state agricultural universities and its regional centres. The Government of India has also constituted a Technology Mission for promotion of oilseed development in the country. Under this Mission, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, provides funds through centrally sponsorred scheme on oilseed production programme to different State Government on 75:25 basis.

As a result of intensive research in different oilseed crops, a number of improved varieties and hybrids have been developed and released for cultivation in different areas and situations. Appropriate crop production and plant protection technologies have also been developed to realise maximum yield potential of improved varieties.

As a result of these research efforts the total oilseed production has more than doubled during last one decade from 11.27 million tonnes in 1986-87 to 24.96 million tonnes in 1996-97.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2376.44 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 853.17 lakhs under Non-Plan was provided for research on nine oilseed crops namely, groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, sunflower, safflower, soyabean, linseed, sesame, niger and castor during the last three years as per details given in attached Statement-I.

In addition, an amount of Rs. 1750 lakh was provided by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India through ICAR to different research and development institutions in the country for breeder seed production and frontline demonstrations.

An amount of Rs. 26788 lakhs was also provided by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation under a centrally sponsored oilseeds production programme to different states for purchase of critical inputs and the cost is shared by the Centres and State Governments on 75:25 basis (Statement-II) attached.

***Statement-I***

*Funds provided for Oilseeds Research during the last 3 years (Rs. in lakhs)*

| Institute/AICRP | 1995-96 | | 1996-97 | | 1997-98 | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Plan | Non Plan | Plan | Non-Plan | Plan | Non-Plan | Plan | *NP |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Directorate of Oilseeds Research and AICRP on Oilseeds | 141.16 | 101.99 | 161.58 | 134.99 | 469.56 | 190.00 | 772.30 | 426.98 |
| National Research Centre on Groundnut | 79.99 | 66.08 | 91.87 | 71.34 | 92.37 | 99.11 | 264.23 | 236.53 |
| AICRP on Groundnut | 57.22 | — | 53.20 | — | 57.17 | — | 167.59 | — |
| National Research Centre on Rapeseed and Mustard | 74.06 | — | 69.44 | — | 92.00 | 82.61 | 235.50 | 82.61 |
| AICRP on Rapeseed and Mustard | 57.62 | — | 58.19 | — | 58.97 | — | 174.78 | — |
| National Research Centre on Soyabean | 91.79 | 28.38 | 99.44 | 37.98 | 49.54 | 40.69 | 240.77 | 107.05 |
| AICRP on Soyabean | 28.35 | — | 27.49 | — | 55.00 | — | 110.84 | — |
| Hybrid Research on Oilseeds | 56.18 | — | 59.41 | — | 55.12 | — | 171.35 | — |
| A.P. Cess Fund | 22.88 | — | 65.08 | — | 151.12 | — | 239.08 | — |
| Total | 609.25 | 196.45 | 685.70 | 244.37 | 1080.85 | 412.41 | 2376.44 | 853.17 |

* NP = Non Plan

***Statement-II***

*Funds provided by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture for developmental activities*

*(Rupees in lakhs)*

| Purpose | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Funds to ICAR for Breeder Seed production and Frontline Demonstrations | 920 | 330 | 500 | 1750 |
| To State Governments under oilseed production programme | 9400 | 8469 | 8919 | 26788 |
| Total | 10320 | 8799 | 9419 | 28538 |

*[English]*

**Modernisation of Passport Office**

1098. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to modernise and computerise all the Passport Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the name of the Passport Offices which have been computerised so far;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to modernise and computerise and also improve the working of Regional Passport Offices in Bhubaneswar; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes.

(b) The Passport Offices at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Mumbai, Trichy and Trivandrum have been computerised.

(c) and (d) A comprehensive project to computerise and modernise all Passport Offices is under formulation.

**Assure Career Progression**

1099. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the "Assure Career Progression Scheme" to augment the career prospects of Central Government Officers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) the recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission about Assured Career Progression Scheme for the Central Government employees are under consideration of the Government. However, the Government has already decided in principle to allow atleast two financial upgradations to Group-C and Group-D employees in a career. The modalities in this regard are being worked out.

*[Translation]*

**Regarding Atrocities on Indians**

1100. SHRI ADITYANATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the incidents of atrocities on the Indians living in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries;

(b) if so, whether the issue of such incidents are raised in bilateral talks with those countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) In the Gulf countries (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE and Oman), the total number of Indians is approximately 3.2 million. The majority of these persons are semi-skilled and skilled workers, who are employed on construction/maintenance projects being mainly executed by private companies. A number of Indians are also empolyed as domestic workers, including as maid servants.

While some workers have legitimate grievances relating to their working or living conditions, we have not received any reports of "atrocities" on our nationals in the Gulf countries. the majority of the complaints of our workers relate to non-payment of agreed wages, delays in payments, inadequate accommodation or food arrangements, and with regard to domestic workers, harassment or ill-treatment by the sponsor or his family members. These complaints are promptly attended to by our embassies whenever they are brought to their attention and, often, a satisfactory resolution of the dispute is obtained. The embassies also assist the workers if their disputes are brought before the local labour courts.

The Government closely monitors the condition of its nationals and takes up the question of their welfare with the Governments of the Gulf countries.

*[English]*

**Cashew Cultivation**

1101. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cashew cultivation is being promoted in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cashew produced in the country during of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to increase production, processing and export of cashew; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation provides assistance to the States/UTs for promoting cashew cultivation under the centrally sponsored scheme for Integrated Development of Cashew. Important components of the scheme are: (1) new planting (2) Replanting/rejuvenation, (3) Intensive pest control measures (4) Establishment of Regional Nurseries for quality planting material production and (5) Training of farmers. A sum of Rs. 20 crores has been allocated for the scheme during 1998-99.

(c) A statement showing Statewise production of cashew for the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 is attached.

(d) and (e) the centrally sponsored scheme for Integrated Development of Cashew has been continued for the first two years of IX Plan on the same guidelines of VIII Plan. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority under the Ministry of Commerce provides assistance under their schemes for export promotion and market development. Adequate processing capacity has already been created in the country, with about 825 processing units having been established. During the year 19[illegible], India exported 53067 metric tonnes of cashew worth Rs. 954.67 crores.

***Statement***

*Production of Cashew*

*(In tonnes)*

| State | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Kerala | 149000 | 140000 | 134000 |
| Karnataka | 33000 | 37600 | 52000 |
| Goa | 37000 | 17800 | 20000 |
| Maharashtra | 31200 | 69000 | 80000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tamil Nadu | 20000 | 30930 | 30000 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 50000 | 71700 | 60000 |
| Orissa | 46500 | 43000 | 40000 |
| West Bengal | 4100 | 6960 | 6000 |
| Others | 370 | 840 | 8000 |
| Total | 371170 | 417830 | 430000 |

*[Translation]*

**Combating Terrorism**

1102. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether American Government have given any assurance to the Government of India for extending full co-operation to combat terrorism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have consistently drawn the attention of the international community, through bilateral interactions and in multilateral forums, to the issue of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, and in other parts of India. This matter has been taken up on a number of occasions with the US authorities.

The US side has conveyed that they understand India's concerns and that the US takes a serious view of such terrorist activities.

**Drip Irrigation**

1103. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUJ BISEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr the Union Government have kept Madhya Pradesh in the "C" category under the "Drip Irrigation System";

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the basis on which the classification has been done;

(c) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have to pay 25 per cent more on the purchase of Drip System than that of Government of Maharashtra due to improper classification;

(d) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have sent any proposal for reconsideration of this classification and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Union Governmen thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since the drip manufacturers were unable to provide the drip systems at a uniform price throughout the country as the prices of components vary from State to State depending upon the level of awareness, proximity of the State to the factory, the distance involved in transportation, potential of drip irrigation in the State and taxes levied, the States in the country are categorised as A,B, & C. As the level of awareness in Madhya Pradesh State in implementing the drip irrigation was very low while initiating the scheme by the Government, the State was put under category 'C'. As per the guidelines, for all category 'C' states the system cost for drip irrigation can be raised upto 25% over the average cost of category 'A' State, *i.e.* Maharashtra.

(d) and (e) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh had furnished a proposal in January, 1997 requesting for placing Madhya Pradesh State under category 'B'. The Government of Madhya Pradesh was informed that the proposal regarding recategorisation of the State would be looked into by a committee which has been set up to review the price structure of the drip irrigation system. The State Government was also informed that the farmers of Madhya Pradesh could purchase the drip system from any where they feel convenient. The final report of the Committee is expected shortly.

*[English]*

**Green Revolution**

1104. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared an action plan to bring another Green Revolution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production target fixed for various agricultural crops for the year 1999-2000;

(d) the percentage of increase envisaged in the Agricultural production over the production of 1998-99; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve these targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Agenda for Governance of the Government has given top priority for doubling the foodgrains production and making India hunger free in 10 years. The "food" includes food-grains like rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses.

(c) to (e) The production targets for various agricultural crops for the year 1999-2000 are yet to be finalised.

**Research Centres and Projects**

1105. DR. SAROJA V.:
SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Research Centres and Projects under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the country, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of the funds allocated and expenditure incurred on each of them during the last three years, project-wise;

(c) the details of the achievements made by each of them and the impact on the agricultural production in the States specially in Andhra Pradesh and Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Madam and Sir, the information required by the question is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

**Indo-Myanmar ties**

1106. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Myanmar Government have requested the Indian Government to ensure that no anti-Myanmar activities take place in Indian soil;

(b) if so, the response of the Indian Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the relation with Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) India and Myanmar have established institutional mechanisms at which measures to control the activities of negative elements on both sides of the Indo-Myanmar border are discussed periodically. The Government of India and the Government of Myanmar have assured each other that neither country will allow on its soil any activities inimical to the national interests of the other.

In recent years, several steps have been taken to strengthen relations between the two countries. An agreement was signed in March '98 extending US$10 million GOI line of credit to Myanmar which is to be utilised for procuring Indian industrial and consumer goods and services. An MOU on cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors was signed in April '98 during the visit of MOS (Agriculture) to Yangon. As a follow-up to this MOU, a work-plan for 1999-2000 was finalised during the visit of Myanmar Agriculture Minister to India in August '98. Ways and means of enhancing trade and economic linkages with Myanmar were discussed at length during the visit of an inter-ministerial delegation led by Commerce Secretary to Myanmar in October, 1998. Foreign Secretary visited Myanmar from 25 - 28 February, 1999 when both sides reviewed progress in the development of bilateral relations.

**Sea Erosion**

1107. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any international meeting to check sea erosion in the coastal eco-system was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from any coastal States for controlling the sea erosion;

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard and funds provided to each coastal State during the last three years, State-wise;

(e) whether the construction work of sea wall in Kerala has commenced; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes. Nine coastal states have sent proposals for protection of vulnerable coastal reaches of their respective states from sea erosion for inclusion in the National Coastal protection Project. These proposals have been examined, modified and included in the National Coastal protection project estimated to cost about Rs. 1275 crore. So far Government of India has not identified any funding agency and no funds have been provided to the State Government of India has not identified any funding agency and no funds have been provided to the State Government.

(e) and (f) Construction of anti sea erosion works is the responsibility of State Governments. Over the years Government of Kerala has been undertaking anti sea erosion works in the form of sea walls along the coastline as per priority fixed by the State. So far the State of Kerala has constructed 354 km. of sea walls up to the end of VIII Plan for protecting vulnerable reaches against sea erosion.

**Irrigation Projects of Manipur**

1108. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the State Government of Manipur for inclusion the Thoubal and Khuga Multipurpose Projects and Dolaithabi Barrage Project under Non-lapsable Development fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the funds released for each of these projects during 1997-98 and 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources has not received any such proposal.

*[Translation]*

**Below Poverty Line**

1109. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:
SHRI H.P. SINGH:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have estimated the number of persons living below poverty line in various States at the end of Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas where more than 40% of the people living below poverty line, State-wise; and

(d) the new directions proposed in the Ninth Five Year Plan for giving priority to the development of these regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at

National and State level from quinquennial consumer expenditure data obtained from the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The latest available estimates of poverty are based on the NSS consumer expenditure data of 50th Round (1993-94). As such, the estimates of poverty at the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan *i.e.* 1996-97, are not available. However, the estimates of poverty at national and state level for the year 1993-94 are given in the statement attached.

(c) Statewise estimates of poverty in 1993-94 show that out of a total of 32 States and Union Territories in the country, the poverty ratio in seven States and Union Territories are more than 40 per cent. These are Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

(d) High rate of growth of output and employment and a special emphasis on all-round human development, with stress on Social Sector and a thrust on eradication of poverty, are central to the objective of reducing poverty during the Ninth Plan. In addition, the Ninth Plan will create the condition by which the disadvantaged are not only empowered to take advantage of the opportunities created by the growth process but also to contribute actively in the process of creation of wealth and well-being.

***Statement***

*State-wise population and percentage of people living below poverty line, 1993-94*

| | States | Rural | | Urban | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number of People (in lakh) | Percentage of people | Number of People (in lakh) | Percentage of people | Number of People (in lakh) | Percentage of people |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 79.49 | 15.92 | 74.47 | 38.33 | 153.97 | 22.19 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 3.62 | 45.01 | 0.11 | 7.73 | 3.73 | 33.35 |
| 3. | Assam | 94.33 | 45.01 | 2.03 | 7.73 | 96.36 | 40.35 |
| 4. | Bihar | 450.88 | 50.21 | 42.48 | 34.50 | 493.35 | 54.96 |
| 5. | Goa | 0.38 | 5.34 | 1.53 | 27.02 | 1.91 | 14.92 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 62.16 | 22.18 | 43.02 | 27.89 | 105.19 | 24.21 |
| 7. | Haryana | 36.56 | 28.02 | 7.31 | 10.38 | 43.88 | 25.06 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 15.40 | 30.84 | 0.46 | 9.18 | 15.86 | 28.44 |

| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 19.05 | 30.84 | 1.88 | 9.18 | 20.92 | 25.17 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 95.88 | 29.88 | 60.46 | 40.14 | 156.46 | 33.16 |
| 11. | Kerala | 55.95 | 25.76 | 20.46 | 24.55 | 76.41 | 25.43 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 216.19 | 40.84 | 82.33 | 40.38 | 298.52 | 42.52 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 183.30 | 87.83 | 111.90 | 35.15 | 305.22 | 30.85 |
| 14. | Manipur | 6.33 | 45.01 | 0.47 | 7.73 | 6.80 | 33.78 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 7.09 | 45.01 | 0.29 | 7.73 | 7.38 | 37.92 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 1.64 | 45.01 | 0.30 | 7.73 | 1.94 | 25.66 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 4.85 | 45.01 | 0.20 | 7.73 | 5.05 | 37.92 |
| 18. | Orissa | 140.90 | 49.72 | 19.70 | 41.64 | 160.60 | 48.56 |
| 19. | Punjab | 17.76 | 11.95 | 7.35 | 11.35 | 25.11 | 11.77 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 94.68 | 26.46 | 33.82 | 30.49 | 128.50 | 27.41 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 1.81 | 45.01 | 0.03 | 7.73 | 1.84 | 41.43 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 121.70 | 32.48 | 80.40 | 33.77 | 202.10 | 35.03 |
| 23. | Tripura | 11.41 | 45.01 | 0.38 | 7.73 | 11.79 | 39.01 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 496.17 | 42.28 | 108.28 | 35.38 | 604.46 | 40.85 |

| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25. | West Bengal | 209.90 | 40.80 | 44.68 | 22.41 | 254.58 | 35.66 |
| 26. | Andaman and Nicobar | 0.73 | 32.46 | 0.33 | 39.77 | 1.06 | 34.47 |
| 27. | Chandigarh | 0.07 | 11.35 | 0.73 | 11.35 | 0.80 | 11.35 |
| 28. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0.72 | 51.95 | 0.06 | 39.93 | 0.77 | 50.84 |
| 29. | Daman and Diu | 0.03 | 5.34 | 0.15 | 27.03 | 0.18 | 15.80 |
| 30. | Delhi | 0.19 | 1.90 | 15.32 | 16.03 | 15.51 | 14.69 |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 0.06 | 25.76 | 0.08 | 24.55 | 0.14 | 25.04 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | 0.93 | 32.48 | 2.38 | 39.77 | 3.31 | 37.40 |
| | All India | 2440.31 | 37.27 | 763.37 | 32.36 | 3203.68 | 35.97 |

1. Poverty ratio of Assam has been followed in case of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura.
2. Poverty ratio of Tamil Nadu has been followed in case of Pondicherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
3. Poverty ratio of Kerala has been followed in case of Lakshadweep.
4. Poverty ratio of Goa has been used in case of Daman and Diu.
5. Poverty ratio of urban areas of Punjab has been followed in case of rural and urban population of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty line of Maharashtra and distribution of Expenditure of of Goa has been followed for estimating poverty ratio of Goa.
7. Poverty line of Maharashtra and distribution of Expenditure of Dadra and Nagar Haveli has been followed in case of estimating poverty ratio of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
8. Poverty ratio of Himachal Pradesh for 1993-94 has been followed in case of Jammu and Kashmir.

*[English]*

**Support Price of Coconut**

1110. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from various Organisations and Members of Parliament regarding the fixation of support price of coconut;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government on the representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Government have received many representations from the Members of Parliament namely Shri J. Chitharanjan, Shri Vayalar Ravi, Shri V.V. Raghavan, Shri P.C. Chacko, Shri P.C. Thomas and also a group of Members of Parliament from Kerala and organisatiosn like M/s Arimpur Panchayat, Kera Karshaka Samithy, Thrissur, Kerala and India Coconut Growers Association, Tumkur, Karnataka for fixing the minimum support price (MSP) of copra at substantially higher levels.

(c) The Government have announced the MSP for copra of fair Average Quality (FAQ) at Rs. 3100 per quintal for milling copra and Rs. 3325 per quintal for Ball copra for the 1999 season on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of the State Governments and Central ministries as well as other relevant factors.The MSPs announced for the 1999 season are higher by Rs. 200 per quintal for both grades of copra over their respective MSPs announced for the last year.

**Reopening of Stillwell Road**

1111. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has proposed to reopen the Stillwell Road linking Assam with Myanmar and China, which has been lying unused since World War II; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon, indicating the regulations to be enforced with opening of the Road to check illegal trade and exodus of infiltrants through this route?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the Government of Assam.

*[Translation]*

**Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

1112. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study regarding effective implementation of various Centrally sponsored schemes in Bihar has been conducted by Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Union Government to implement these schemes effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

***Statement***

*Study regarding effective Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Bihar*

*Education*

As far as education sector is concerned, a Study was conducted by Programme Evaluation Organisation (NFE) on the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of non-formal education in six States of the country including Bihar. The study covered only three districts of Bihar *i.e.* Patna, Madhepura and Purbi Champaran. Some of the important findings of the study relating to Bihar are as under:

2. The percentage growth in number of non-formal centres from 1992-93 to 1996-97 was nearly 30%. As against the requirement 3.68 lakh centres in the State, at the rate of 20 children per centre, actually existing centres were only 38,000. The enrolment rate for children of 6-14 years of age in Bihar was 60.9. During 1992-97, the State has released 92% of its share for the NFE, and utilised 100% of its share. About 49.7% and 48.1% learners belonged to SC and OBC community respectively. Only 13.7% working children were enrolled in the centres of which 36.5% wee dropping out. Based on the above findings, certain modifications were suggested and communicated to the Deptt. of Education.

*Environment & Forests*

3. No Study has been conducted to evaluate the effective implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, Phase-II, and National River Conservation Plan. However, in the meeting held on 12.07.1997, it was decided that the Chief Ministers

of the participating States might take meeting with their officials including from those Municipalities on implementation, operation and maintenance of assets created under these schemes. It was also decided that Central funding would be released after satisfactory operation and maintenance of completed works. A team of senior officers selected by Secretary, Environment & Forests was also sent to Bihar for boosting the implementation and monitoring of projects under Ganga Action Plan. The Union Minister of Environment & Forests and Secretary, Deptt. of Environment & Forests had written to the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of Bihar respectively for forming High Level Political Committees at the State level and Town Level Citizens Committees for ensuring successful implementation of the Ganga Action Plan. The Standing Committee of Rivers Conservation Authority in its meeting held 09-09-98 directed the Chairman, Central Pollution Board to take necessary action under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 against the defaulting local bodies/Departments in Bihar.

*Health*

4. The Ministry. of Health & Family Welfare has been paying special attention to monitor the progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the State, like Tubreculosis, Blindness Control Programme and Leprosy Eradication Programme. Efforts are also under way to improve performance of the existing manpower through training programmes aimed at skill upgradation as well as programme orientation.

*[English]*

**Rise in Poverty**

1113. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether concern has been expressed over rising trend of poverty in India; and

(b) if so, the factors responsible for increasing poverty in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) It is not true that poverty has been increasing in India. The Planning Commission estimates poverty at National and State level from quinquennial consumer expenditure data obtained from the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Using the two latest estimates of poverty for the years 1987-88 and 1993-94, it is found that the incidence of poverty at national level has gone down from 38.86 per cent in 1987-88 to 35.97 per cent in 1993-94. For a somewhat longer period, the incidence of poverty is observed to reduce from 44.48 per cent in 1983 to 35.97 per cent in 1993-94. There is a continuous effort through the planning and development strategy to reduce the number and percentage of poor in the total population in the country.

**Production of Groundnut**

1114. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the annual production of groundnut in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Union Government to increase the production of groundnut particularly in the Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) State-wise total production of groundnut during the last 3 years is given in the statement attached.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in 23 States including Gujarat covering 381 selected districts for increasing the production of oilseeds including groundnut in the country. Under the programme various incentives by way of subsidies are being provided on critical inputs like production and distribution of seed, minikits, rhizobium culture, gypsum/pyrite, improved farm implements, plant protection equipments, sprinkler sets etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmer's field to transfer the production technology.

***Statement***

*Production of Groundnut*

(in 000' tonnes)

| S. No. | State | Production | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
| 1. | A.P. | 2625.8 | 2045.5 | 1182.0 |
| 2. | Bihar | 4.6 | 7.0 | 6.2 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 1028.3 | 2449.1 | 2615.9 |
| 4. | Haryana | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| 5. | Karnataka | 1138.7 | 1147.4 | 753.6 |
| 6. | Kerala | 9.9 | 9.7 | 9.5 |
| 7. | M.P. | 259.6 | 252.7 | 252.5 |
| 8. | Maharashtra | 576.4 | 755.9 | 618.1 |
| 9. | Nagaland | 1.0 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| 10. | Orissa | 92.3 | 78.8 | 89.5 |
| 11. | Punjab | 8.0 | 9.0 | 9.0 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 164.8 | 272.9 | 365.3 |
| 13. | Tamil Nadu | 1520.3 | 1438.3 | 1761.5 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 100.0 | 128.7 | 127.6 |
| 15. | West Bengal | 42.1 | 36.4 | 38.7 |
| 16. | Others | 5.9 | 8.0 | 7.1 |
| | Total | 7579.4 | 8642.9 | 7845.3 |

**Inter-State Water Disputes**

1115. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any dispute between the State Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in respect of sharing of water of several rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request has been received by the Union Government from any State Government to intervene and solve the dispute; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) Dispute in respect of sharing of water of river Cauvery amongst the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala and Union Territory of Pondicherry is being adjudiciated by Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT).

Besides this, there was an agreement between Kerala and Tamil Nadu with effect from 01.11.98, on sharing of waters of the rivers as under:

(i) Anamalayar and Nirar, tributaries of the Periyar river;

(ii) Sholayar, Parambikulam Ar, Thunacadavu Ar, Perivaripallam Ar and Thekkady Ar, which are tributaries of the Calakudy river; and

(iii) Palar and Aliyar which are tributaries of the Bharathapuzha.

This agreement provided for a review at the expiry of 30 years from 01.11.1958 and once in thirty years thereafter. Central intervention was not considered necessary as both the States have proposed bilateral discussions.

**Prawn Culture**

1116. SHRI BIKRAM DEO KESHARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where there is great scope for promoting prawn culture;

(b) the assistance given to these States during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the total export of prawn from each of these States during the above period; and

(d) the amount spent on prawn hatcheries during the said period in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) An area of about 1.2 million hectares has been estimated in the coastal states of the country where scope exists for promoting shrimp culture.

(b) The assistance given to the coastal States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Brackishwater Fish Farm Development" for development of shrimp culture during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (till 28.2.1999) is given in the attached Statement-I.

(c) Port-wise export of prawn during the past three years is given in attached Statement-II.

(d) Prawn hatcheries have been mainly set up in the private sector. The Marine Products Export Development Authority under the Ministry of Commerce has spent Rs. 116.50 lakhs towards subsidy assistance for setting up of shrimp hatcheries in the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala during 1996-97. During the year 1997-98 a sum of Rs. 175 lakhs has been spent for this purpose in the States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. No funds have so far been released during 1998-99.

***Statement-I***

*Assistance given to States during 1996-97 to 1998-99 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Brackishwater Fish Farm Development"*

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 (till 28.2.99) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 48.78 | — | — |
| 2. | Gujarat | 6.50 | 7.50 | 20.22 |
| 3. | Goa | 13.06 | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| 4. | Karnataka | 2.00 | 16.50 | 12.88 |
| 5. | Kerala | 45.00 | 45.00 | 25.466 |
| 6. | Maharashtra | 21.17 | — | 23.074 |
| 7. | Orissa | 25.05 | 3.07 | 16.36 |
| 8. | Pondicherry | — | — | — |
| 9. | Tamil Nadu | — | — | — |
| 10. | West Bengal | 61.13 | — | — |
| 11. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands. | — | — | — |
| | Total | 222.69 | 74.07 | 100.00 |

***Statement-II***

*Port-wise Prawn Export*

(Q: Qty. in M. Tons, V: Value in Rs. Crores)

| Name of Ports | | 1998 | 1997 | 1996 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Kandla | Q | 1499 | 2246 | 1827 |
| | V | 27.00 | 37.56 | 28.52 |
| Porbandar | Q | 3614 | 4684 | 3733 |
| | V | 65.02 | 84.09 | 58.34 |
| Mumbai Port | Q | 6548 | 8604 | 4708 |
| | V | 156.93 | 191.53 | 89.20 |
| JNP | Q | 6633 | 4752 | 7511 |
| | V | 137.10 | 96.50 | 126.99 |
| Goa | Q | 188 | 997 | 1136 |
| | V | 4.06 | 23.13 | 21.48 |
| Mangalore | Q | 5 | 1 | 78 |
| | V | 0.66 | 0.09 | 8.06 |
| Kochi | Q | 26218 | 32644 | 32696 |
| | V | 500.73 | 587.35 | 511.86 |

| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tuticorin | Q | 6564 | 5405 | 4052 |
| | V | 245.83 | 195.40 | 137.97 |
| Chennai | Q | 21856 | 19948 | 19412 |
| | V | 964.78 | 845.78 | 709.86 |
| Visakhapatnam | Q | 19083 | 16716 | 16013 |
| | V | 884.51 | 681.99 | 546.95 |
| Calcutta | Q | 8994 | 10296 | 12300 |
| | V | 391.30 | 365.78 | 392.56 |
| Trivandrum | Q | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| | V | 0.16 | 0.33 | 0.12 |
| Total | Q | 101106 | 106297 | 103469 |
| | V | 3378.08 | 3109.53 | 2631.91 |

*[Translation]*

**Krishi Par Kabje Ka Shadyantra**

1117. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Bejjon Mein Chuhe ke Jeen Dalkar Krishi Par Kabje Ka Shadyantra" appearing in the Daily 'Hindustan' on January 30, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein alongwith the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) This Department has not received any such report.

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

**Co-operative Policy**

1118. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated an agricultural co-operative policy to make co-operative sector more effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the policy is likely to be formulated; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) In order to facilitate all round development and economic viability of the Cooperatives and to ensure their working as autonomous self-reliant and democratically managed institutions, responsible to their members, the formulation of a National Cooperative Policy is under active consideration of the Government.

**Central Agriculture Service Cadre**

1119. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission have recommended the creation of a Central Agriculture Service Cadre;

(b) whether the Central Government have given its clearance to the above recommendations;

(c) if so, the steps so far taken by the Union Government for the creation of the said cadre; and

(d) the time by which the final shape would be given by the Union Government to the Central Agriculture Service Cadre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The recommendation is being examined in consultation with the various Divisions and views of the Department are yet to be finalised.

**Crop Insurance Scheme**

1120. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited by the Crop Insurance Scheme during the last year;

(b) whether the Government have taken fresh measures for effective implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Number of farmers benefited under Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) during 1997-98 was 15,28,854.

(b) and (c) With a view to making the scheme more effective and enlarging the coverage in terms of farmers, crops and risks under CCIS, the Government have decided to introduce a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) from Kharif 1999 season. Under the new scheme, it is proposed to cover all farmers (both loanee and non-loanee) and commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which requisite yield data are available. Details of the new scheme are being finalised in consultation with Ministries/Departments and other agencies concerned.

*[English]*

**Pending Projects of North-East States**

1121. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects submitted by North-East States to the Union Government for clearance during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 upto January 31,1999;

(b) the date from which these projects are awaiting Union Government's clearance; and

(c) the reasons for not taking any decision and when a decision is likely to be taken by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

**Production of Pulses**

1122. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the largest pulses growing States in the country;

(b) the present production of pulses in the country State-wise;

(c) whether the assistance has been provided to these States by the Union Government to increase the production of pulses;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the demand and supply of pulses at present;

(f) the estimated demand of pulses in the country by 2000 A.D.;

(g) the expected production of pulses by then; and

(h) the steps being taken to increase the production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Statewise production of pulses in the country during the last 3 years is given in the Statement-I attached.

(c) and (d) For increasing, the production of pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NRDP) is being implemented to provide support to the farmers. Under the scheme, financial assistance is given to States on various inputs like production and distribution of certified seeds, seed minikits, rhyzobium culture, micronutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, plant protection equipment etc. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers' trainings are also being organised for the effective transfer of improved pulses production technology. Amount released to the States under the scheme during the last 3 years is given in the Statement-II attached.

(e) The Working Group on Demand & Supply Projections of Agricultural Commodities and Improvement of Agricultural Statistics for the Formulation of 9th Five Year Plan has estimated the requirement of pulses for 1996-97 at 15.30 million tonnes. The total availability of pulses during 1997-98 was 13.57 million tonnes.

(f) and (g) The Working Group has estimated the requirement of pulses for the year 2001-02 at 17.20 million tonnes. The likely availability of pulses for the year 2001-02 as estimated by the Working Group is 17.50 million tonnes.

(h) Steps being taken to increase the production of pulses include:—

(i) use of improved seeds of high yielding varieties;

(ii) balanced use of nutrients;

(iii) application of sulphur;

(iv) integrated pest management;

(v) use of sprinkler irrigation;

(vi) increasing area through inter-cropping and sequence cropping.

***Statement-I***

*Production of Pulses*

(in thousand tonnes)

| | State | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 771.2 | 838.0 | 575.1 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 5.7 | 6.7 | 6.6 |
| 3. | Assam | 57.1 | 68.4 | 64.5 |
| 4. | Bihar | 560.7 | 745.4 | 646.4 |
| 5. | Goa | 5.4 | 7.9 | 7.6 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 456.8 | 663.8 | 613.3 |
| 7. | Haryana | 412.4 | 345.0 | 374.7 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 10.7 | 11.4 | 12.6 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 15.9 | 17.0 | 17.0 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 688.1 | 722.2 | 480.8 |
| 11. | Kerala | 14.6 | 14.6 | 14.6 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 3097.7 | 3544.0 | 3254.0 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 1639.2 | 2036.8 | 1244.1 |
| 14. | Meghalaya | 2.5 | 2.5 | 8.0 |

| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15. | Mizoram | 7.0 | 6.8 | 1.5 |
| 16. | Nagaland | 11.8 | 13.6 | 12.6 |
| 17. | Orissa | 431.1 | 225.9 | 282.2 |
| 18. | Punjab | 84.0 | 80.1 | 59.5 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 1455.8 | 1844.6 | 2634.9 |
| 20. | Sikkim | 5.9 | 6.0 | 5.9 |
| 21. | Tamil Nadu | 233.1 | 232.8 | 271.2 |
| 22. | Tripura | 4.6 | 5.6 | 5.3 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh | 2189.3 | 2625.4 | 2317.6 |
| 24. | West Bengal | 141.1 | 171.5 | 149.7 |
| 25. | A&N Islands | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.7 |
| 26. | D&N Haveli | 3.1 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| 27. | Daman & Diu | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 28. | Delhi | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 29. | Pondicherry | 2.8 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| | Total | 12309.9 | 14243.9 | 13069.5 |

***Statement-II***

*State-wise Central Releases during the last three years under National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S.No. | State/U.Ts | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 164.95 | 107.50 | 221.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2.00 | 2.00 | 5.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 12.00 | — | — |
| 4. | Bihar | 276.19 | — | — |
| 5. | Goa | 1.00 | — | 1.00 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 30.00 | 214.50 | 90.00 |
| 7. | Haryana | — | — | 60.00 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | — | 12.30 | 15.00 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 26.73 | 16.50 | 30.00 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 85.04 | 237.50 | 130.00 |
| 11. | Kerala | 11.00 | 10.00 | 12.00 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 457.80 | 627.50 | 555.00 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 471.67 | 365.00 | 412.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14. | Manipur | 16.50 | 28.76 | 25.00 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 2.00 | 2.00 | 5.00 |
| 16. | Nagaland | 12.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 |
| 17. | Orissa | 131.66 | 322.27 | 45.00 |
| 18. | Punjab | 13.65 | 16.17 | 25.00 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 542.94 | 635.00 | 684.00 |
| 20. | Sikkim | 10.00 | 10.00 | 15.00 |
| 21. | Tamil Nadu | 166.04 | 133.50 | 165.00 |
| 22. | Tripura | 9.00 | 35.00 | 25.00 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh | 489.25 | 713.50 | 877.25 |
| 24. | West Bengal | 29.00 | 30.00 | 13.75 |
| 25. | A&N Island | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 26. | Delhi | — | — | 1.00 |
| | Total | 2961.42 | 3542.00 | 3431.00 |

*[English]*

**Gross Domestic Product**

1123. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has identified the percentage contribution of various sectors to the Gross Domestic Product while evaluating the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The percentage contribution of Agriculture, Industry and Services in the Gross Domestic Product for the base (1996-97) and terminal year (2001-02) of the Ninth Five Year Plan are given below:

| | Percentage share of GDP | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1996-97 | 2001-02 |
| 1. Agriculture | 27.0 | 23.9 |
| 2. Industry | 30.1 | 31.5 |
| 3. Services | 42.9 | 44.6 |
| | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Note:— 1. Agriculture includes Forestry and Logging and Fishing.

2. Industry includes Mining & Quarrying, Manufacturing, Electricity, Gas & Water Supply and Construction.

3. Services includes Trade, Hotels and Restaurants, Transport, Storage & Communications, Financing, Insurance, Real Estate & Budiness Services, Community, Social & Personal services.

**Oilseeds Growers**

1124. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item capitioned "Oil seeds growers see global conspiracy" appearing in the 'Hindstan Times' dated January 1,1999;

(b) if so, details of the facts reported therein alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to safeguard the interest of domestic oilseeds growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Hindustan Times dated January 1,1999 does not have any news-item captioned "Oilseeds growers see global conspiracy".

(c) Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for important oilseeds to give remunerative prices to the farmers. In case the prices fall below the MSP, the Central Government implements the Price Support Scheme through its designated agency, NAFED, to enable the farmers to get remunerative prices.

*[Translation]*

**Agricultural Research Work**

1125. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, funds have been sanctioned/released by the ICAR to Wheat Research Directorate, Karnal for Strengthening of Research Capability for Different Tests during the year from 1992 to 1997 and 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the total funds have been fully utilised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Information about Non-Plan and Plan funds sanction/released by the Indian Council of Agricultural

Research to the Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal is given in statement-I attached. In addition, the Directorate also received financial support from the other sources during the VIII Five Year Plan as listed in Statement-II attached.

(c) and (d) All the funds were utilised as mentioned in year-wise details in Statement-I and II attached.

(e) Does not arise.

***Statement I***

*Allocation and expenditure of Non-Plan and Plan Funds to Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal*

(Rupees in lakhs)

| Year | Final Allocation | | | Actual Expenditure | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Non-Plan | Plan | Total | Non-Plan | Plan | Total |
| 1992-93 | 78.00 | 230.00 | 308.00 | 77.91 | 234.75 | 312.66 |
| 1993-94 | 75.00 | 255.00 | 330.00 | 84.86 | 342.97 | 427.83 |
| 1994-95 | 90.00 | 350.00 | 440.00 | 90.00 | 439.99 | 529.99 |
| 1995-96 | 101.00 | 413.50 | 514.50 | 99.17 | 413.48 | 512.65 |
| 1996-97 | 113.00 | 250.00 | 363.00 | 133.49 | 249.83 | 383.72 |

***Statement II***

*Financial support under other schemes/sources*

Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)

| Name of Project * | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | Total Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| N.S.P. III (I) | 1.69 | 9.53 | 3.29 | 1.17 | 3.19 | 19.47 |
| N.S.P. III (II) | 1.09 | 44.83 | 11.57 | 19.10 | 102.71 | 179.30 |
| N.A.T.P./Rice-Wheat Consortium | | 15.24 | 28.73 | 11.62 | — | 55.59 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A.P. Cess Fund (Germplasm Evaluation) | 0.78 | 8.30 | 9.81 | 4.75 | — | 4.02 |
| A.P. Cess Fund Wheat Disease | — | 0.29 | 0.44 | — | — | — |
| D.B.T. (Tissue culture) | — | — | — | 3.91 | 2.21 | 6.12 |
| D.B.T. Quality Improvement | | — | — | 6.88 | 48.54 | 55.50 |
| A.P. Cess (Disease Survey) | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | | | 2.52 | 1.73 | 4.25 |
| F.L.D. wheat | — | — | 22.59 | 22.31 | 21.58 | 64.48 |
| Total | 3.56 | 78.19 | 76.43 | 72.26 | 179.96 | 388.73 |

- NSP = National Seed Project
- NATP = National Agricultural Technology Project
- DBT = Department of Biotechnology
- FLD = Frontline Demonstrations

*[English]*

**OECF Loan**

1126. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several irrigation projects of the country have received OECF loan during the last three years;

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

(c) whether these projects have been completed as per schedule; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the revised schedule, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The details of projects receiving OECF loan during last three years is as under:

(Amount in Million Yen)

| S.No. | Name of the Project | Amount of Assistance | Project Commencement/ Completion schedule |
|---|---|---|---|
| ANDHRA PRADESH | | | |
| 1. | Modernisation of Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal | 16049 | 11.01.1996/26.03.2003 |
| MADHYA PRADESH | | | |
| 2. | Rajghat Canal Project | 13222 | 13.01.1997/25.02.2002 |
| ORISSA | | | |
| 3. | Upper Kolab Irrigation Project | 3769 | 15.12.1998/20.07.1998 |
| 4. | Upper Indravati Irrigation Project | 3744 | 15.12.1998/20.01.1999 |
| 5. | Rengali Irrigation Project | 7760 | 12.12.1997/05.02.2003 |

(c) and (d) The Upper Kolab Irrigation Project and Upper Indravati Irrigation Project in Orissa originally scheduled for completion in January 1994 were extended for completion to Jully 1998 and January 1999 respectively due to slow progress on land acquisition and forest clearance.

*[Translation]*

**Integrated Rice Development Programme**

1127. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUJ BISEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the integrated Rice Development Programme implemented under the Centrally sponsored scheme in the country;

(b) if so, whether the amount released to States by the Union Government under the above programme during the last three years;

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

(d) whether the State Government requested to Union Government to increase the amount under this scheme; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Centrally Sponsored 'Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas' (ICDF-Rice) is being implemented in sixteen States and Union Territory of Pondicherry since 1994-95. However, the erstwhile scheme of Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD) was implemented in the country from 1990-91 to 1993-94.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the funds released to the State Governments under the scheme during the last three years is attached.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

***Statement***

*Funds released under Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice) by the Government of India to the State Government during 1995-96 to 1997-98*

(Rs. in lakh

| State/U.T. | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 761.00 | 463.97 | 719.00 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 23.00 | 5.04 | 36.00 |
| Assam | 15.00 | Nil | Nil |
| Bihar | 452.00 | 181.83 | 34.00 |
| Goa | Nil | Nil | 7.00 |
| Kerala | 53.00 | 94.96 | 134.00 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 100.00 | Nil | 29 00 |
| Manipur | 13.00 | 24.96 | 46.00 |
| Meghalaya | 5.00 | 22.14 | 17.00 |
| Mizoram | 1.00 | 13.53 | 36.00 |
| Nagaland | 18.50 | 34.81 | 41.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Orissa | 478.43 | 448.03 | 998.00 |
| Tamil Nadu | 395.00 | 750.08 | 628.00 |
| Tripura | 11.00 | 22.76 | 30.00 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1026.00 | 1180.89 | 1195.00 |
| West Bengal | 297.00 | Nil | 144.00 |
| Pondicherry | 7.00 | 17.00 | 20.00 |
| Total | 3655.93 | 3260.00 | 4114.00 |

**Micro Elements of Soil**

1128. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating any plan to test the micro-elements in soil;

(b) if so, the details of proposed assistance for this plan, State-wise; and

(c) whether the said scheme is likely to be implemented in the backward districts of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Govt. of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizers, which has been continued during the IX Plan. Soil Testing including testing for micro-nutrients is a component of the scheme.

(b) Funds are made available to all States on receipt of proposals, within the limits of budget grants. No State-wise allocation is proposed.

(c) The Scheme is implemented in the entire country including Madhya Pradesh.

**Major and Medium Irrigation Projects**

1129. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Major, Medium, Extension, Renovation and Modernisation (ERM) irrigation projects in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost and the amount incurred in each project during the last three years;

(c) the funds earmarked for the Ninth Five Year Plan and to be incurred on each project, project-wise and State-wise;

(d) the progress of work of these projects made during the current financial year, till date;

(e) whether the Union Government have received any such new proposal from any State Government for approval;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Statewise number of major, medium, extension, renovation and modernisation (ERM) irrigation projects alongwith their latest estimated cost & cumulative expenditure to the end of 8th Plan is given in the attached Statement-I.

(c) Statewise details of outlay during 9th Plan is given in the attached Statement-II.

(d) The information regarding progress of work in between a year is not available as such information becomes available for the whole year when Annual Plan discussions are concluded by the Planning Commission during the subsequent year.

(e) to (g) Project Report of 35 numbers of irrigation projects have been received from various State Government during the last 3 years. Clearance of these projects is linked with the compliance of observations of the Central Appraising Agencies by the State Governments.

***Statement-I***

| Sl. No. | State | No. of Ongoing major projects during IX Plan | Latest Estimated cost (Rs. Cr.) | Cum. Expdr. up to end of VIII Plan (Rs. Cr.) (Antd.) | No. of ongoing medium projects during IX Plan | Latest Estd. Cost (Rs. Cr.) | Cum. Expdr. up to end of VIII Plan (Rs. Cr.) (Antd.) | No. of ongoing projects during IX Plan | L.E.C. (Rs. Cr.) | Cum. Exp. upto end of VIII plan (Rs. Cr.) (Antd.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 12 | 10130.44 | 4754.95 | 20 | 623.34 | 323.51 | 4 | 1337.53 | 478.57 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 3. | Assam | 4 | 432.82 | 211.48 | 9 | 155.92 | 99.72 | 3 | 60.00 | 0.64 |
| 4. | Bihar | 15(—1)* | 7365.53 | 2105.27 | 29 | 1065.18 | 429.37 | 1 | 304.07 | 69.13 |
| 5. | Goa | 2(—1)* | 678.59 | 258.65 | 1 | 40.00 | 2.40 | 1 | 4.08 | — |
| 6. | Gujarat | 9 | 23300.92 | 6522.47 | 9 | 337.53 | 260.02 | 9 | 1501.18 | 429.35 |
| 7. | Haryana | 5 | 1013.51 | 725.67 | — | — | — | 4 | 1751.88 | 676.56 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 1 | 150.78 | 7.47 | 1 | 11.30 | 11.26 | 1 | 11.42 | 11.00 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1 | 151.18 | 122.84 | 9 | 223.55 | 55.88 | 5 | 127.15 | 48.36 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 14 | 11190.16 | 5131.64 | 15 | 943.67 | 510.72 | 3 | 3754.67 | 399.61 |
| 11. | Kerala | 7 | 1879.50 | 942.41 | 5 | 478.93 | 150.56 | 2 | 75.43 | 9.23 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 25(—2)* | 10729.55 | 3131.15 | 32 | 1012.09 | 733.15 | 4 | 79.55 | 27.98 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 36 | 12958.17 | 5374.43 | 66 | 2076.06 | 1021.98 | 6 | 198.47 | — |
| 14. | Manipur | 2 | 491.65 | 225.85 | 2 | 66.58 | 56.50 | 4 | 17.14 | 5.17 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | — | — | — | 1 | 17.81 | 8.14 | — | — | — |
| 16. | Mizoram | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 17. | Nagaland | 1 | 111.02 | 2.95 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 18. | Orissa | 6(—1)* | 4953.85 | 1156.55 | 10 | 499.95 | 410.23 | 1 | 1409.90 | 177.70 |
| 19. | Punjab | 1(—1)* | 3379.53 | 2704.93 | 1 | 88.49 | 0.20 | 8 | 1025.06 | 298.10 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 8(—2)* | 4692.81 | 2346.01 | 6 | 240.24 | 12.22 | 5 | 395.99 | 122.70 |
| 21. | Sikkim | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | — | — | — | 2 | 103.75 | 29.53 | 1 | 1143.30 | 23.91 |
| 23. | Tripura | — | — | — | 3 | 154.00 | 92.96 | — | — | — |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 10 (—1)* | 7539.44 | 3339.74 | 2 | 54.81 | 39.99 | 6 | 986.51 | 770.92 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 4(—1)* | 2037.41 | 930.83 | 17 | 90.42 | 60.78 | 6 | 669.38 | 20.19 |
| | Total | 172 —16* | 103186.89 | 39003.29 | 240 | 8283.62 | 4424.12 | 74 | 14847.71 | 3569.42 |

* Deduction for I.S. Projects counted more than once.

***Statement-II***

| S.No. | State | Major Outlay for IX Plan (Rs. Crores) | Medium Outlay for IX Plan (Rs. Crores) | ERM Outlay for IX Plan (Rs. Crores) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 3142.12 | 316.65 | 511.25 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | — | — |
| 3. | Assam | 85.10 | 59.60 | 0.10 |
| 4. | Bihar | 1125.00 | 147.50 | 175.00 |
| 5. | Goa | 280.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 11060.09 | 67.43 | 208.13 |
| 7. | Haryana | 221.00 | — | 1117.62 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 43.37 | 0.20 | 0.50 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 33.00 | 39.65 | 54.69 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 2600.00 | 173.35 | 2344.00 |
| 11. | Kerala | 480.00 | 1750.00 | — |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 1504.39 | 133.24 | — |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 7051.83 | 946.00 | — |
| 14. | Manipur | 181.59 | 23.11 | 8.50 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15. | Meghalaya | — | 13.50 | — |
| 16. | Mizoram | — | — | — |
| 17. | Nagaland | 10.85 | — | — |
| 18. | Orissa | 1063.83 | 154.60 | 1216.68 |
| 19. | Punjab | 18.00 | 77.00 | 263.31 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 1709.64 | 88.25 | 129.00 |
| 21. | Sikkim | — | — | — |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | — | 82.21 | 1179.37 |
| 23. | Tripura | — | 60.66 | — |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 2340.35 | 14.96 | 121.12 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 724.03 | 31.96 | 19.70 |
| | Total | 36671.96 | 2480.15 | 7349.97 |

*[English]*

**Mysterious disease among Buffaloes and Calves**

1130. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether over two hundred buffaloes and many calves have died of a mysterious disease in Nangli Purnia dairy farm near Najafgarh;

(b) whether the dairy owners have expressed dissatisfactions over the medical aid being provided by the Animal Husbandry Department;

(c) whether the antricide injections being given to the animals are not effective;

(d) whether unhygienic conditions prevailing in the dairy farm are the basic reason behind the spread of disease; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof and the remedial steps being taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir. As per information provided by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, 79 (seventy nine) buffaloes died due to infectious disease including Haemorrhagic Septicaemia in Nangli Dairy Colony near Najafgarh.

(b) No, Sir. The dairy owners have rather appreciated the efforts made by the Animal Husbandry Department, Government of NCT Delhi.

(c) No, Sir. The injections containing antrycide were found to be effective in the animals suffering from blood protozoan infections alone. However, for treating the cases of mixed/secondary bacterial infections other suitable chemotherapeutic agents have been used along with injections of antrycide.

(d) Yes, Sir. The unhygienic conditions prevailing in the dairy colony helped in spreading the infection brought in by some animals which were introduced in the colony recently.

(e) Excess accummulation of dung surrounding the entire area and improper drainage facilities with resultant accumulation of water and urine have favoured the spread of the infection.

The Department of AH, Government of Delhi have taken the following remedial steps with the help of the Sanitary Wing of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi:

Removed the dung heap, Improved the drainage facilities resulting in removal of water stagnation, Spraying of disinfectants and applied lime in that area.

**Grievances of Research Scientists**

1131. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Agricultural Research Science Scientists forum, CTCRI Unit, Trivandrum, Kerala regarding certain grievances affecting scientists at CTCRI, Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for redressal of their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Scientists of CTCRI, Trivandrum have represented their grievances to the ICAR authorities concerning the general service conditions of the ARS Scientists under the Council which are briefly given below:

(i) Granting of cut-off date as provided in UGC notification in lieu of Fourth Pay Commission recommendation has not been granted to ICAR Scientists.

(ii) Implementation of UGC pay scales in toto in lieu of Fifth Pay Commission recommendation

(iii) Rectification of anomalies as per the direction of CAT Principal Bench by the High Powe Committee has not been done to the majority of Scientists.

(c) Item-wise details of action taken by ICAR may be given as under:—

(i) Issues relating to the extension of cut-off date was considered by the Govt. but it is not possible to agree to this grievance because the UGC pay scales for ICAR Scientists was to be implemented as a package w.e.f. 1.1.86.

(ii) ICAR has already implemented revised UGC pay scales for ICAR Scientists, in lieu of 5th Pay Commission recommendation vide letter No. 1(15)/98-Per. IV dated 27.2.99.

(iii) ICAR has already rectified the anomalies as per the direction of CAT, Principal Bench, New Delhi through High Powered Committee. No anomaly exists in this regard.

**Multi-State Co-operative Societies Bill**

1132. SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a New Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill based on the recommendations of Brahm Perkash Committee is pending with the Government since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Union Government intends to enact the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) It has been decided to replace the existing Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 by a new legislation based on recommendations made by Choudhary Brahm Perkash Committee. The proposed Bill will be introduced before the Parliament after completing the requisite procedural formalities. As the details of the proposed Bill are yet to be finalised in consultation with Ministry of Law and Justice etc., it may not be possible to divulge the details thereof.

*[Translation]*

**Flood Control in Bihar**

1133. SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Naugadhiya sub-division of Bhagalpur district in Bihar has completely devastated due to flood and soil erosion by the river of Koshi and several houses had been destroyed during the year 1998;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to construct an embankment across the river Koshi;

(c) the details of funds provided by the Union Government to the State Government of Bihar for the purpose during the current financial year; and

(d) the time by which the construction work of embankment is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Naugachiya sub-division of Bhagalpur district in Bihar has been affected by the floods of river Kosi during the monsoon of 1998. Damages to about 50 houses in a village in Naugachiya Block have been reported.

(b) to (d) Planning, investigation, formulation and execution of flood management works are carried out by the concerned States out of their own State plan funds. Government of Bihar has formulated a scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 2163.20 lakh for construction of embankments along river Kosi.

*[English]*

**Funds for Soil Testing**

1134. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released in collaboration with ICAR to States for soil testing laboratories during the last three years;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for release of similar funds by 2000 A.D.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) For Soil testing laboratories funds are released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizers". A statement providing details of funds released to various State Govts. and ICAR during the last three years is attached.

(b) and (c) Under the Scheme funds are released on receipt of proposals. No Statewise targets are fixed. The scheme is proposed to be continued for 9th Five Year Plan.

***Statement***

*Release of funds for strengthening of Soil Testing Laboratories under the scheme 'Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizers' during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98*

(Rs. in lakhs

| S.No. | State | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 8.65 | 32.00 | — |
| 2. | Bihar | — | 76.45 | — |
| 3. | Goa | — | — | 8.65 |
| 4. | Haryana | 7.00 | 8.00 | 103.80 |
| 5. | Himachal Pradesh | 8.65 | 8.65 | 17.30 |
| 6. | Karnataka | — | 8.65 | 17.30 |
| 7. | Kerala | — | — | 8.65 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | — | 36.65 | — |
| 9. | Maharashtra | — | 8.00 | 30.00 |
| 10. | Manipur | — | — | 8.65 |
| 11. | Mizoram | 3.10 | — | — |
| 12. | Nagaland | 8.65 | — | — |
| 13. | Orissa | 31.90 | 8.65 | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14. | Punjab | — | 16.15 | 43.25 |
| 15. | Rajasthan | — | 8.00 | 40.00 |
| 16. | Tamil Nadu | 8.00 | 8.00 | 23.30 |
| 17. | Tripura | — | — | 8.65 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | — | 8.00 | — |
| 19. | West Bengal | — | 8.00 | — |
| | Total : | 75.95 | 235.20 | 309.55 |

* An amount of Rs. 1 crore was released to ICAR during 1996-97 for the component of frontline demonstrations on soil test based crop response.

**Status of Sikkim**

1135. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "China may back Sikkim Status" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 29 January, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken by the Indian Government to improve the relations with Chinese Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) China has not formally recognised Sikkim as part of India. The fact that Sikkim is an integral part of India has been conveyed to the Chinese authorities at various levels.

(c) We seek friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relations with China, on the basis of Panchsheel. Both sides are making efforts for further improving the bilateral relations, including measures to expand bilateral trade and enhance bilateral exchanges in various fields. The two sides are in regular contact through diplomatic and non-official channels and, at various other levels. Visits of Parliamentarians people-to-people exchanges, visits of political party delegations and functional exchanges in diverse fields are also taking place. Bilateral trade is growing, and reached US$ 1.92 billion in 1998, representing an increase of 5% over 1997. There remains considerable potential to expand our economic and commercial co-operation.

**Indo-Pak Talks**

1136. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Indo-Pak high level talks were held during the last three years;

(b) the various matters discussed each time;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between both the countries on any matter and particularly in the field of power during last one year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan have held talks on seven occasions during the last three years. The External Affairs Minister held talks with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on two occasions. The Ministers of State for External Affairs also held talks with their counterparts on three occasions during this period. The Foreign Secretaries of the two countries have also held four formal rounds of discussions.

During his visit to Pakistan on 20-21 February 1999, the Prime Minister and the Pakistan Prime Minister signed the Lahore Declaration which is a landmark for peace and security of the two countries. The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on confidence building measures. A Joint Statement was also issued on this occasion.

Following the second round of talks that had been held between the Foreign Secretaries in Islamabad from 19-23 June 1997 a Joint Statement was issued in which the two sides decided to address the following subjects.

(a) Peace and security, including CBMs; (b) Jammu and Kashmir, (c) Siachen; (d) Wullar Barrage Project/ Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug-trafficking; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; and (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields.

Following agreement on the modalities of the dialogue, a follow-up statement was issued by the Foreign Secretaries in New York on 23 September 1998, in which it was decided to begin the composite dialogue process. The first round of talks was held from 15 October -13 November 1998 in Islamabad and New Delhi.

Following expert level talks between India and Pakistan, an agreement and a protocol to regulate the bus service between Delhi and Lahore was signed in Islamabad on 17 February 1999.

Discussions on the subject of power are going on between India and Pakistan.

*[Translation]*

**Issue of Passports**

1137. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to issue passports within 30 days instead of 50 days on request of Members of Parliament;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) While there is no such proposal before Government, every effort is made to issue all fresh passports within a period of five weeks from the date of application.

(c) The reasons for delay in issue of passports are increase in the number of applications, receipt of negative or incomplete reports from police authorities, discrepancies in documents submitted by the applicants, lack of response from applicants who are asked to submit additional documents, etc.

*[English]*

**Voting Rights for Indian Citizens**

1138. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter in respect of allowing Indian citizens, living in Indian enclaves in Bangladesh, to cast their votes is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, since when and the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken/propose to take any decision in this regard?

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) Government is aware of the issue of voting rights for Indian citizens living in Indian

enclaves in Bangladesh. India has no administrative control or access to the Indian enclaves in Bangladesh. A proposal has been made to the Government of Bangladesh indicating that pending their exchange, the Government of India is agreeable to the idea of reciprocal facilities for the conduct of census and polls, in their respective enclaves.

The exchange of these enclaves is directly linked to, and will necessarily follow, the complete demarcation of the boundary between India and Bangladesh. There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladesh enclaves in India, records pertaining to all of which have been reconciled by the survey authorities of the two countries. Government is fully committed to an early settlement of all boundary related issues with Bangaldesh.

*[Translation]*

**Cases with CAT**

1139. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal for the last three years as on January 31,1999, Bench-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed-off during the above period, Bench-wise; and

(c) whether the Government propose to set up additional Benches for disposal of pending cases at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) A statement showing the bench-wise pendency and disposal of cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal for the last three years is attached Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

***Statement***

*Bench-wise Pendency and Disposal of cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal for the last three years*

| Name of the Bench | Pendency at the end of the year | | | Disposal during the year | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Principal Bench | 6374 | 6212 | 6477 | 3309 | 3938 | 3119 |
| Ahmedabad Bench | 2180 | 2389 | 2493 | 685 | 791 | 960 |
| Allahabad Bench | 6781 | 6757 | 7539 | 1845 | 1758 | 968 |
| Lucknow Bench | 2925 | 3088 | 3412 | 472 | 568 | 308 |
| Bangalore Bench | 1030 | 819 | 886 | 1624 | 1052 | 1228 |
| Mumbai Bench | 3089 | 3428 | 3634 | 1362 | 1512 | 1113 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Calcutta Bench | 5023 | 5321 | 5768 | 1214 | 1609 | 1550 |
| Chandigarh Bench | 3481 | 3193 | 3425 | 1437 | 1873 | 1023 |
| Cuttack Bench | 2385 | 2735 | 2974 | 589 | 568 | 562 |
| Guwahati Bench | 502 | 426 | 469 | 210 | 440 | 352 |
| Hyderabad Bench | 2188 | 1775 | 1533 | 1925 | 2420 | 2266 |
| Jabalpur Bench | 1985 | 2229 | 2479 | 1231 | 926 | 774 |
| Jaipur Bench | 1350 | 1496 | 1713 | 630 | 485 | 274 |
| Jodhpur Bench | 768 | 970 | 853 | 423 | 250 | 506 |
| Chennai Bench | 2324 | 1924 | 1694 | 1649 | 1849 | 1477 |
| Patna Bench | 1513 | 2044 | 2619 | 501 | 290 | 389 |
| Ernakulam Bench | 989 | 1198 | 1553 | 1561 | 1652 | 1525 |
| Total | 44887 | 46004 | 49521 | 20667 | 21981 | 18394 |

*[English]*

**G-15 Conference**

1140. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
DR. RAVI MALLU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister attended the G-15 Conference held in Jamaica;

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister had made number of proposals in his address to the G-15 Conference;

(c) if so, the main suggestions made at the Conference;

(d) the other places visited by the Prime Minister; and

(e) the outcome of the tour?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During his intervention, Prime Minister drew attention to issues of concern to developing countries: impact of ongoing financial crisis and the need to take preventive steps to curb its contagion effect; in this context, the need for stemming the social consequences arising from the crisis; the reform of the international financial architecture; the establishment of an equitable global multilateral trading system which ensures greater access for goods and services of developing countries in developed country markets; the role of G-15 countries in bringing development cooperation back to the global agenda; and the importance of extra-G-15 cooperation. Prime Minister also emphasised the importance of strategic sectors like information technology, communication technology and biotechnology for the future economic growth of developing countries and the contribution that they could make to the welfare and well-being of citizens in G-15 countries.

(c) All such priorities were duly reflected in the Joint Communique issued at the end of the Ninth Summit. In order to be able to cope with the challenges posed by globalisation and economic liberalisation and the ongoing financial crisis, members agreed to promote convergence of viewpoints on these issues and to examine prospects of undertaking a G-15—G-8 dialogue in these matters. They also called for enhanced regional and international cooperation combat the menace of terrorism. India's offer to host a G-15 meeting at an appropriate level in preparation for the third WTO Ministerial Conference was welcomed by the participants at the Ninth G-15 Summit. They also endorsed India's proposal for the adoption of 'strategic sectors' approach for South-South cooperation.

(d) The other countries visited by the Prime Minister were Trinidad & Tobago and Morocco.

(e) The tour provided an excellent opportunity for sharing India's perceptions with other G-15 countries on important multilateral issues pertaining to developing countries. It also facilitated interaction at a bilateral level with Heads of State/Government in Trindidad & Tabago and Morocco.

In the context of multilateral discussion, the Ninth G-15 Summit Meeting at Montego Bay, Jamaica deliberated extensively on issues of concern to developing countries. These included, inter alia, discussions on the current international economic situation, reaffirmation of the importance of a transparent, fair and equitable rules-based multilateral trading system under the WTO, reform of the international financial architecture, South-South and intra-G-15 cooperation, and prospects of undertaking a G-15—G-8 dialogue in these matters.

In Trinidad & Tobago, Prime Minister held detailed talks with President Arthur N.R. Robinson and Prime Minister Basdeo Panday. Both countries agreed to deepen the traditional links between the people of the two countries and to expand the economic content of the relationship. An Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation between the two countries was singed during the visit. A Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the area of Low Cost Housing was also signed. Trinidad & Tobago sought technical assistance from India in areas such as small-scale business development, planning, wood work, dairy development, aquaculture, film making and information technology. Prime Minister agreed to extend technical assistance and share Indian expertise in these areas. During the visit, Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation in Port of Spain. A Low Cost Housing, Support Centre was inaugurated by Prime Minister, and Government of India gifted machinery for the Centre to the people of Trinidad & Tobago.

The visit of Prime Minister gave a new thrust to India's relations with Trinidad and Tobago and opened up prospects for further strengthening and deepening of bilateral ties. It highlighted cultural commonality and perspectives for mutually beneficial economic links, including prospects of Trinidad emerging as a point for expanding links with Caribbean and Latin American countries.

During his visit to Morocco, the Prime Minister had discussions with the King and Prime Minister of Morocco. Views were exchanged on important global and regional issues and on ways and means to further expand and diversify bilateral cooperation. The discussions revealed similarity of approach on most issues. Morocco also expressed understanding of our concerns. During the visit, a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement, a Tourism Cooperation Agreement, and an Agreement between Press Trust of India (PTI) and Maghreb Arab Presse (MAP) for mutual professional cooperation, were signed.

**International Aero Exhibition**

1141. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has denied the permission to all the British Aviation Companies to participate in the International Aero exposition to be held in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the main reasons thereof;

(c) whether U.K. has taken serious view of this issue;

(d) whether the U.K. Government has urged India to consider its decision; and

(e) to what extent the relation between the two countries have been affected due to this issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Review of State Projects**

1142. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to restructure and review projects sanctioned by State Governments in order to make them more useful to the people;

(b) whether the Union Government were committed to make public the way the funds were utilised by the State Government;

(c) whether the Union Government have decided that the funds would be allocated on the basis of the priorities in the respective States.

(d) whether during the last financial year about Rs. 225 crore sanctioned by the Centre for the North-East remained unutilised; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The normal Central Assistance for the State Plans is given as per the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in block form and is not allocated for specific projects/schemes. The State Governments draw up their plans and make scheme/project-wise allocations, keeping in view the national objectives and their own priorities within the prescribed guidelines. The overall monitoring of the State Plan schemes takes place in the Planning Commission at the time of the State Plan discussions. The concerned Central Ministries/Departments also monitor the schemes falling within their purview. The status of implementation of State Plans is made available to Parliament, as and when required, and is also reflected in the plan documents.

(d) and (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Assistance provided to States**

1143. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission propose to ensure that bulk of Central Plan assistance provided to the States be tied to specific project;

(b) if so, whether this will prevent States from diverting plan assistance to unproductive expenditure;

(c) whether all the State Governments have opposed this move; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) the bulk of Central Assistance towards the State Plans is presently being given in block form under the Gadgil Mukherjee formula as approved by the National Development Council (NDC). The idea of channelising greater amount of Central Assistance for specific projects is still in a formative stage.

**Statutory Institutions Under CAT**

1144. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to bring entire Central bureaucracy under single legal redressal system;

(b) if so, whether the Government have brought 39 statutory institutions and State-run bodies under the ambit of the Central Administrative Tribunal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal is contained in Section 14 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985. It extends to any All India Service or to any Civil Service or a civil post under the Union of India. The Central Government may also, by a notification, include within the jurisdiction of Central Administrative Tribunal any local or other authorities within the territory of India or under the control of Government of India and corporations owned or controlled by Government, not being a local or other authority or corporation or society controlled or owned by a State Government.

(b) and (c) Corporations/Societies/other authorities numbering 38 as indicated in the attached statement have so far been brought under the jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal.

***Statement***

*Names of the Corporations/Societies/Other authorities brought within the purview of the Central Administrative Tribunal under Section 14(2) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.*

1. Central Board of Trustees constituted under the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
2. Employees State Insurance Corporation.
3. Central Board for Workers' Education.
4. National Council of Safety in Mines, Dhanbad.
5. National Labour Institute.
6. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
7. Central Social Welfare Board.
8. Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
9. Sports Authority of India.
10. National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, New Delhi.
11. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi.
12. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Mumbai.
13. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Chennai.
14. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Calcutta.
15. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Goa.
16. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bangalore.
17. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Lucknow.
18. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Hyderabad.
19. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Ahmedabad.
20. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhubaneswar.
21. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Jaipur.
22. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhopal.
23. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Srinagar.
24. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Guwahati.
25. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Gwalior.
26. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Thiruvananthapuram.
27. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Chandigarh.
28. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Gurdaspur.

29. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Shimla.

30. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Patna.

31. National Power Training Institute, Faridabad.

32. Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi.

33. Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.

34. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi.

35. Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi

36. Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi.

37. Film and Television Institute of India, Pune.

38. Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Calcutta.

**Passport Application**

1145. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passport applications received and the number of passports issued by Regional Passport Office. Hyderabad, during the last one year, and

(b) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the issue of passports by this office.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) During 1998, a total number of 1,96,772 passport applications were received and 1,95,441 passports were issued by the Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad.

(b) The measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications include: computerisation of processing procedures, enhancing validity of passports to 20 years, provision for dispatch of passport by speed post, additional staff to clear the backlog of pending cases, etc.

**Backward Areas of Kerala**

1146. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Kerala Government for the development of backward areas of Kerala during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated to Kerala during the above period; and

(d) the time by which the decision on the above project is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated to various states, including Kerala, for Special Area Programmes such as Western Ghats Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan etc.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Water Management Programme**

1147. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI [illegible]:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to initiate various schemes with more peoples participation for the better utilisation of water resources for irrigation purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have decided to provide technical assistance to the farmers once the requirements were identified;

(d) if so, whether low cost water management technique was yielding good results; and

(e) the extent to which the Union Government have agreed to provide assistance and help to the State Government in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise;

(c) Union Government provides technical assistance to farmers through training, conferences and workshops;

(d) Application of water at right time and space with proper methods and adequate quantity in an integrated manner with surface and ground water are the low cost technologies of efficient water management. These are used by farmers at many places with good results; and

(e) Under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme Ministry of Water Resources, provides Central assistance to the States as one time functional grant @ Rs. 500.00 per hectare (to be shared @ Rs. 225.00 per ha. by Centre, Rs. 225.00 per ha. by State and Rs. 50.00 per ha. by the farmers) to encourage farmers' participation in the irrigation water management. Central assistance is also provided to States for creation of awareness among farmers through various activities.

**Minor Irrigation Projects**

1148. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken for extending the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for minor irrigation projects during finalisation of Annual Plan of Tripura: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Under the existing Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) guidelines, the Major, Medium Irrigation and Multi purpose projects fulfilling the eligibility criteria are eligible for Central Loan Assistance. While finalising the Scheme of Financing of the Annual Plan 1998-99 of Tripura an amount of Rs. 40 crore was indicated for AIBP (including Minor Irrigation Schemes) subject to sanction of schemes and utilisation by the State. The inclusion of Minor Irrigation Schemes under AIBP funding in respect of North-Eastern States and Hilly States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir as well as drought prone area earlier known as KBK (Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi) Districts of Orissa is currently under consideration of the Government.

**Ground Water**

1149. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has launched a scheme, "Studies in Recharge of Ground Water" in the country particularly in the State of Assam;

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

(c) whether any improvement in increasing ground water in the States has been noticed after the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A scheme for "studies in Recharge of Ground Water" has been launched in certain states of the country, which does not include Assam.

(b) The Central Ground Water Board had started a Central Sector Scheme on Pilot basis in 1994-95 for studies in artificial recharge of ground water in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh. The studies were completed in 1997-98 at a total cost of Rs. 3.297 crores. State-wise and Year-wise break up of the amount spent on these studies is shown in the attached statement. Based on the results of these studies, the Government have recently decided to extend this scheme for studies in artificial recharge of ground water to some more areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh at an estimated Cost of Rs. 25 crore during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) The studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board have shown improvement in the ground water levels ranging from 2 to 7 metres benefitting an area of 15 to 200 ha. in Amravati and Jalgaon districts

of Maharashtra; 16 to 36 ha. in Kolar district of Karnataka; 9 to 30 ha. in Jawaharlal Nehru University Campus and Indian Institute of Technology Campus in National Capital Territory of Delhi.

***Statement***

*State-wise and Year-wise break-up of Expenditure on the Central Sector Scheme of Studies in Artificial Recharge of Ground Water.*

(Amount in Rupees)

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/UT | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | — | — | 2,12,000 | — | 2,12,000 |
| 2. | Karnataka | 39,49,459 | 16,61,957 | 13,64,690 | 6,60,265 | 76,36,371 |
| 3. | Kerala | — | — | 6,88,273 | 24,35,000 | 31,23,273 |
| 4. | Madhya Pradesh | — | — | 7,12,500 | 4,64,000 | 11,76,500 |
| 5. | Maharashtra | 57,64,000 | 42,26,280 | 10,92,933 | 2,20,802 | 1,13,04,015 |
| 6. | Tamil Nadu | — | — | 8,50,000 | 6,50,000 | 15,00,000 |
| 7. | West Bengal | — | — | 99,250 | 38,250 | 1,37,500 |
| 8. | NCT of Delhi | 2,12,000 | 35,41,257 | 28,64,399 | 5,12,361 | 71,30,017 |
| 9. | UT of Chandigarh | — | — | 2,22,000 | 5,28,000 | 7,50,000 |
| | Total | 99,25,459 | 94,29,494 | 81,06,045 | 55,08,678 | 3,29,69,676 |

**Plan Allocation to Maharashtra**

1150. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government for Maharashtra for annual plan of 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the details of amount provided during this period;

(c) whether the Maharashtra Government was provided lesser amount in comparison to the amounts sanctioned to it earlier;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the amount sanctioned and released;

(e) whether the Maharashtra Government has not complied with the conditions attached with the sanctioning of the annual plan;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the details of percentage regarding implementation of the above-mentioned sanctioned plans by Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (g) The outlays of Rs. 8393.19 crore and Rs. 11600.73 crore were approved by the Planning Commission for the Annual Plans of 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively of which corresponding Central Assistance component was Rs. 2171.59 crore and Rs. 1866 crore. The total amount released against the Central Assistance component during 1997-98 and so far in 1998-99 was Rs. 1840.32 crore and Rs. 1316.11 crore respectively. The less amount was released in 1997-98 as compared to the amount agreed earlier due to shortfall in actual expenditure in 1996-97 and earmarked outlays in 1997-98 and for non submission of audited figures of expenditure by the State Government for 1984-85 to 1992-93. The Planning Commission does not attach any condition with the approval of Annual Plans except earmarking of outlays for specific projects/schemes on the recommendations of the State Govt. which are considered to be important from the point of view of State's economy.

**Software Development Centres**

1151. SHRI MADAN PATIL:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Software Development Centres functioning in the country with the assistance of USA and details thereof, location-wise;

(b) whether Cognizant Technology Solutions (CTS) of USA has got approval to set up Software Development Centre at Pune; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) There are no Software Development Centres functioning in India with the assistance of USA Government.

(b) and (c) Cognizant Technology Solution India Ltd., a 100% subsidiary of Cognizant Corporation, USA has been approved as a wholly private unit for setting up of a Software Technology Park (STP) Unit in Pune. This private company has started its operations.

**Pending Irrigation Projects**

1152. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects of Maharashtra pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) the number of projects approved by the Union Government so far;

(c) the details of on-going irrigation projects in the State at present;

(d) the number of projects which are under implementation and the stage at which they stand;

(e) the steps taken by the Government for their expeditious implementation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The details of Irrigation Projects received from Government of Maharashtra and their present status of appraisal is given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) Major and 4 Medium Irrigation Projects have been approved by Planning Commission during the last five years since 1.1.1994.

(c) to (f) 36 Major, 66 Medium and 6 Extension, Renovation and Modernisation (ERM) Irrigation projects ongoing in Eighth Plan are spilled over to Ninth Plan in Maharashtra. The latest estimated cost, cumulative expenditure up to the end of VIII Plan and likely target of completion etc., is given in the attached Statement-II. Irrigation being a State subject; expeditious completion of any project is linked with the priority attached by the State Government for the execution of that project.

***Statement-I***

(Rs. in Crores/in thousand hecteres)

| Sl. No. | Name of Project | Latest Estimated Cost | Benefits | Present Status of Appraisal |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| A. *Major Irrigation Projects* | | | | |
| 1. | Dhudhganga | 528 | 81.97 | Accepted by Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) subject to certain observations |
| 2. | Warna | 699 | 113.92 | — do — |
| 3. | Koyna Krishna Lift | 709 | 85.78 | Pending with Planning Commission |
| 4. | Arunavati | 70 | 25.15 | Accepted by TAC subject to certain observations |
| 5. | Bawanthadi | 261 | 57.12 | — do — |
| 6. | Punad | 62 | 10.85 | — do — |
| 7. | Lower Wunna | 187 | 28.82 | — do — |
| 8. | Human | 168.15 | 58.28 | Under Examination |
| 9. | Tultuli | 139.97 | 30.59 | — do — |
| 10. | Lower Wardha | 61.99 | 44.00 | — do — |
| 11. | Gunjawan | 86.77 | 15.00 | — do — |
| 12. | Urmodi | 212.08 | 43.87 | — do — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | Sangola Branch Canal | 44.00 | 9.22 | Accepted by TAC subject to certain observations. |
| 14. | Tillari | 256.00 | 34.29 | — do — |
| 15. | Talamba | 289.09 | 28.90 | — do — |
| 16. | Lendi. | 177.615* | 26.924 | Under Examination. |
| B. | *Medium Irrigation Projects* | | | |
| 1. | Sakol | 12.37 | 2.06 | Accepted by TAC subject to certain observations |
| 2. | Raigavan | 6.78 | 1.70 | — do — |
| 3. | Jam | 43.83 | 6.76 | — do — |
| 4. | Masalga | 17.47 | 2.08 | — do — |
| 5. | Kar | 44.71 | 5.59 | — do — |
| 6. | Tajnapur Lift | 18.19 | 2.74 | Under Examination |
| 7. | Brahmangaon | 9.55 | 3.21 | — do — |
| 8. | Chandrabhaga | 71.14 | 8.14 | Accepted by TAC subject to certain observations |
| 9. | Pentakli | 91.87 | 9.51 | — do — |
| 10. | Purna | 51.97 | 7.06 | Under examination |

* Original Cost.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. | Utawali | 35.77 | 3.72 | Under examination |
| 12. | Gad | 47.78 | 4.76 | — do — |
| 13. | Haranghat | 12.19 | 3.65 | — do — |
| 14. | Kirimiri Darur | 4.14 | 2.04 | — do — |
| 15. | Wagholi Buti | 24.98 | 3.44 | — do — |
| 16. | Sulwade barrage | 88.25 | 7.56 | — do — |
| 17 | Lal Nalla | 19.05 | 5.43 | — do — |
| 18. | Nawargaon | 8.72 | 3.43 | — do — |
| 19. | Renapur | 51.16 | 4.30 | — do — |
| 20. | Upper Manjra | 40.49 | 2.77 | — do — |
| 21. | Saiki Makar Dhikra | 12.47 | 5.03 | — do — |
| 22. | Jangamhatti | 29.50 | 3.46 | Accepted by TAC subject to certain observations |
| 23. | Pothra Nalla | 36.95 | 6.70 | Under examination |
| 24. | Chikotra | 89.38 | 5.63 | — do — |
| 25. | Labhansarad | 5.72 | 1.82 | — do — |

* Original Cost, Latest Estimated Cost not available.

***Statement-II***

*(Rs. in Crores)*

| Sl. No. | Project Name | Latest Estimated Cost | Cumulative Expenditure upto end of VII Plan | Likely Completion (IX Plan or Beyond) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | *Major Projects* | | | |
| 1. | Jayakwadi St. I & II | 796.87 | 650.73 | Beyond IX |
| 2. | Upper Penganga | 861.99 | 391.16 | Beyond IX |
| 3. | Surya | 175.14 | 157.94 | Beyond IX |
| 4. | Bhatsa | 322.49 | 64.19 | Beyond IX |
| 5. | Upper Tapi | 115.57 | 94.34 | Beyond IX |
| 6. | Upper Godavari | 133.23 | 87.39 | Beyond IX |
| 7. | Lower Trina (Flow) | 129.67 | 111.38 | IX |
| | Lower Trina (Lift) | 53.71 | 47.70 | |
| 8. | Vishnupuri | 193.22 | 127.04 | IX |
| 9. | Upper Wardha | 503.70 | 355.55 | IX |
| 10. | Arunavati | 148.71 | 126.23 | Beyond IX |
| 11. | Lower Wunna | 177.00 | 129.47 | IX |
| 12. | Tilari (IS) | 371.65 | 78.84 | Beyond IX |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | Talamba | 238.85 | 8.10 | Beyond IX |
| 14. | Kadwa** | 48.46 | 48.84 | |
| 15. | Waghur | 109.40 | 34.74 | IX |
| 16. | Punad | 81.97 | 9.57 | Beyond I. |
| 17. | Upper Pravara | 287.14 | 36.78 | Beyond IX |
| 18. | Nandur Madhmeshwar (N) | 146.40 | 53.00 | IX |
| | Nandur Madhmeshwar (A) | 105.30 | 35.16 | Beyond IX |
| 19. | Lendi (IS) | 204.50 | 17.69 | Beyond IX |
| 20. | Wan | 158.31 | 94.75 | Beyond IX |
| 21. | Bawanthadi (IS) | 124.17 | 33.74 | Beyond IX |
| 22. | Tultuli | 147.17 | 3.89 | Beyond IX |
| 23. | Human | 354.40 | 9.03 | Beyond IX |
| 24. | Lower Wardha | 250.00 | 18.28 | IX |
| 25. | Gosikhurd | 1345.00 | 194.01 | IX |
| 26. | Lower Dudhna | 347.83 | 17.74 | Beyond IX |
| 27. | Lower Penganga | 207.14 | 0.12 | Beyond IX |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28. | Bhima | 641.54 | 608.43 | IX |
| 29. | Krishna | 346.51 | 248.90 | IX |
| 30. | Kukadi | 916.74 | 415.32 | Beyond IX |
| 31. | Warna | 744.17 | 220.34 | IX |
| 32. | Khadakwasla** | 213.00 | 221.04 | |
| 33. | Dudhganga (IS) | 566.69 | 161.43 | IX |
| 34. | Chaskman | 268.00 | 128.92 | IX |
| 35. | Koyna Krishna L.I.S. | 764.38 | 318.24 | Beyond IX |
| 36. | Nira Deoghar | 358.16 | 14.41 | IX |
| | *Medium Projects* | | | |
| 1. | Nagasakya | 19.00 | 17.10 | |
| 2. | Dehali | 34.28 | 13.86 | IX |
| 3. | Shahnoor** | 50.00 | 51.10 | |
| 4. | Hatwane | 130.37 | 66.58 | Beyond IX |
| 5. | Alandi | 10.06 | 15.17 | |
| 6. | Belpara | 6.76 | 5.95 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7. | Masalga | 17.47 | 15.73 | |
| 8. | Deorjan** | 11.68 | 11.97 | |
| 9. | Sakol** | 12.37 | 12.66 | |
| 10. | Lower Pus | 28.28 | 25.69 | |
| 11. | Mun | 45.88 | 42.35 | |
| 12. | Aran | 49.71 | 39.49 | Beyond IX |
| 13. | Pakadigudam | 20.23 | 17.50 | IX |
| 14. | Bahula | 21.88 | 18.42 | IX |
| 15. | Hivara | 11.04 | 10.47 | |
| 16. | Tembhapuri | 20.42 | 17.86 | |
| 17. | Deogad | 85.88 | 30.74 | IX |
| 18. | Mangrul Pir | 10.82 | 8.53 | Beyond IX |
| 19. | Mor | 30.49 | 8.03 | Beyond IX |
| 20. | Amravati | 34.80 | 17.16 | IX |
| 21. | Sonwad | 25.20 | 15.09 | Beyond IX |
| 22. | Tajnapur Lift Irr. | 18.19 | 7.38 | Beyond IX |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23. | Erdha | 13.26 | 0.13 | Beyond IX |
| 24. | Purna Neopur | 12.71 | 10.80 | |
| 25. | Bordahegaon | 18.64 | 16.88 | |
| 26. | Anjanapalsi | 30.24 | 17.35 | Beyond IX |
| 27. | Shivanatakli | 46.31 | 14.62 | IX |
| 28. | Talni | 7.00 | 4.06 | IX |
| 29. | Upper Manar | 108.65 | 14.13 | Beyond IX |
| 30. | Karwappa Nalla | 24.13 | 3.28 | Beyond IX |
| 31. | Dongergaon (C) | 16.05 | 4.63 | IX |
| 32 | Chenna Nadi | 13.25 | 1.27 | IX |
| 33. | Jam | 52.12 | 29.13 | Beyond IX |
| 34. | Pendhan Nalla | 9.34 | 0.75 | IX |
| 35. | Madan Tank | 20.56 | 1.62 | IX |
| 36. | Umrazan** | 11.52 | 14.97 | |
| 37. | Benetura | 22.35 | 20.30 | |
| 38. | Kajala | 11.21 | 10.55 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 39. | Gadnadi | 75.70 | 14.68 | IX |
| 40. | Nagan | 49.19 | 11.09 | IX |
| 41. | Akalpada | 70.83 | 6.25 | IX |
| 42. | Kashyapı | 27.58 | 10.18 | Beyond IX |
| 43. | Narangi Sarangi | 18.85 | 13.86 | IX |
| 44. | Dara | 17.35 | 1.94 | IX |
| 45. | Brahmagaon | 9.46 | 9.47 | |
| 46. | Torna | 10.78 | 8.22 | |
| 47. | Syaki** | 17.29 | 17.84 | |
| 48. | Kar | 47.30 | 16.92 | IX |
| 49. | Koradinalla | 15.72 | 0.88 | IX |
| 50. | Sakat | 18.54 | 13.83 | |
| 51. | Upper Manjra | 37.42 | 30.33 | Beyond IX |
| 52. | Pen Takli | 91.87 | 21.78 | IX |
| 53. | Morna Gureghar | 39.42 | 2.24 | |
| 54. | Jawalgaon | 17.51 | 15.16 | |
| 55. | Chikotra | 47.22 | 3.50 | IX |
| 56. | Kumbhi | 48.44 | 18.01 | Beyond IX |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 57. | Kadvi | 66.43 | 26.73 | Beyond IX |
| 58. | Kasari** | 23.25 | 23.77 | IX |
| 59. | Jangamhatti | 29.50 | 15.65 | Beyond IX |
| 60. | Wadiwale | 28.39 | 21.60 | IX |
| 61. | Urmoli | 20.46 | 2.53 | Beyond IX |
| 62. | Bori(S) | 16.71 | 0.39 | Beyond IX |
| 63. | Sankh | 30.70 | 24.49 | Beyond IX |
| 64. | Palgaon | 50.75 | 36.34 | IX |
| 65. | Kasar Sai | 19.45 | 13.22 | IX |
| 66. | Andhali | 11.80 | 8.28 | |
| | *ERM Projects* | | | |
| 1. | Strengthening of Bhatghar Dam | 5.98 | 0.00 | Beyond IX |
| 2. | Strengthening of Radhanagari Dam | 9.57 | 0.00 | Beyond IX |
| 3. | Extension of Krishna Canal | 14.42 | 0.00 | Beyond IX |
| 4. | Strengthening of Ekrukh Dam | 1.36 | 0.00 | Beyond IX |
| 5. | Gated Weir at Khodsi | 13.14 | 0.00 | Beyond IX |
| 6. | Sangola Branch Canal | 149.00 | 0.00 | Beyond IX |
| | Total | 15227.70 | 6396.41 | |

**Nuclear Power Generation**

1153. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to generate more electricity through nuclear sources; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) At present the following 10 reactors are generating Electricity through nuclear sources

| Location | Unit |
|---|---|
| Tarapur, Maharashtra | TAPS-1 |
| Tarapur, Maharashtra | TAPS-2 |
| Rawatbhatta, Rajasthan | RAPS-1 |
| Rawatbhatta, Rajasthan | RAPS-2 |
| Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu | MAPS-1 |
| Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu | MAPS-2 |
| Narora, Uttar Pradesh | NAPS-1 |
| Narora, Uttar Pradesh | NAPS-2 |
| Kakrapar, Gujarat | KAPS-1 |
| Kakrapar, Gujarat | KAPS-2 |

Apart from completing and commissioning the ongoing projects of a total capacity of 880 MWe, comprising of the Kaiga Atomic Power Project Units-1 & 2 (2x220 MWe), and the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Units-3&4 (2 x 220 MWe), proposals for nuclear power development in the Ninth Five Year Plan include commencement of work on two units (3&4) of the Tarapur Atomic Power Project (TAPP) (2x500 MWe), Kaiga Units-3&4 (2x220 MWe), besides the commissioning of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 2x1000 MWe Nuclear Power Station at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu with Russian assistance and the commencement of preliminary work on the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (1x500 MWe) towards the end of the Ninth Plan.

2. The power produced by these reactors during the last three years are as under:

(Figures in Million Units)

| 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|
| 7983 | 9068 | 9618 |

**Grabbing of Chinese Territory**

1154. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has recently alleged that India has grabbed 90,000 sq. km. of Chinese territory; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) China's official news agency, Xinhua, in a signed commentary on January 1,1999 had wrongly alleged that India had taken possession of "about 90,000 sq. kms. of Chinese territory".

(b) Our consistent and well known position is that an area of approximately 38,000 sq. kms. of territory in the State of Jammu & Kashmir is under the illegal occupation of China. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5, 180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

India and China are committed to working towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. Both countries are discussing the boundary question in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group and India-China Expert Group. The Agreements on Maintenance of Border Peace and Tranquility, signed in 1993, and on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, signed in November 1996, contribute to maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas.

**Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

1155. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to restruct the pattern of Central assistance to States for Centrally sponsored schemes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for the changes made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**National Production Strategy**

1156. SHRI F.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn National Production Strategy for vegetable crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures suggested by the Union Government for promotion of vegetable export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Government of India have drawn the following Central Sector Schemes for augmenting production of vegetable crops:—

(i) Integrated Development of Vegetables including Root & Tuber Crops with an outlay of Rs. 75.00 crores.

(ii) Integrated Development of Onion Potato with an outlay of Rs. 49.48 crore. Both the schemes envisage to boost the production by providing improved hybrid seeds/quality planting material, laying out demonstration plots, providing training facilities, farm equipments & implements and on-farm cold storage facilities to the vegetable growers of the country.

(d) The Government of India, through Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has proposed to promote vegetable export by implementing following schemes/programmes:

(i) Integrated Programme for Pre and Post Harvest Management.

(ii) Preparation of Manuals.

(iii) Promotion of Pack House Concept.

(iv) Vapour Heat Treatment Experiment.

(v) Controlled Atmosphere/Modified Atmosphere Experiments for Transportation.

(vi) Infrastructure facilities.

**Cycles of Onion Crops**

1157. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production cycles of onion crops have caused wide fluctuations in onion prices;

(b) whether there is a proposal to start Future's Exchange in onion in order to reduce the fluctuation; and

(c) if so, the time frame for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The wide fluctuations in onion prices were caused by various factors including low production due to adverse weather conditions during 1997-98.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to start a Future' Exchange in onion.

**Relations with Japan**

1158. SHRI VAIKO:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has been the India's largest bilateral donor since 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of proposal supported and total aid provided during 1996, 1997 and 1998;

(d) the total number of proposal supported and aid provided after nuclear blast;

(e) whether the Indian Foreign Secretary recently visited Japan;

(f) if so, the details of agreements reached during his stay;

(g) whether Japan has changed its attitude towards India after nuclear blast; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The table given below summarises the commitment and disbursement profile of official Development Assistance (ODA) loans to India, administered by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan (in billion yen);

| Year | Commitment | Disbursement |
|---|---|---|
| 1988-89 | 67.83 | 28.19 |
| 1989-90 | 96.71 | 36.15 |
| 1990-91 | 104.82 | 62.20 |
| 1991-92 | 106.59 | 102.82 |
| 1992-93 | 111.91 | 53.10 |
| 1993-94 | 119.64 | 80.72 |
| 1994-95 | 125.765 | 66.52 |
| 1995-96 | 128.774 | 77.91 |
| 1996-97 | 132.746 | 64.58 |
| 1997-98 | 132.725 | 88.44 |

(c)

| Year | No. of Projects approved | Total Value (in Yen billion) |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 9 | 128.77 |
| 1996-97 | 11 | 132.75 |
| 1997-98 | 10 | 132.73 |

(d) Disbursement for the ongoing projects (both loans and grants) continues unaffected. On July 22, 1998 a grant assistance of Yen 392 million was extended to the Government of India for the Project for Eradication of Poliomyelitis as this project is interpreted as being a humanitarian project. In addition a Debt Relief Grant of Yen 185.67 million has also been granted on 12.2.1999.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. the Foreign Secretary visited Japan from 17-21 January, 1999 for the sixth round of India-Japan Foreign Secretary level talks. While no agreements were signed during the visit, the Foreign Secretary had extensive discussions in the Japanese Foreign Ministry on bilateral relations as well as international and regional issues of mutual interest.

(g) and (h) Immediately following the nuclear tests conducted by India in May 1998, the Government of Japan announced that they would take certain measures *i.e.* freeze grant assistance and Yen loans for new projects, except projects with a humanitarian purpose, and examine the loans extended to India by international financial institutions. The Japanese Government also withdrew the offer to host the India Development Forum Meeting in Tokyo, and have imposed controls over technology transfers to India. There is no substantive change on the part of Japan in regard to this position adopted since our nuclear tests.

**Prime Minister's visit to Trinidad & Tobago**

1159. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently paid a visit to Trinidad & Tobago;

(b) if so, the details of talks held with the leaders of Trinidad & Tobago;

(c) the outcome of the talks; and

(d) to what extent the relationship with these countries have been further strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) During the visit, the Prime Minister held detailed discussions with H.E. President Arthur N.R. Robinson and H.E. Prime Minister Basdeo Panday. Both sides agreed to deepen the traditional cultural links between the people of the two countries and to expand the economic content of the relationship. An agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation was signed between the two countries during the visit. This agreement would provide an impetus to the flow of investments, technology, trade and services between the two countries. A Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the area of Low Cost Housing was also signed. The MoU aims at promoting mutually beneficial cooperation and assistance in the field of housing and human settlements development. In the spirit of cooperation among developing countries and India's commitment to this cause Prime Minister agreed to extend technical assistance and share Indian expertise in the areas of small scale business development, planning, wood work, dairy development, aqua culture, film making and information technology.

During the visit Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation in Port of Spain. A Low Cost Housing Support Centre was inaugurated by Prime Minister and the Government of India gifted machinery for the Centre to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

The visit of Prime Minister gave a new thrust to India's relations with Trinidad & Tobago and opened up prospects for further strengthening and deepening of bilateral ties. It highlighted cultural commonality and perspectives for mutually beneficial economic links, including prospects of Trinidad emerging as a point for expanding links with Caribbean and Latin American countries.

**Atomic Power Generation**

1160. SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made in atomic power generation during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum of atomic power being generated and the places where it is being generated and the States which are getting its benefits;

(c) the areas in which atomic energy is being used and our rank in the world in this sector;

(d) the arrangements made to provide update information to the people regarding the works being done in the field of atomic energy;

(e) whether the Government have shared its experience in the field of atomic energy with any SAARC country for peaceful purposes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) During the last three years the nuclear power generation has been increased from 7983 million units in 1995-96 to 9618 million units in 1997-98. Yearwise details are as under:

(Figures in Million Units)

| 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|
| 7983 | 9068 | 9618 |

(b) The details of the location where the power is produced through atomic energy and the beneficiary

States are as under:

| Location | Unit | Beneficiary State | Cumulative electricity generation (Million units) from the date of commercial operation to Jan. '99 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tarapur, Maharashtra | TAPS-1 TAPS-2 | Maharashtra and Gujarat | 52827 |
| Rawatbhatta, Rajasthan | RAPS-1 RAPS-2 | Rajasthan | 23904 |
| Kalpakkam Tamil Nadu | MAPS-1 MAPS-2 | Tamil Nadu, Kerala Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry | 26962 |
| Narora Uttar Pradesh | NAPS-1 NAPS-2 | Uttar Pradesh, Delhi Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, J&K, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh | 15262 |
| Kakrapar Gujarat | KAPS-1 KAPS-2 | Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Goa, Daman & Diu Dadranagar | 10518 |

(c) Atomic Energy is being used for generation of electricity, desalination of water by vacuum evaporation, application of radioisotopes in nuclear medicine for diagnosis and therapy of cancer, thyroid diseases, for radioimmunoassay techniques radioimmunoassays & radiopharmaceuticals; to increase quality and productivity of crops, improve fertilizer and pesticide management techniques, for food preservation in Hydrology, for application in industry for Non-Districtive Tests Techniques, special instrumentation, applications in research, application of accelerators in the field of nuclear medicine, food preservation and NDT techniques in industry. India is one of the few countries in the World which has acquired comprehensive indigenous capability in all aspects of the Nuclear programme which covers generation of electricity, beneficial uses of atomic energy in the fields of medicine, agriculture and industry.

(d) The following arrangements are made to provide upto date information to the people regarding the works being done in the field of atomic energy:—

(a) Organising Seminars, Workshops and setting up of exhibitions in various parts of the country.

(b) Conducting Quiz and Essay contests for School and College students in collaboration with Universities of the concerned state.

(c) Arranging Press Conferences and releasing press reports.

(d) Distribution of in-house journals and departmental magazines.

(e) Screening of video films depicting important activities of the Department at various Public Awareness Programmes organised at various places.

(f) Arranging Open-house programmes for the benefit of the people in the neighbourhood of the concerned R&D Units.

(e) and (f) At present, India does not have any bilateral agreement for peaceful uses of atomic energy with any of the SAARC countries. However, under the IAEA Technical Cooperation programme, India has collaborated in the peaceful applications of Atomic Energy with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Collaboration has taken place in various areas including radioisotopes, Nuclear Technology to improve Agricultural Products, food irradiation, Radiation Protection etc. involving not only exchange and training of scientists but also supply of equipment.

*[Translation]*

**Expulsion of Diplomats**

1161 SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and country-wise number of diplomats and Staff of Foreign Missions asked to leave the country during the last three years and the main reasons therefor;

(b) the year-wise and country-wise number of Indian diplomats and staff of Indian Missions abroad asked to leave the country during the said period and the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether the decisions taken by these Governments were influenced by prejudice;

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

(e) whether the Government had apprised of its reactions to the concerned countries in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the country-wise reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

**Funds to Orissa**

1162. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount provided by the Union Government to Orissa for the upliftment of poor during the financial year 1997-98;

(b) whether the State Government has utilised the amount allocated for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Union Government have asked Orissa Government to furnish the reasons for non-utilisation of fund; and

(e) if so, the response of Orissa Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the State Government of Orissa.

*[Translation]*

**Special Drive for Recruitment of Backwards**

1163. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a special drive for filling up the reserved posts for backwards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In terms of Supreme Court judgement in Indira Sawhney case, total reservation including backlog reservation for all categories *viz.* SCs/STs/OBCs cannot exceed 50% of vacancies filled up in a year. Special Recruitment Drive for any reserved category is not feasible as the current reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs is already 49.5%.

**Backward Districts**

1164. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved any new criteria to identify the backward districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names and the number of such backward district in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the schemes prepared for their development and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission have not identified any area as backward *per se*. However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated to various States, including Uttar Pradesh for Special Area Programmes such as Border Area Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan etc.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Use of Thorium**

1165. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian scientists have developed the fast-breeder-reactor technique to generate electricity from thorium;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which electricity is likely to be generated from thorium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The technology for Fast Breeder Reactors has been developed by Indian scientists for generation of electricity using plutonium and uranium as fuel, not thorium. The construction of the first Prototype of the Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe) is expected to commence towards the end of the IX Plan period. A reactor based on the Uranium (233)—Thorium fuel cycle is at present under engineering development. The question of setting up power plants based on such reactors can be decided only at a later stage.

**Index for National Agriculture Production**

1166. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the date on which the index for National Agriculture Production (Anawari Report) was determined;

(b) whether any change has been made in this index; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The estimates of agricultural production till 1950 were framed based on the traditional method in terms of annas in a rupee (Anawari method) or paisa in a rupee in relation to normal yield by eye appraisal. Since 1950, this subjective procedure has been replaced by objective method of yield estimation through scientifically designed crop cutting experiments adopting random sampling technique for all the major crops.

*[English]*

**Infrastructure Sector**

1167. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission propose to review various Government Departments in order to facilitate more private sector investments in infrastructure sector;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Recognising the crudial role being played by infrastructure, the Planning Commission prepared a detailed Action Plan for rapid improvement in physical nfrastructure, in consultation with the concerned Administrative Ministries and appropriately integrated it with he Ninth Five Year Plan which has since been approved by NDC in its meetings held on 19.2.99. Recognising the need for participation of the private sector in the development of infrastructure both for bridging the resource and also to bring in greater efficiency by creating a competitive environment, the policy framework in each sector as enumerated in the Ninth Five Year Plan makes it possible for private investors to invest in these sectors (power generation, telecommunication services, ports, roads and airports), with a reasonable expectation of an attractive return. The Plan lays emphasis on the adoption of appropriate pricing policy and user charges as also setting up independent regulatory bodies both at the Centre and the State levels.

The private sector is being encouraged/considered to take up projects in different areas which include provision of cargo handling facilities at ports, construction of bypasses, bridges and stretches carrying heavy traffic in the case of roads, construction of bypasses, bridges and stretches carrying heavy traffic in the case of roads, construction of green field and management and operation of existing airports, besides ground handling facilities for airports, augmenting supply of wagons and building/ manufacturing/financing assets for lease in the case of Railways, basic telecommunication services as well as cellular services for telecom and distribution and generation of power.

(c) The concerned Central Ministries will be required to take policy initiatives in the light of directions and suggestions given in the Ninth Plan document.

*[Translation]*

**Foreign Visits**

1168. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries visited by Prime Minister so far after formation of the present Government;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the major achievements of these visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE iN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Prime Minister visited Sri Lanka from July 28-31, 1998; Oman, Namibia, South Africa and Mauritius from August 29 to September, 5, 1998; USA and France from September 22 to October 1,1998; Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica and Morocco from February 7-14,1999 and Pakistan from February 20-21,1999 after the formation of the present Government.

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

(c) *Sri Lanka:*

The Prime Minister visited Colombo to participate in the 10th SAARC Summit. The Summit placed emphasis and focus on strengthening economic cooperation between member countries. The Summit took some concrete decisions towards establishing a free trade area in South Asia. A group of experts was set up to commence negotiations on a Treaty for establishing a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), which would incorporate binding schedules for liberalising trade. The Summit directed that the Treaty should be concluded and put in place by 2001.

India also expressed its willingness to enter into bilateral free trade arrangements with interested SAARC countries. Sri Lanka responded positively to this offer. An agreement in this regard was signed during the visit of the President of Sri Lanka to India in December 1998.

*Oman:*

The Prime Minister and the Ruler of Oman, Sultan Qaboos had substantial discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues and committed the two countries to promote ties in political and economic fields.

*Namibia:*

The Prime Minister discussed matters of bilateral interest with the Namibian leadership besides regional and international issues. The following five Agreements were signed/exchanged during the visit:

(i) Agreement on Technical Cooperation;

(ii) MOA on Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research;

(iii) MoU on setting up of Plastic Technology Demonstration Centre in Namibia;

(iv) Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations; and

(v) Agreement exchanged between the Namibian Press Agency (NAMPA) and the Press Trust of India (PTI).

A prominent street in Windhoek (Namibia) was named after Mahatma Gandhi during the visit

*South Africa:*

The visit to Durban (South Africa) was to participate in the XII Non-Alignd Summit. The visit to this global forum was used to project India's views on issues of concern to us with the objective of bringing about a better appreciation of India's position.

*Mauritius:*

The Prime Minister's visit to Mauritius was in continuation of the regular exchange of high level visits between the two countries and helped in further cementing our bilateral ties. PM held useful talks with the leadership of Mauritius on issues of international, regional and bilateral interests. The bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, and a Protocol on Cooperation in the field of Meteorology between India and Mauritius was signed during the visit.

*USA:*

The visit to New York (USA) was to attend the 53rd Session of UN General Assembly. The visit to this global forum was used to project India's views on issues of concern to us with the objective of bringing about a better appreciation of India's position.

*France:*

PM's visit helped to consolidate the close bilateral relationship between India and France. PM held useful discussions on a wide range of issues with President Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, Speaker Laurent Fabius, several Ministers, CEOs of leading French firms, Indologists and scholars.

*Trinidad & Tobago:*

During his visit to Trinidad & Tobago, the Prime Minister held detailed discussions with President Arthur N R Robinson and Prime Minister Basdeo Pandey. Among the issues discussed were economic and technical cooperation in a wide range of areas and strengthening of the close cultural links between the two countries. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Low Cost Housing Support Centre in Port of Spain and laid the foundation stone of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation. The Institute is intended as a Centre for teaching of Indian dance, music and the Hindi language. A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement was signed to provide a fresh impetus to the flow of investment, technology, trade and services between the two countries. A Memorandum of Understanding on Low Cost Housing was signed.

*Jamaica:*

The Prime Minister's visit to Jamaica was in the context of the Ninth G-15 Summit held at Montego Bay, Jamaica from February 10-12,1999. The Summit deliberated extensively on issues of concern to developing countries. These included discussions on the current international economic situation, reaffirmation of the importance of a transparent, fair and equitable rules-based multilateral trading system under the WTO, reform of the international financial architecture, South-South and intra G-15 cooperation, and the prospects of undertaking a G-15—G-8 dialogue in these matters. All such priorities were duly reflected in the Joint Communique issued at the end of the Ninth Summit. In order to be able to cope with the challenges posed by globalisation and economic liberalisation and the onging financial crisis. They also called for enhanced regional and international cooperation to combat the menace of terrorism. India's offer to host a G-15 meeting at an appropriate level in preparation for the third WTO Ministerial Meeting was welcomed by the participants. They also endorsed India's proposal for a 'strategic sectors' for South-South cooperation focussing on core areas like bio-technology, information technology and infrastructure develoipment.

*Morocco:*

The Prime Minister held detailed discussions with King Hassan and Prime Minister Mr Abderrahmane El Youssoufi pf Morocco. Views were exchanged on important global and regional issues, and on ways and

means to further expand and diversify bilateral cooperation. The discussions revealed similarity of approach on most issues. Morocco also expressed understanding of our concerns. During the visit, a Bilateral Investment protection Agreement, a Tourism Cooperation Agreement and an Agreement between Press Trust of India (PTI) and Maghreb Arab Pressee (MAP) for mutual professional cooperation were signed.

*Pakistan:*

The Prime Minister visited Pakistan on the inaugural run of the Delhi-Lahore Bus Services. During his visit, the Prime Minister conveyed to the Government and people of Pakistan India's deep desire for peace and friendship with them and to develop a comprehensive structure of cooperation for the benefit of the two peoples. The Prime Minister and the Pakistan Prime Minister signed the Lahore Declaration, which is a landmark for peace and security of the two countries. India and Pakistan will now work to enter into agreements to put into place far-reaching Confidence Building Measures. The two countries also identified new and significant areas of cooperation such as information technology, and decided to address humanitarian issues at a ministerial level on an urgent basis. Government expect that the Prime Minister's historic initiative for the welfare of the peoples of the two countries and his reiteration that a secure, stable and prosperous Pakistan is in India's interest, will mark a new chapter in our bilateral ties.

*[English]*

**Construction of Road**

1169. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered Myanmar to build the Tamu-Kalemyo Road along the India-Myanmar border;

(b) if so, reaction of the Myanmar Government;

(c) the total cost of the project; and

(d) the date by which it is likely to take off?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) India and Myanmar singed a Memorandum of Understanding in March 1997 under which the two countries have agreed to cooperate with each other for the development of roads in Myanmar along the Indo-Myanmar border to promote trade and economic relations between the two countries. Tamu-Kalemyo Road is being upgraded by the Government of India under provisions of the MOU under reference. The upgradation work commenced on November 1,1997. The approved cost of the project is Rs. 91.68 crores.

**Indo-Pak Relations**

1170. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Trust a new high in Indo-Pak relations" appearing in *The Hindustan Times* dated February 7,1999;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to help the organisations like the Jati Umrah Indo-Pak Pariwar Milap Charity Trust, engaged in uniting families separated during partition, particularly with a view to bringing the two peoples together;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government place great importance on the need to encourage and enhance people-to-people contact between India and Pakistan. Government also welcome the efforts of all groups and organisations which seek to bring the peoples of the two countries closer together. During the recent visit of Prime Minister to Pakistan, it was agreed that the two sides would hold consultations with a view to further liberalising the visa and travel regimes between the two countries. The Government will endeavour to implement these decisions on an urgent basis.

**Global Security**

1171. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Institute of Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in its report following the Geneva Conference of September last, had observed that South-Asian Nuclear neighbours had neither enhanced their own security nor international status by conducting the series of Nuclear-Tests of May 1998;

(b) if so, other observations and recommendations made in the report for improving the global security environment; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Geneva based United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) organised an off-the-record meeting of academics, non Governmental organisations and Government representatives on *"The implications of South Asia's Nuclear Tests for the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Regimes"* in Geneva from 7-8 September 1998. The Report of this Conference summarises the discussions held, and various policy options suggested, during the meeting by the participants in their personal capacities. Not all points in the Report received the support of all participants, nor did their inclusion imply endorsement by the UNIDIR or any other body. The summary of the Report, included proposals relating to prevention of war, in particular nuclear war, saving the non-proliferation and nuclear arms control regimes and coping with effects on regional tensions, especially in the Middle East. As the Report itself notes, these proposals were not consistent. The Report was also not conclusive in terms of observations and recommendations.

(c) Government's decisions relating to our nuclear policy will continue to be taken in accordance with our own assessment of national security requirements.

**Harabhangi Irrigation Project**

1172. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of villages affected by the execution of the World Bank aided Harabhangi Irrigation Project in Orissa; and

(b) the details of the steps taken/propose to be taken by the Union Government to provide them proper rehabilitation and adequate compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Under the World Bank aided Harbhangi Irrigation Project four villages, namely Bebiri, Poipani, Kankalaguda and Gonduripadar are fully affected and two villages, namely, Adapanaka and Pabangan are partially affected.

(b) Displaced families have been resettled in Ashryarpuir, Kantahur, Adapanka and Pattachnchada villages where facilities like Tubewells, School, Community Centre, Open Wells, Colony road, and Electricity has been provided. Rehabilitation Assistance has been paid to the displaced persons as per Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy, 1994 of the State Government.

**Production/Cold Storage Capacity of Potatoes**

1173. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the average annual production of potatoes in the country during the last three years and the current year also, State-wise;

(b) whether the existing storage capacity of potatoes in the above States are sufficient;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to augment storage and marketing facilities of potatoes in the above States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) State-wise average annual production of potato during the last three years and likely production during the current year is shown in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) The existing storage capacity is insufficient. The Working Group of the Planning Commission for IX Plan has assessed requirement of an additional 15 lakh tonnes of capacity. The reasons for insufficient capacity creation have been irregular power supply to the cold storage, high cost of power tariff and low profitability of the cold storage industry on account of low rentals in many States.

(d) The Government of India have repealed the Central Cold Storage Control Order and have advised the State Governments who had their own Cold Storage Acts/Orders to repeal such Act/Orders and free the cold storage industry for attracting investment. The Government is providing soft loan assistance from National Horticulture Board to a maximum of Rs. 35 lakhs for each project and the National Cooperative Development Corporation is providing financial assistance to the cold storage industry in the Cooperative Sector. It is further proposed to modify the assistance from soft loan to capital subsidy at the rate of 25%. Besides, commercial banks will provide loans for cold storage at the prime lending rates.

***Statement***

*State-wise average Annual Production of Potato*

(Production in Lakhs Tonnes)

| | Name of the State | Total Production | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99* |
| 1. | Uttar Pradesh | 74.65 | 95.91 | 60.66 | 94.00 |
| 2. | West Bengal | 62.58 | 84.72 | 59.49 | 50.00 |
| 3. | Bihar | 15.08 | 16.59 | 14.61 | 40.00 |
| 4. | Madhya Pradesh | 5.18 | 8.48 | 6.66 | 8.10 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 4.60 | 7.39 | 6.23 | 7.88 |
| 6. | Punjab | 7.95 | 8.45 | 8.52 | 7.25 |
| 7. | Haryana | 2.10 | 1.66 | 1.78 | 2.50 |
| 8. | Others | 16.29 | 18.95 | 18.57 | 25.89 |
| | Total: | 188.43 | 242.15 | 176.52 | 235.62 |

* Likely production.

**Bore Well**

1174. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the work executed by the Central Ground Water Board in Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years;

(b) whether special types of drills and accessories are required for boring wells in hilly districts of Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, whether such drills and accessories are available with the Central Ground Water Board, Tamil Nadu, for their smooth working; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to make available above required drills and accessories to CGWB, Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The details of works executed by the Central Ground Water Board in Tamil Nadu during the last three years are indicated in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) The Central Ground Water Board is equipped with necessary Down the Hole Hammer Rigs required for drilling in hard rock and hilly areas of Tamil Nadu.

(d) Question does not arise.

***Statement***

*Details of work executed by Central Ground Water Board in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years*

| Sl.No. | Nature of Work | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Reappraisal Hydro-geological Survey | — | 16985 Sq. Km. | 7310 Sq. Km. |
| 2. | Ground Water Exploratory Drilling (No. of EW* Constructed) | 26 | 32 | 16 |
| 3. | National Hydrograph Network Monitoring Stations | 761 | 765 | 763 |
| 4. | Water Supply Investigations | 8 | 9 | 12 |
| 5. | Geophysical Studies<br>(a) Surface Studies (VES)**<br>(b) Logging | 53<br>11 | 88<br>7 | 138<br>8 |
| 6. | Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission—Technical Guidance to No. of habitations cleared for supply of flouride free drinking water | 7 | 400 | — |
| 7. | Artificial Recharge Studies—construction of sub-surface dykes | — | 2 | 2 under progress |
| 8. | Hydrology Project Construction of Piezometer wells | 15 | 10 | 218 |

* EW—Exploratory Well.
** VES—Vertical Electrical Sounding.

**Non-Lapsable Development Fund**

1175. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of 10% Non-lapsable Development Fund earmarked for the North-Eastern States till date since the inception of this fund;

(b) the details break-up of the contribution of the Non-lapsable Fund by each Ministry/Department of the Government of India towards the fund; and

(c) the number of Ministries/Departments of the Government of India who have not yet contributed to this fund, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources has been constituted for assisting development projects, including the infrastructure sector, in the North-East and Sikkim. The funds being credited by various Central Ministries/Departments to the Pool from out of unspent amount(s) from 10% of their Budget(s) earmarked for these States, are expected to enable meeting the initial requirements for this purpose during the current financial year.

2. The actual amount(s) that would be contributed by the Central Ministries/Departments to the Central Pool during the current financial year would be known after the end of the financial year. All Central Ministries/ Departments, except those specifically exempted and those who would spend 10% or more of their Budget(s) in the North-East and Sikkim, are required to contribute to the Central Pool.

*[Translation]*

**National Water Policy**

1176. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to amend the National Water Policy for proper sharing of irrigation and drinking water among the States and to bring the subjects related to state rivers under the purview of Centre so, as to resolve inter-State water disputes permanently;

(b) if so, the details of the outlines of the policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A National Water Policy was adopted by National Water Resources Council, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, in 1987. The Policy is proposed to be reviewed and updated in the context of experiences gained during the last ten years of its implementation and emerging challenges. In this context, a revised/updated draft National Water Policy has recently been finalised by the National Water Board (NWB) in its tenth meeting held on 29th Ocrtober, 1998 for its further consideration and adoption by the National Water Resources Council. In addition, a draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst States has also been finalised by the National Water Board for consideration of the National Water Resources Council. However, there is no proposal under consideration for bringing the subject of 'Water' under the purview of the Centre.

(c) The adoption of revised/updated National Water Policy as well as the draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst States is dependent upon its approval by the National Water Resources Council.

*[English]*

**Cultivation of Wheat**

1177. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production and area under wheat cultivation has increased this year as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Dropsy scare and edible oil import liberalisation are responsible for the increase in area under wheat cultivation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any likely affect on production of oil seeds due to this reason; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by Government to arrest the reduction of area under oil seeds production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The likely area under wheat at around 26.5 million hectare this year is almost at par with that of last year. However, the production of wheat during 1998-99 is expected to be higher at 69.13 million tonnes as compared to 65.90 million tonnes last year.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The total area and production of oilseeds during 1998-99 are likely to be higher than last year. The area in 1998-99 is likely to be 27.1 million hectares as compared to 26.2 million hectares during last year whereas the production is estimated to be 24.2 million tonnes this year compared with 22.0 million tonnes during the last year.

**Eighth G-15 Summit**

1178. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India recently attended the Eighth G-15 Summit in Egypt;

(b) if so, the main decisions arrived at the Summit;

(c) whether India also raised the South-East Asian currency turmoil and suggested ways for promoting International financial stability; and

(d) the other issues discussed and final decision taken at the Summit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Vice-President of India led the Indian delegation to the Eighth G-15 Summit held in Egypt in May 1998.

(b) The Eighth G-15 Summit focussed on two major themes, *viz.*, financial crisis in East and South-East Asia and Multilateral Trading System including the WTO Ministerial Conference at Geneva. The Summit examined the different perspectives and called for comprehensive and urgent action in preventing the spread of the financial turmoil in East and South East Asia. On the issue of the Multilateral Trading System, the Summit focussed on developing country positions on various matters that were likely to be taken up at the WTO Geneva Ministerial Conference in May 1998, as well as a positive agenda for the developing countries.

(c) India also expressed concern about the East and South-East Asian financial crisis. In the context of promoting international financial stability, India suggested transparency and effective regulation of the financial sector, improvement in development assistance to developing countries, prudential regulation and management of capital by the nerve centres of the world finance, and institutionaiizing the emergency response system to deal with market failures. The Summit examined different perceptions and called for urgent action for preventing the spread of the financial contagion or similar crises in future.

(d) As to the other issues, the Summit called for the conservation of bio-diversity and the protection bio-genetic resources of developing countries. The Summit highlighted the need for a constructive and positive North-South dialogue. The Summit reiterated the importance of South-South cooperation through G-15 projects and expansion of trade, investment and transfer of technology. The Summit accepted the formal application of Sri Lanka for membership of G-15 and invited Sri Lanka to join the Ninth Summit in Jamaica in February 1999.

**Indians in Nairobi**

1179. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of Indians were recently arrested in Nairobi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether no proper passports were issued to these Indians; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. 16 Indian nationals were arrested by the Kenyan Police on 19.12.98.

(b) They were detained on the charge of illegal stay in the country.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. While all the 16 Indians had valid passports and visas/work permits, the Kenyan authorities suspected the authenticity of their documents.

The court subsquently, acquitted 14 of the 16 Indian nationals on verification of these documents.

**Supply of Edible Oils**

1180. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of various edible oils released by the National Dairy Development Board during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is a sharp cutdown in the supply of these oils recently leading to acute shortage of edible oils in the market;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the supply of these oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above question does not arise.

***Statement***

*The total quantity of various Dhara edible oils sold by the NDDB during the last three year*

(Figures in Metric Tonnes)

| Oil Type | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99(**) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Double filtered Groundnut oil | 15415 | 18294 | 13231 |
| Refined Groundnut Oil | 96 | 01 | 0 |
| Double filtered mustard Oil | 14718 | 16733 | 13402 |
| Refined Vegetable Oil | 26857 | 33550 | 32355 |
| Refined Cotton Seed Oil | 969 | 711 | 557 |
| Refined Sunflower Oil | 4867 | 9555 | 10133 |
| Refined Soya Oil | 365 | 1799 | 461 |
| Kucchi Ghani mustard oil | 0 | 1721 | 1405 |
| Lok Dhara | 818 | 315 | 238 |
| Total in (MT) | 64105 | 82679 | 71782(**) |

(**) Upto 31st January, 1999.

*[Translation]*

**Slaughter Houses**

1181. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of air crashes are increasing in the country due to proximity of slaughter houses to the airports;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have formulated any policy for setting up new slaughter houses in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

**Power Generation**

1182. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of nuclear power in electricity production has declined during 1998 as compared to 1997;

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

(c) the steps propose to be taken by the Government to increase the share of nuclear power in the production of electricity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Apart from completing and commissioning the ongoing projects of a total capacity of 880 MWe, comprising of the Kaiga Atomic Power Project Units-1&2 (2x220 MWe) and the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Units-3&4 (2x220 MWe), proposals for nuclear power development in the Ninth Five Year Plan include commencement of work on two units (3&4) of the Tarapur Atomic Power Project (TAPP) (2x500 MWe), Kaiga Units-3&4 (2x220 MWe), besides the commissioning of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the (2x1000 MWe) Nuclear Power Station at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu with Russian assistance and the commencement of preliminary work on the prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (1x500 MWe) towards the end of the Ninth Plan.

**Indian Agriculture Institute**

1183. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Indian Agriculture Statistical Research Institute, Central Sub-tropical Horticulture Institute, Indian Sugarcane Research Institute and Directorate of Wheat-Research have not charged Rs. 6.25 lakh for delayed supply for their storages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, Central Institute for Sub-tropical Horticulture, Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research and Directorate of Wheat Research accepted the facts in November, 1997, while Indian Agricultural Research Institute did not furnish any reply.

(b) The essential clause regarding levy of liquidated damages for failure to supply stores within the stipulated period was not incorporated in the tender documents/ purchase orders in violation of provisions of GFRs. Non-incorporation of the clause adversely affected financial interests of the institutes. Though supply of stores in some cases were delayed beyond five weeks from the stipulated delivery period in five intitutes, namely Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, Central Institute of Sub-tropical Horticulture, Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research and Directorate of Wheat Research, the liquidated damages of Rs. 6.25 lakh @ two percent per week subject maximum of 10 per cent could not be recovered as a clause for levy of penalty was not incorporated in the purchase orders.

(c) All the Institutes have already been requested to follow/implements penalty clause as suggested by the Audit. The replies of the concerned institutes are given as under:—

*IASRI, New Delhi:* There was no instances of cases at IASRI in which damage for delay in supply of stores were warranted. Bank guarantee whenever needed as per rules have been obtained and EMD/Security deposit, where firms defaulted, have been forfeited as provided under the Rules.

*IARI, New Delhi:* This requirement has been noted and penalty clause has now been incorporated in purchase orders.

*IISR, Lucknow:* The suggestion has been noted for future compliance. As regards the case of Diesel-generating Sets, it is informed that both the Diesel-generating Sets have been energized on 6.12.1996 which have also been taken over by the Institute.

*CISH, Lucknow:* The suggestion was noted and has been incorporated in all the supply/purchase orders.

*DWR, Karnal:* Such condition is now being incorporated while issuing the tenders/purchase order.

*[Translation]*

**Bargi Dam**

1184. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The percentage of construction work of the right bank canal of Bargi dam completed so far and the time by which the remaining work is targeted to be completed;

(b) the budgetary provision made for the purpose during the year of 1998-99 and 1999-2000 separately; and

(c) the agricultural land in acres proposed to be irrigated in Madhya Pradesh after completing the right bank canal of Bargi dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES ( SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The proposed canal on the right bank of the Bargi dam is part of Bargi Diversion Project which is targeted to be completed by March, 2014. The excavation work has since commenced.

(b) An amount of Rs. 1.20 crores has been kept in the State budget for 1998-99. For the year 1999-2000, no details are available.

(c) An area of 6.05 lac acres of the agricultural land is proposed to be irrigated in Madhya Pradesh after completion of the Bargi Diversion Project.

**Flood Control in Bihar**

1185. SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the embankments of the river Ganges have been completely damaged in district Katihar due to the devastating floods of 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inhabitants of several villages have deserted to major breach in the Kadagola Ghat in Barar Block;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to provide necessary funds to provide necessary funds to repair the said Ghat without any further delay; and

(e) the time by which the funds are likely to be provided to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The embankment of river Ganges has been partly demaged in Katihar district in Bihar due to floods of 1998.

(b) The embankment has been demaged at two places. One near village Goagachhi and the other at location upstream of Baburbanna village, both on left bank of the river.

(c) No Major breach in the embankment has taken place in Kadagola Ghat in Barari. However, as a precautionary measure inhabitants near Jarlahi ring bund in Kadagola Ghat were temporarily shifted to safer places.

(d) and (e) Maintenance and repair of embankments are done by the State Government out of their own funds. Union Government would therefore not provide financial assistance for such activities.

*[English]*

**Fish Farmers Development Agencies**

1186. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fish farmers development agencies functioning at present in the country for the development of inland fisheries;

(b) the details thereof, Statewise; and

(c) the total amount released by the Union Government to these agencies for training in fish farming during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Development of Fresh-water Aquaculture", 422 Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) have been sanctioned since 1973-74 for the development of inland fisheries in all the 25 States and one Union Territory of Pondicherry. A list of FFDAs is given in Statement enclosed.

(c) The total amount released by the Government of India to these agencies during the last three years is as stated below:

| Year | Amount (Rs. in lakh) |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 1020.00 |
| 1996-97 | 1095.00 |
| 1997-98 | 1494.245 |

***Statement***

*List of Sanctioned Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDA)*

| State/Union Territory | No. of FFDAs | Name of the Districts/Regions where FFDAs are set up |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 22 | Karimnagar, Kurnool, Medak, Krishna, Nalgonda, East Godawari, West Godawari, Mahboobnagar, Nizamabad, Chittor, Khammam, Srikakulam, Vijayanagarm, Vizag, Guntoor, Prakasham, Nellore, Warangal, Adilabad, Anantpur, Cuddapah and Rangareddy. |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 2 | Two Regional FFDAs (1) Itanagar (2) East & West Siang/Tirap/ Subansiri. |
| Assam | 23 | Darrang, Kamrup, Naowgang, Sibsagar, Cachar, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Karimganj, Kabi, Anglong, Dibrugarh, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, Barpeta, Goalpara, Jorhat, Bongaigaon, Nalbari, Morigaon, Golaghat, Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Hailakandi and N.C. Hills District. |
| Bihar | 49 | East Champaran, West Champaran, Siwan, Gopalganj, Saran, Vaishali, Muzafarpur, Sitamarhi, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Gaya, Purnea, Khagaria, Patna, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Munger, Samastipur, Begusarai, Saharsa, Dhanbad, Aurangabad, Gumla, Katihar, Madhepura, Nalanda, Giridih, Godda, Dumka, Bhagalpur, Sahebganj, Deoghar,Singhbhum, Palemau, Rohtas, Bhojpur, Newadah,Jahanabad, Lohardanga, Buxar, Supaul, Araria, Krishnaganj, Banka, Jamui, Bokaro, Chatra, Garhwa and Jamshedpur. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Goa | 1 | Regional FFD at Panaji. |
| Gujarat | 17 | Surat, Panchmahal Bulsar, Kheda, Jamnagar, Bharoach, Surendranagar,Subarnkantha,Vadodhara, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Kutch, Junagarh, Amreli, Banaskantha and Mehsana. |
| Haryana | 16 | Karnal, Rohtak, Sonepat, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sirsa, Mahendragarh, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Hissar, Bhiwani, Jind, Rewari, Panipat, Kaithal and Yamunanagar. |
| Himachal Pradesh | 2 | Two Regional FFDAs—Bilaspur and Mandi. |
| Jammu & Kashmie | 2 | Jammu regional and Kashmir regional. |
| Karnataka | 18 | Mysore, Dharwar, Shimoga, Kolar, Raichur, Bidar, Bangalore, Chikmagalur, Hassan, Chitradurga, Gulbarga, Belgaum, Bijapur, Madikeri, Uttara-Kannada, Mandya, Tumkur and Dakshina-Kannada. |
| Kerala | 14 | Palghat, Quilon, Trichur, Cannanore, Alleppey, Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Malappuram, Kozhikod, Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Wayanad and Kasargode. |
| Madhya Pradesh | 45 | Raipur, Drug, Rajnandgaon, Bilaspur, Raigarh, Rewa, Shahdol, Seoni, Balaghat, Sagar, Chatrapur, Satna, Jabalpur, Sidhi, Shivpuri, Tikamgarh, Khargone, Dhar, Betul, Shehore, Raisen, Jagdalpur (Basti), Mandla, Sarguja, Chhindwara, Bhind, Guna, Gwalior, Hoshangabad, Damoh, Ujjain, Khandwa, Mandsour, Dewas, Indore, Jhabua, Panna, Shajapur, Ratlam, Morena, Datia, Rajgarh, Vidisha, Narsinghpur and Bhopal. |
| Manipur | 8 | Central Manipur, South Manipur, Bishanpur, Ukhrul, Tamenglong, Chandel, Sanepati and Thoubal. |
| Meghalaya | 2 | One regional FFDA Garo Hills. |
| Mizoram | 5 | Aizawl East, Lunglai, Chhimtuiphi, Aizawl West and Kolasib. |
| Nagaland | 8 | Regional FFDAs—Kohima, Zunheboto, Tuensang, Mon, Pheak, Wokha, Mokokchung and Dimapur. |
| Orissa | 30 | Cuttack, Puri, Balasore, Ganjam, Phulbani, Bolangir, Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi, Koraput, Sundergarh, Keonjhar, Gajapati, Rayagada, Nawarangpur, Malkanagiri, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Nayagarh, Angul, Bargarh, Nuapara, and Sonepur, Jharsuguda, Boudh, Deogarh. |
| Punjab | 17 | Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Sangrur, Jullundur, Patiala, Ropar, Hoshiarpur, Bhatinda, Kapurthala, Ferozpur, Faridkot, Mansa and Fatehgarh-Saheb, Mooga, Muktsar, Navasher. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Rajasthan | 15 | Ajmer, Alwar, Bhilwara, Bharatpur, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Tonk, Udaipur, Kota, Chittorgarh, Banswara, Jhalawad, Sawaimadhopur, Pali, and Sriganganagar. |
| Sikkim | 1 | One regional FFDA. |
| Tamil Nadu | 17 | Thanjavur, Madurai, South Arcot, Periyar, Trichurapalli, Dharmapuri, Chengalpattu, Kamarajar, Anna, Tirunelveli, North Arcot, Kanyakumari, Madras, Pudukottai, Posumpam-Muthuramalingam, Kattabomman and Chidambaranar. |
| Tripura | 4 | West Tripura, South Tripura and North Tripura, Dhala |
| Uttar Pradesh | 56 | Allahabad, Kanpur, Fatehpur, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Balia, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Azamgarh, Lucknow, Unnao, Banda, Gonda, Raibereilly, Moradabad, Sitapur, Hardoi, Lakhimpur — Kheri, Faizabad, Sultanpur, Partapgarh, Barabanki, Bahraich, Meerut, Badaun, Etah, Aligarh, Jalaun, Etawah, Agra, Farukhabad, Manipuri, Muzaffarnagar, Bulandshahar, Shahranpur, Ghaziabad, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Hamirpur, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Pilibhit, Rampur, Bijnaur, Mathura, Firozabad, Hardwar, Sidharthnagar, Mau, Sonabhadra, Maharajganj, Dehradoon, (Regional FFDA for Garhwal Division) and Nainital (Regional FFDA for Kumaon Division). |
| West Bengal | 18 | Bankura, Nadia, Howrah, West Dinajpur, Hooghly, Birbhum, Darjeeling, North 24-Parganas, Malda, Murshidabad, Cooch-Behar, Jalpaiguri, Burdwan, Midnapur, Purulia, 24-Parganas (South), Siliguri Sub-Division of Darjeeling District and Uttar Dinajpur. |
| Pondicherry | 1 | Karaikal regional. |
| Total | 422 | |

**Extradition Treaty**

1187. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN:
SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHRY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which the Government have signed extradition treaties so far;

(b) whetner the Government have a proposal to sign an extradition treaty with United States of America; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) India has so far concluded Extradition Treaties with Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Hong Kong, Nepal, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America.

(b) and (c) India signed new Extradition Treaty with United States of America on 25th June, 1997. The United States of America, however, is yet to ratify it.

**Welfare Programme for Fishermen**

1188. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the pitiable condition of fishermen of the coastal areas of the country, particularly the fishermen of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of schemes announced/formulated the facilities provided by the Government to the fishermen for their welfare in the country so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) After assessing the socio-economic condition of fishermen both in coastal States as well as in inland States, the Government have been implementing Centrally Sponsored "National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme". The Scheme is presently being implemented in 17 States and 4 Union Territories including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme has three components and the details of facilities being provided by each component for the welfare of fishermen are given below:

(i) Group Accident Insurance Compnent: Under this component, fishermen are insured for a sum of Rs. 35,000/- in case of death or permanent disability and Rs. 17,500/- in case of partial disability. The annual premium for insurance is shared equally between the Centre and the States. In case of Union Territories, the entire premium is met by the Central Government.

(ii) Development of Model Fishermen Villages Component: Under this component, houses, tubewells and community halls are provided in selected villages for the fishermen and the cost is shared equally between the Centre and the State Government subject to a ceiling of Rs. 35,000/- per house, Rs. 25,000/- for a tubewell and Rs. 1,25,000/- for a community hall. In case of Union Territories, the entire cost is met by the Centre.

(iii) Saving-cum-Relief Component: This component provides financial assistance to marine fishermen during monsoon/close period. Under this component contribution of Rs. 45 per month for 8 months in a year collected from the individual and matched by the Central Government and the State Government is distributed to the fishermen in four equal monthly instalments during the monsoon/close period.

*[Translation]*

**Vacant Posts in CAT**

1189. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of various categories of posts in the Central Administrative Tribunal, bench-wise;

(b) the date since when the sanctioned posts are lying vacant; and

(c) the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) Occurrence and filling up of vacancies in the Central Administrative Tribunal is an ongoing process. The vacant posts of Vice-Chairman and Member are identified on six monthly basis and filled up accordingly on the basis of recommendations of a Selection Committee headed by a judge of the Supreme Court. Expeditious action is taken by the Central Administrative Tribunal/Government to fill up the other vacant posts as and when they arise after following the prescribed procedure.

***Statement***

*Sanctioned Posts, Number of Posts Vacant and the Date of Vacancy Bench-wise in the Central Administrative Tribunal*

| Sl. No. | Name of the Bench | Name of the Post | Sanctioned Post | Number of Vacancies | Date of Vacancy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Principal Bench | Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Vice-Chairman | 2 | | |
| | | Member | 7 | | |
| | | Registrar (PB) | 1 | | |
| | | Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Joint Registrar | 1 | | |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 5 | | |
| | | Deputy Controller of Accounts | 1 | | |
| | | Deputy Director (Documentation) | 1 | | |
| | | Principal Private Secretary | 1 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 2 | 1 | 1998 |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 14 | 2 | 7.4.1998<br>1.9.1998 |
| | | Private Secretary | 11 | 3 | 6.10.1996<br>25.2.1997<br>20.10.97 |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 11 | 1 | 1.1.1998 |
| | | Junior Accounts Officer | 4 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Hindi Translator | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 12 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |
| | | Caretaker | 2 | | |
| | | Senior Accountant | 3 | | |
| | | Junior Accountant | 5 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 24 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 9 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 34 | | |
| | | Hindi Typist | 1 | | |
| | | Data Entry Operator | 2 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 7 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 2 | | |
| | | Gestetnor Operator | 1 | | |
| | | Despatch Rider | 2 | | |
| | | Senior Library Attendant | 2 | | |
| | | Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 9 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 10 | | |
| | | Peon | 31 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 4 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 5 | | |
| | | Mali | 1 | | |
| | | | 232 | 7 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | Ahmedabad Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Member | 3 | 1 | 24.9.98 |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | | |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 2 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 5 | 1 | 29.7.98 |
| | | Private Secretary | 5 | 2 | 26.9.95<br>2.7.96 |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 4 | 3 | 1994<br>12/97<br>09/98 |
| | | Junior Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 3 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 6 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 2 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 9 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 3 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Gestetnor Operator | 1 | | |
| | | Senior Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 3 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 4 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Peon | 11 | 1 | 7.12.98 |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 73 | 8 | |
| 3. | Allahabad Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | 1 | 23.1.98 |
| | | Member | 5 | 1 | 17.5.98 |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | | |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 2 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 6 | | |
| | | Private Secretary | 7 | 4 | 28.2.96<br>5.6.98<br>8.8.98<br>8.10.98 |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 6 | 5 | (2) 1994<br>(1) 1996<br>(2) 1997 |
| | | Jr. Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Hindi Translator | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 3 | | |
| | | Jr. Librarian | 1 | 1 | 19.9.97 |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 11 | 1 | 7.12.98 |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 3 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 17 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Hindi Typist | 1 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 4 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Gestetnor Operator | 1 | | |
| | | Despatch Rider | 1 | | |
| | | Sr. Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Jr. Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 4 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 6 | | |
| | | Peon | 13 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | Mali | 1 | | |
| | | | 105 | 13 | |
| 4. | Lucknow Bench | Member | 2 | | |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 3 | | |
| | | Private Secretary | 2 | 1 | 1.9.98 |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 2 | 1 | 1.1.97 |
| | | Junior Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Hindi Translator | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 2 | 1 | 26.2.98 |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 4 | 2 | 1.7.97<br>28.2.98 |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 1 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 8 | | |
| | | Hindi Typist | 1 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 1 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 2 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 2 | | |
| | | Peon | 10 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 51 | 5 | |
| 5. | Bangalore Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Member | 3 | 1 | 30.11.98 |
| | | Registrar | 1 | 1 | 4.2.98 |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 2 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 5 | | |
| | | Private Secretary | 5 | | |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 4 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Junior Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 3 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 6 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 2 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 10 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 3 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Gestetnor Operator | 1 | | |
| | | Senior Library Attendent | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 3 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 4 | | |
| | | Peon | 11 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 74 | 2 | |
| 6. | Mumbai Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Member | 3 | 2 | 4.1.98<br>25.9.98 |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | | |
| | | Joint Registrar | 1 | 1 | 3.4.97 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Deputy Registrar | 1 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 5 | | |
| | | Private Secretary | 5 | 3 | 1.4.97<br>29.8.97<br>2.11.98 |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 5 | 1 | Oct. 98 |
| | | Junior Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 3 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | 1 | July 1997 |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 7 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 1 | 1 | Oct. 98 |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 11 | 1 | Nov. 98 |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 3 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Gestetnor Operator | 1 | | |
| | | Despatch Rider | 1 | | |
| | | Senior Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 3 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 4 | | |
| | | Peon | 11 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 77 | 10 | |
| 7. | Calcutta Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Member | 3 | 1 | 12.9.98 |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | | |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 2 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 5 | | |
| | | Private Secretary | 5 | | |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 4 | 2 | 19.3.98<br>31.8.98 |
| | | Junior Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 3 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 8 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 2 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 12 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 3 | | |
| | | Gestetnor Operator | 1 | | |
| | | Photocopy Operator | 1 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Despatch Rider | 1 | | |
| | | Senior Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 3 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 4 | | |
| | | Peon | 11 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 79 | 3 | |
| 8. | Chandigarh Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Member | 3 | 1 | 3.10.98 |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | 1 | 25.7.98 |
| | | Joint Registrar | 1 | | |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 1 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 5 | | |
| | | Private Secretary | 5 | 1 | 26.11.98 |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 5 | 2 | 10.9.95<br>21.3.96 |
| | | Junior Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Hindi Translator | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 3 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 8 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 1 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 12 | 4 | 1(1.3.98)<br>3(6.5.98) |
| | | Hindi Typist | 1 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 3 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Gestetnor Operator | 1 | | |
| | | Senior Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 3 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 4 | | |
| | | Peon | 11 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 80 | 9 | |
| 9. | Cuttack Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Member | 1 | | |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | 1 | 16.11.98 |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 1 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 4 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Private Secretary | 3 | 2 | 4.2.95<br>4.7.97 |
| | | Court Master/<br>Stenographer Grade "C" | 2 | 1 | 1.11.96 |
| | | Assistant | 2 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | 1 | Oct., 96 |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 3 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 1 | 1 | 16.9.94 |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 7 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 2 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Jr. Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 2 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 2 | | |
| | | Peon | 10 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 51 | 6 | |
| 10. | Guwahati Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Member | 1 | | |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | | |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 1 | 1 | 31.1.98 |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | 1 | 26.5.98 |
| | | Section Officer/<br>Court Officer | 4 | 2 | 17.10.96<br>9.2.99 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Private Secretary | 3 | 1 | 31.8.97 |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 2 | | |
| | | Assistant | 2 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 3 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 1 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 7 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 2 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Despatch Rider | 1 | | |
| | | Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 2 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 2 | | |
| | | Peon | 10 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 53 | 5 | |
| 11. | Hyderabad Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Member | 3 | | |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | 1 | 4.9.96 |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 2 | 1 | 1997 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 5 | | |
| | | Private Secretary | 5 | 1 | 4.12.98 |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 4 | | |
| | | Junior Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 3 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 7 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 2 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 11 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 3 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Gestetnor Operator | 1 | | |
| | | Despatch Rider | 1 | | |
| | | Senior Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 3 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 4 | | |
| | | Peon | 11 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 77 | 3 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12. | Jabalpur Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | 1 | 14.9.98 |
| | | Member | 1 | 1 | 16.10.98 |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | 1 | 7.2.96 |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 1 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | 1 | 1.1.99 |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 4 | 2 | (2) 23.12.97 |
| | | Private Secretary | 3 | 2 | April 1997 18.2.98 |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 2 | | |
| | | Hindi Translator | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 2 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 4 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 1 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 8 | | |
| | | Hindi Typist | 1 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 2 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 2 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 2 | | |
| | | Peon | 10 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | Mali | 1 | | |
| | | | 56 | 9 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | Jaipur Bench | Member | 2 | 1 | 31.3.98 |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 3 | | |
| | | Private Secretary | 2 | 1 | 24.7.98 |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 2 | | |
| | | Junior Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Hindi Translator | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 2 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 4 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 1 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 8 | | |
| | | Hindi Typist | 1 | 1 | 14.7.98 |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 1 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 2 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 2 | | |
| | | Peon | 10 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 51 | 3 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14. | Jodhpur Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Member | 3 | 1 | 5.11.96 |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | 1 | 30.6.98 |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 1 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 5 | | |
| | | Private Secretary | 5 | 5 | 3 (1996)<br>1 (31.7.98)<br>1 (24.12.98) |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 4 | | |
| | | Jr. Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Hindi Translator | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 3 | 1 | 19.1.99 |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 6 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 1 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 9 | | |
| | | Hindi Typist | 1 | | |
| | | Gestetner Operator | 1 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 3 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Sr. Library Attendant | 1 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Daftry | 3 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 4 | | |
| | | Peon | 11 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | Mali | 1 | | |
| | | | 74 | 8 | |
| 15. | Chennai Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Member | 3 | | |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | | |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 2 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 5 | 1 | 6.11.98 |
| | | Private Secretary | 5 | | |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 4 | | |
| | | Jr. Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 3 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 7 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 2 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 11 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Staff Car Driver | 3 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Gestetnor Operator | 1 | | |
| | | Sr. Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 3 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 4 | 1 | 14.11.98 |
| | | Peon | 11 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 76 | 2 | |
| 16 | Patna Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Member | 3 | 1 | 30.9.98 |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | | |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 1 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 5 | 1 | 15.6.98 |
| | | Private Secretary | 5 | 2 | 1996 31.7.95 |
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 4 | | |
| | | Jr. Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Hindi Translator | 1 | 1 | 1994 |
| | | Assistant | 3 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | 1 | 1996 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 5 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 1 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 8 | | |
| | | Hindi Typist | 1 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 3 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Gestetnor Operator | 1 | | |
| | | Sr. Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 3 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 4 | | |
| | | Peon | 11 | | |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 71 | 6 | |
| 17. | Ernakulam Bench | Vice-Chairman | 1 | | |
| | | Member | 3 | 2 | 13.9.98<br>10.7.98 |
| | | Registrar (OB) | 1 | | |
| | | Deputy Registrar | 1 | | |
| | | Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Section Officer/ Court Officer | 5 | | |
| | | Private Secretary | 5 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Court Master/ Stenographer Grade "C" | 4 | 1 | 1.5.98 |
| | | Jr. Accounts Officer | 1 | | |
| | | Assistant | 3 | | |
| | | Junior Librarian | 1 | | |
| | | Caretaker | 1 | | |
| | | Upper Division Clerk | 8 | | |
| | | Stenographer Grade "D" | 1 | | |
| | | Lower Division Clerk | 12 | | |
| | | Staff Car Driver | 3 | | |
| | | Photocopier | 1 | | |
| | | Gestetnor Operator | 1 | | |
| | | Sr. Library Attendant | 1 | | |
| | | Daftry | 3 | | |
| | | Jamadar | 4 | | |
| | | Peon | 11 | 1 | 11.9.98 |
| | | Safaiwala/Frash | 2 | | |
| | | Chowkidar | 2 | | |
| | | | 76 | 4 | |
| Total Sanctioned Posts | | | 1356 | | |
| Total vacant posts | | | | 103 | |

*[English]*

**Links with Touts**

1190. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing incidents of nexus and linkages of touts with passport officials in the country particularly in Metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the steps taken to identify such touts and their possible link with the passport officials; and

(c) the action initiated against such officials during last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Government is aware of the activities of touts and unauthorised agents. Government has taken several measures in the recent past to counter their illegal activities in the grant of passport services to the public. These include derecognition of travel agents as a channel for servicing passport applications, issue of passport application forms free of charge, augmentation in the number of passport offices and collection centres in the country, despatch of passports directly to the applicants by post, etc.

(b) and (c) From time to time, police action against the touts has been taken as per provisions of the law. Vigilance has been stepped up at the Passport Offices. No specific case of nexus between the touts and the passport officials has come to the notice of the Government.

**Agri-Cards**

1191. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue Agri-cards to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farmers have shown keen interest in purchasing the Agri-cards; and

(d) the extent to which the scheme has been successful and beneficial to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a Kisan Credit Card Scheme aimed at providing adequate and timely support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs including purchase of inputs in a flexible and cost effective manner, has been launched. Major features of the Scheme are shown in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) As the scheme has been launched recently, it will take some more time to assess the response of farmers in purchasing Credit-cards, 7 State Cooperative banks, 46 District Central Cooperative Banks and 53 Regional Rural Banks have introduced the scheme so far in their area of operation besides 29 Scheduled Commercial Banks.

***Statement***

*Major Features of KCC Scheme*

— Eligible Farmers to be provided with a Kisan Card and a Pass Book or Card-cum-Pass Book

— Provision of Revolving Cash Credit Facility involving any number of Drawals and Repayments within the limit.

— Entire production credit needs for full year plus ancillary activities related to crop production to be considered while fixing limit. In due course allied activities and non-farm Credit needs may also be covered.

— Limit to be fixed on the basis of operational land holding, cropping pattern and scale of finance.

— Sub-limits may fixed at Discretion of Banks

— Card valid for 3 years subject to Annual Review

— Each Drawal to be Repaid within 12 months

— Conversion/Reschedulment of Loans also permissible in case of damage to crops due to natural calamities

— As incentive for good performance, credit limits could be enhanced to take care of increase in costs, change in cropping pattern etc.

— Security margin, rate of interest as per RBI norms

— Operations may be through issuing branch or at the discretion of Bank, though other designated branches.

— Withdrawals through slips/cheques accompanies by card and passbook.

**Irrigation Bore Wells**

1192. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought any financial assistance from the Union Government to undertake irrigation bore wells programme in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Irrigation Projects**

1193. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Tripura has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for initiating new irrigation projects and flood control projects in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Two project proposals namely, "Irrigation Schemes" and "Flood Management Works" at an estimated cost of Rs. 284.15 crores and Rs. 191.50 crores respectively are received from the Government of Tripura recently.

**Agricultural Credit Stabilization Fund Scheme**

1194. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the State Government for allocation of funds from the Agricultural Credit Stabilization Fund Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details of the grants and loans released to States during the last three years and current year also, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Under the Agricultural Credit Stablization Fund Scheme, no State-wise allocation of funds is made. However, requests from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh etc. have been received.

Statewise details of the grants and loans released to various States under the scheme during the last three years and current year are given in the attached Statement.

***Statement***

(Rs. in lakhs)

| | | 1995-96 | | 1996-97 | | 1997-98 | | 1998-99 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Loan | Grant | Loan | Grant | Loan | Grant | Loan | Grant |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | — | — | — | — | 10.00 | 30.00 | 50.00 | 150.00 |
| 2. | Assam | — | — | 2.50 | 7.50 | — | — | — | — |
| 3. | Bihar | 20.00 | 60.00 | 20.00 | 60.00 | — | — | — | — |
| 4. | Gujarat | 2.50 | 7.50 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5. | Haryana | 25.00 | 75.00 | 25.00 | 75.00 | — | — | — | — |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | — | — | 2.50 | 7.50 | — | — | — | — |
| 7. | Kerala | 1.25 | 3.75 | 2.50 | 7.50 | 2.50 | 7.50 | — | — |
| 8. | Karnataka | 20.00 | 60.00 | 12.50 | 37.50 | — | — | 15.00 | 45.00 |
| 9. | Madhya Pradesh | — | — | — | — | 50.00 | 150.00 | — | — |
| 10. | Manipur | — | — | 2.50 | 7.50 | — | — | 2.50 | 7.50* |
| 11. | Meghalaya | — | — | 5.00 | 15.00 | — | — | 2.50 | 7.50 |
| 12. | Orissa | 5.00 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 112.50 | — | — | — | — |
| 13. | Punjab | 20.00 | 60.00 | 30.50 | 91.50 | 12.50 | 37 50 | 15.00 | 45.00 |
| 14. | Rajasthan | 12.50 | 37.50 | 25.00 | 75.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 10.00 | 30.00* |
| 15. | Tripura | — | — | 2.50 | 7.50 | — | — | 5.00 | 15.00 |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | 18.75 | 56.25 | 25.00 | 75.00 | 10.00 | 30.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 |
| | Total: | 125.00 | 375.00 | 193.00 | 579.00 | 100.00 | 300.00 | 125.00 | 375.00 |

* Proposal under consideration.

**Agreement with Foreign Countries**

1195. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries cooperating/propose to cooperate with India in the agriculture sector;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The information is given in the attached Statement.

***Statement***

| Sl. No. | Name of Country | Date of signing of Agreement/ MOU | Areas of cooperation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| *I. Countries with whom Agreements/MOUs have been signed* | | | |
| 1. | Australia | 2.2.1996 | The Umbrella Arrangement between India and Australia provides for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and collaborative projects in disciplines such as soil management, veterinary sciences and overcoming production constraints to sorghum in rainfed environments in India and Australia. |
| 2. | Bangladesh | 15.6.1983 | The Agreement provides for cooperation in the areas of agriculture and animal husbandry, education, research and its application in practice etc. |
| 3. | Brazil | 2.7.1997 | The Agreement seeks cooperation in exchange of technical and legal information on photo-zoosanitary situation including methods of control of plague and diseases, diagnosis techniques, handling and preparation of products and byproducts of animal and vegetable origin. |
| 4. | China | 11.4.1992 | the Memorandum of Understanding seeks to promote scientific, technical economic cooperation in the field of agriculture through exchange of materials concerning agricultural science and technology, exchange of germplasm, seeds, seedings and exchange of scientific and technical information etc. |
| 5. | Cuba | 16.9.1988 | The Work Plan signed on 22nd November, 1996 under this Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of science and technology and agricultural research and education. |
| 6. | Cyprus | 26.3.1992 | The Programme of Cooperation covers the fields of horticulture, field crops, soil fertility, fertilizer use and irrigation technology etc. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7. | Eritrea | 31.3.1998 | A Tripartite Agreement between the Government of India, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Eritrea was signed on 31.03.1998 for providing technical assistance to 88 Eritrea in the field of agriculture under Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) and as a part of South-South Cooperation initiative of FAO. It envisages Technical Assistance in the branch of Irrigation, Soil Conservation, Agronomy, Livestock (Poultry and Pig Production), Marketing (post-harvesting). |
| 8. | France | 6.2.1994 | The Agreement covers different areas including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, rural development and agro-food industries. |
| 9. | Indonesia | 20.2.1992 | The Memorandum of Understanding covers various areas of cooperation in agriculture including food crops, secondary crops, rainfed farming, hybrid rice, fisheries, livestock etc. |
| 10. | Iran | 11.11.1991 | The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the fields of Agricultural Research and Education, Rural Development, Animal Husbandry, Veterinary Sciences, Fisheries, Forestry, Water Management etc. |
| | | 5.10.1997 | The MOU provides for cooperation in the field of Animal health, research and exchange of information on the control and eradication of veterinary diseases by organising common commissions, seminars, conferences and training courses in the veterinary field and exchange of specialists. |
| 11. | Israel | 24.12.1993 | The Agreement covers areas of water and soil management, arid and semi-arid crop production, fruit and vegetable production, animal science, plant protection, agricultural research, agro-forestry etc. |
| | | 30.12.1996 | The Memorandum of Intent relates to the establishment in the first stage, of a demonstration farm unit on the campus of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at PUSA in New Delhi with the aim of developing viable technological packages and technology transfer for the small farmer and private sector. |
| 12. | Lao People's Democratic Republic | 2.5.1997 | The Memorandum of Understanding seeks to encourage cooperation in the field of agricultural science and technology with the objective of increasing agricultural production. It envisages joint activities in the areas of agricultural research, crop production, horticulture, plant protection, animal science, fisheries, forestry, agro-based industry etc. |
| 13. | Mauritius | 3.6.1993 | The Memorandum of Understanding covers different areas of agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing and economic cooperation. |
| 14. | Myanmar | 25.4.1998 | The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors with the objective of increasing agricultural production. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15. | Mongolia | 16.9.1996 | The Agreement seeks to promote scientific, technical and economic cooperation in the field of agriculture through exchange of technology development of modern methods of bio-technology, formulation and implementation of joint research projects and establishing food processing small industries etc. |
| 16. | Namibia | 31.8.1998 | India and Namibia signed a Memorandum of Agreement on 31st August, 1998 for cooperation in the field of agricultural research through exchange of scientists for study visits, training, consultancies and exchange of germplasm and scientific information. |
| 17. | Nepal | 6.12.1991 | The Memorandum of Understanding covers various aspects of agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing including production and processing of food and cash crops, multicropping systems, fruit and vegetable development, dairy development etc. |
| 18. | Oman | 5.10.1996 | The Memorandum of Understanding covers various aspects of agriculture and allied sectors including joint activities and exchanges in the areas of agricultural research, horticulture, dairy development, livestock, soil conservation, irrigation etc. |
| | | 2.4.1997 | The Agreement provides for development of cooperation in the fields of agricultural research and training and to improve the production technique and extension activities thereof by exchange of scientists and technologists, exchange of germplasm and breeding material, scientific literature etc. |
| 19. | Pakistan | 4.7.1985 | The Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of research and education as well as development in agriculture. |
| 20. | Peru | 26.5.1997 | The Memorandum of Agreement between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the National Agricultural Research Institute of Peru provides for cooperation in the fields of research and training and improvement of production techniques and extension thereof through exchange of scientists and technologists, exchange of germplasm and breeding material, exchange of scientific literature, information etc. |
| 21. | Philippines | 28.4.1991 | The Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Philippines covers agricultural science and technology including areas of rice production and processing, multiple cropping system, dry land farming systems, water management, agricultural machinery, horticulture dairy livestock improvement etc. |
| 22. | Russia | 5.10.1995 | The Agreement between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (RAAS) provides for cooperation in the field of agriculture and related subjects. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 25.3.1997 | The Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of plant quarantine and protection of agriculture and forest crops aiming at the prevention of the penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds. |
| 23. | Senegal | 16.2.1997 | The Memorandum of Understanding provides for establishment of Agricultural development Project in Senegal by the Government of India. |
| 24. | Syria | 19.6.1994 | The programme of Cooperation covers the areas of plant production research, horticulture, food processing industries, plant protection, animal production and health, soil and water management etc. |
| 25. | Trinidad & Tobago | 24.1.1997 | The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of agriculture. The areas of cooperation include livestock, water management for agricultural purposes, sugarcane cultivation and sugar industry crop improvement etc. |
| 26. | Tunisia | 7.10.1996 | In pursuance of the Agreed Minutes of the Fifth Session of Indo-Tunisian Joint Commission (7-12 October, 1996), a Work Plan was signed between Indian Council of Agriculture on 7th October, 1996. It provides for technical cooperation, exchange of germplasm and scientific information, exchange visits/consultancies of scientists between India and Tunisia and training of scientists. |
| 27. | United States of America | 27.1.1996 | The Agreement provides for cooperation in agricultural sciences to further cooperation among scientists from India and the United States of America in areas of significant mutual interests and benefits relating to agriculture, viz., exchange of information, ideas, skills and techniques to enhance opportunities to collaborate in solving problems of common interests relating to agriculture. |
| 28. | Vietnam | 31.12.1992 | The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education and covers areas such as crop sciences, scientific research, animal sciences, dairy development, exchange of scientists etc. |
| 29. | Yemen | 7.12.1996 | The Memorandum of Understanding covers agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing etc. |

| Sl. No. | Name of Country | Areas of Cooperation |
|---|---|---|
| *II. Countries with whom further agreements/MOUs are proposed to be signed* | | |
| 1. | Algeria | |
| 2. | Argentina | |
| 3. | Bangladesh | |
| 4. | Bhutan | |
| 5. | Greece | |
| 6. | Holland | |
| 7. | Iran | |
| 8. | Iraq | |
| 9. | Kenya | |
| 10. | Lebanon | |
| 11. | Mexico | |
| 12. | Morocco | |
| 13. | New Zealand | |
| 14. | Poland | |
| 15. | Romania | |
| 16. | Russia | |
| 17. | Senegal | |
| 18. | Suriname | |
| 19. | Thailand | |
| 20. | Turkey | |
| 21. | Tunisia | |
| 22. | Ukraine | |
| 23. | Uzbekistan | |
| 24. | Yugoslavia | |

**Kashmir Issue**

1196. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan raised Kashmir issue at the Commonwealth Conference.

(b) whether raising the question of Kashmir on International Forum is against the spirit of Simla agreement; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Indian Government to ensure that Simla Agreement is not violated?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The High Commissioner of Pakistan to the United Kingdom raised the Kashmir issue at the Senior Officials' Meeting of the Commonwealth in London on 9 November 1998.

(b) and (c) Under the Simla Agreement, India and Pakistan are committed to settling their differences peacefully through direct bilateral discussions and negotiations. Pakistan's attempts to raise bilateral issues in international forums are contrary to the provisions of the Simla Agreement. Government have repeatedly urged Pakistan to adhere to the Simla Agreement. It is noteworthy that in both the Lahore Declaration, signed between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, and the Memorandum of Understanding, signed between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan, on 21 February 1999, India and Pakistan have reiterated their determination to implement of Simla Agreement in letter and spirit.

**Slump in Cash Crops**

1197. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the slump in cash crop prices in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) details of the prices of main cash crops during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to control the fall in the cash crop prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) There has been decline in the prices of cotton, soyabean and onion during the recent months. The decline in prices in case of cotton, and onion have been due to higher production during the current season. The decline in price of soyabean has been due to higher production as well as decline in the prices of soyameal in the international market.

(c) The details of wholesale price indices of main cash crops during the last three years are given in the attached statement.

(d) The Government announces the Minimum Support Prices each year to provide remunerative prices to the farmers and makes arrangements for procurement through its nodal agencies. Potato and onion are covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). Whenever, the prices of these commodities fall below the remuneration level, the MIS is implemented on the request of concerned State Government to step up the prices of these commodities. The Government has also given permission for export of onion in order to arrest the declining trend of prices of onion.

***Statement***

*Wholesale Price Index of Cash Crops*

(1981-82 = 100)

| Sl. No. | Cash Crops | 1996 (10.2.96) | 1997 (15.2.97) | 1998 (14.2.98) | 1999 (13.2.99) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Cotton | 324.5 | 296.9 | 373.3 | 359.5 |
| 2. | Jute | 633.8 | 511.2 | 338.5 | 463.2 |
| 3. | Potato | 261.7 | 296.3 | 263.4 | 338.6 |
| 4. | Onion | 274.3 | 299.4 | 848.2 | 410.1 |
| 5. | Copra | 312.3 | 445.2 | 336.0 | 405.2 |
| | Oil Seeds | 278.8 | 291.8 | 313.7 | 353.8 |
| 6. | Groundnut | 299.0 | 346.3 | 319.1 | 344.5 |
| 7. | Soyabean | 319.9 | 344.6 | 397.5 | 304.5 |
| 8. | Rapeseed & Mustard | 268.3 | 257.5 | 266.5 | 362.1 |

**Rice Research Centres**

1198. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Rice Research Centres in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main functions of these research Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Besides, Directorate of Rice Research at Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, there are three Rice Research Centres at Rajendranagar, Maruteru and Warangal under All India Coordinated Rice Research programme in Andhra Pradesh. As such, there is no proposal to set up any new Rice Research Centres in Andhra Pradesh by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

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

**Standard of Living**

1199. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted and survey about the number and the standard of living of rural poor families in each district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct any such survey in this regard;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the problems of rural families being faced from the different districts of Bihar; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon and the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census is conducted by the States at the behest of Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment at the beginning of each Five Year Plan. The census is to cover all the families in the village. During the 8th Five Year Plan a BPL census was conducted about the number of rural poor families in district of Bihar. The BPL census for the 9th Plan is under process.

(d) and (e) The Department of Rural Employment & Poverty Alleviation is implementing a number of anti poverty programmes aimed at improving the standard of living of rural poor. The Programmes of IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme), TRYSEM (Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment), DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas) & SITRA (Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans) are aimed at providing self employment opportunities. The Programmes of JRY (Jawahar Rojgar Yojana), EAS (Employment Assurance Scheme) & MWS (Million Wells Scheme) provide wage employment. IAY (Indira Awas Yojana) provides housing facility to rural poor.

**Indian Delegation to Britain**

1200. SHRI MADAN PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation has visited Britain recently;

(b) if so, details of issues discussed with the Foreign Secretary of Britain;

(c) whether killing of Australian Missionary and his sons has also figured in the discussion; and

(d) if so, the stand taken by the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Minister of External Affairs visited the U.K. from 2-7 February 1999. A wide range of issues were discussed with the British Foreign Secretary, including, inter alia, bilateral cooperation, regional developments, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Special package for Punjab and J&K**

1201. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has announced any special package for the development of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No special package for development of Punjab has been announced.

The then Prime Minister made statements in the Parliament on Jammu & Kashmir on 23 July, 1996 and 2nd August, 1996. He further made a statement at Jammu on 14th February 1997. Copies of these statements attached.

***Statement***

*PM's Statement in Parliament on Jammu and Kashmir*

As Hon'ble Members are aware, the massive unemployment of youth in the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been a contributory factor in the growth of militancy. Similarly, the State is deficient in power which is an essential infrastructure for development of industry and even for tourism. Government, therefore, proposes to take up some important projects and also to complete the on-going projects on a top priority.

Government would be taking up the construction of 290 km. railway line form Udhampur to Baramulla as a national project to be financed by Government of India outside the Railway's Plan. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 2500 crore and would be a great factor in integrating Kashmir with the rest of the country. In addition to providing employment in the State itself on completion, the rail communications would help in the survey of people from the State to the rest of the country for employment, education and trade. The survey work form Udhampur to Banihal has already been completed and survey work upto the Baramula will be over by March, 1997. The line would pass via Katra-Riasi-Banihal Qazigund-Srinagar. The Railways would take up the work of construction of Udhampur-Katra Section immediately, to be completed in 4 years time. Government would provide Rs. 200 crore for this phase of the work. With adequate funding the entire line upto Baramula could be completed in 8-10 years time.

**Mughal Road Project**

The Jammu-Kashmir National Highway, the only surface link between the Kashmir Valley and Jammu, is at present beset with problems of frequent blockades as a result of landslides and snow avalanches. To provide a dependable alternative link between the two regions of the State, the Government would take up the Mughal Road Project under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Roads of Economic Importance". The project spread over a length of 85 km. is estimated to cost Rs. 77.40 crore (at 1994-95 costs). The project cost would be shared between the Centre and the State in the ratio of 50:50. The road joining Jammu to Srinagar via Rajouri-Shopian and Pulwama and schdeuled to be completed in 6 year's time will generate considerable employment potential along the entire stretch passing through backward areas of the State. When completed, the road apart form generation of economic activities, will help in mitigating the sense of isolation of the people of Kashmir. For speedy execution, it would be entrusted to the Border Roads Organisation.

**Dulhasti Hydro Electric Project**

Hon'ble Members are aware that work on the Dulhasti Hydro Electric Project (3x130 MW) came to a halt in 1992 with the withdrawal of the French Civil Contractors. An amendment to the overall agreement with the French consortium has been finalised in July 1995. As a result of this, while the machinery is being supplied by the French consortium, the remaining civil works could be taken up by other contractors. Tenders for the balance civil work have been obtained and processed and a decision is expected to be taken shortly by the National Hydro Power Corporation to award the contract. Government would ensure that the civil works are commenced at the earliest and would see that the funds for the balance civil works would be mobilized through various sources including Governmental assistance and market borrowings.

*The Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Godwa's Statement on Jammu and Kashmir in Parliament on July 23, 1996.

**Uri Hydro Electric Project**

Hon'ble Members are aware that another major hydro-electric project, namely the Uri Hydro Electric Project (4 x 120 MW) is under construction in the Sttae. The work on this is going on according to schedule and the first Unit is likely to be commissioned during this year itself in December, 1996. This would provide the much needed relief to the power starved State.

(2) STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER ON JAMMU & KASHMIR—2.8.1996

**1. Debt relief to small businesses affected by militancy**

Hon'ble Members would kindly recall that on 23rd of July, 1996 I made a Statement in the House relating to certain long term infrastructural projects in the sectors of communication and power in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Hon'ble Members would agree with me that tourism, horticulture and handicrafts form the backbone of the economy of the J&K State. Other activities like small scale trade and industry, transport and hotels subserve the tourism sector. This sector was the worst affected because of militancy during the last 6-7 years. Tourist arrivals in the Valley declined from a peak figure of 7 lakhs in 1986-87 to almost a trickle during the last few years. This has affected the livelihood of thousands of families deriving sustenance from tourism and related activities. The affected units and individuals who had taken commercial loans from banks have not been able to repay the loans since there was no cash flow and have fallen into a debt trap. The State Government have identified that 31,000 borrowers from the sectors of small scale trade and industry, transport, hotel and houseboat businesses took loans to the extent of Rs. 181.87 crores. During the last six years there has been hardly any repayment and the interest on these loans itself amounts for another Rs. 212.79 crores. Hon'ble Members would agree with me that while militancy hindered tourism, loss of tourism led to a great degree of unemployment, and growing employment helped the growth of militancy, setting up a vicious circle. Now that the democratic process is being re-established and all efforts being made to restore normalcy, it is necessary to provide some relief to those hapless victims, especially the smaller borrowers. Government, therefore, proposes to write-off the outstanding loan and interest of all borrowers whose original borrowing is less than or up to Rs. 50,000/-. This would enable these small borrowers to get fresh loans from the banking sector to restart their businesses. As regards the borrowers above Rs. 50,000/-, an Inter-Ministerial Committee is being constituted to look into the questions of a moratorium and rescheduling of repayments of their loans, reduction in interest rates, and any other reliefs that could be given.

**2. Special Central Plan Assistance to J&K State for 1996-97**

In view of the procarious resource position of the J&K State, resulting from militancy, the Centra Government has been helping the J&K State by providing special Central assistance not only to meet a reasonable Annual Plan step up but also to bridge gaps on the non plan side. As a result of this effort, the State Government's tottering budget has been estabilised during the last three years. Last year, *i.e.* 1995-96, the Parliament passed a balanced budget for the State with built-in Centra assistance to meet the non-Plan gap so that the approved plan outlay of Rs. 1050 crores could be preserved. In view of the fact that the State for the first time utilise almost entire plan outlay last year, the outlay for th current year has been fixed again at Rs. 1050 crores However, even with Central assistance at the level o last year, the State budget during the current year ha deficit of Rs. 352 crores on current account, resultin from additional commitments of the State Government o different accounts. Unless this resource gap is bridge by a special Central assistance of an equal amount, th State will have no option but to reduce its plan size Rs. 698.00 crores. Any reduction in Plan outlay at th crucial juncture when the State is on the path to tot normalcy, needs to be avoided. Threfore, the Centre ha decided to provide a special Central plan assistance o Rs. 352 crores to balance the State budget during th current year so that the entire plan outlay of Rs. 105 crores can be utilised for development schemes witho having to divert any part of it to meet the non-Plan gap

**3. Improvement of facilities at migrant camps i Jammu**

Hon'ble Members are aware that 27,000 families o migrants from the Valley are living in Jammu either o their own arrangements or in camps. The facilitie provided at 13 camps in Jammu need to be improved These relate to provision of sanitation facilities like latrine and bathrooms, construction of more one-room tenements buildings for schools being run in the camps, improvemen of drainage facilities in the camps, etc. Government would be providing an additional sum of Rs. 6.6 crores to provide the aforementioned additional facilities in the camps to be completed during the current year.

**4. Infrastructure development for tourism in Leh District**

While Kashmir Valley is a traditional tourist destination, new tourist areas have come up in the Districts of Jammu, Udhampur, Leh and Kargil. Leh, in particular, has become an important tourist centre and State Government already has a plan for refurbishment of the monuments in the District. To give a further fillip to tourism in the area, I propose to allocate an amount of Rs. 2.40 crores for setting up of a Convention/ Conference Centre at Leh.

**5. Development of Airport at Kargil**

Hon'ble Members are aware that Kargil remains cut off from the rest of the State for seven months in a year as a result of the closure of the Srinagar-Kargil Highway in Winter due to heavy snow at Zojila. Government have, therefore, given high priority to the development of an Airport at Kargil at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 crores. The work has already been assigned to the Border Roads Organisation, which would be completing the work of development of the air-strip in two years' time so that Kargil is ready to take regular commercial services. In the meanwhile, Government proposes to have a weekly helicopter service to Kargil in the Winter months instead of the present arrangement of a fortnightly service. Necessary subsidy would be borne by the Government.

**6. Upgradation of Status for Jammu City**

There has been a long-standing demand that Jammu City should be given B-2 status. The threshold population for grant of B-2 status is 4 lakh. However, Hon'ble Members are aware that population census could not be held in the State in 1991. The Registrar General of India, however, has estimated the population of Jammu City to be 4.30 lakhs. Therefore, we have decided to upgrade the status of Jammu City to a B-2 City.

7. I hope these measures would go a long way in reviving economic activity in the State. As mentioned by me earlier, travel and tourism trade is of vital importance to the State. Government of India would, in consultation with the State Government, take all necessary measures to provide the requisite infrastructural facilities as well as assistance to individuals and units involved in this trade to ensure that Kashmir gets back its status as a tourists paradise at the earliest.

8. I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate the Government's commitment to give maximum autonomy to the State. Once an elected Government is in place, we would hold consultations with them to arrive at a consensus. While doing this, we would also ensure that the aspirations of all regions in the State, namely, Ladakh, Kashmir Valley and Jammu are taken into account.

9. I thank the Hon'ble Members for their support in this regard.

## (3) STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AT JAMMU ON 14 FEBRUARY, 1997

Friends,

A popularly elected Government has been installed in Jammu and Kashmir after nearly a decade. I do not have to go through the details of the travails and tribulations, the State and the people have passed through in these years because of the proxy war launched by the neighbour and their agents. There was a massive participation of the people in the polls which were conducted in a very peaceful and orderly manner. The international community has acknowledged the genuineness of the elections. The massive mandate given by the people to this Government imposes a tremendous responsibility on them in meeting the expectations of the people and in reviving the economy of the state. I would like to state very categorically and with conviction that the Government of India and the entire Nation is behind the State and the people of Jammu and Kashmir in this massive endeavour.

2. I have visited Jammu and Kashmir twice before and this is my third visit. I have looked at some of the very important proposals and projects which are vital for the development of the State, but which were not making adequate progress for want of funds. The massive 290 Kms. Udhampur-Baramulla railway line, estimated to cost Rs. 2.500 crores and which can provide large scale employment could not be taken up by the Railways for want of funds. We have decided after reviewing the whole matter, to take this up as a "Project of National Importance" and to provide necessary funds outside the Railway Plan. Work on this project will be simultaneously started from both sides. The Uri Hydro Electric Project which was dedicated to the Nation yesterday, was completed in record time inspite of disturbed conditions in the Valley. We have decided to provide full funds of another Rs. 300 crores to complete the remaining work of the Uri Project. The entire power available from Uri Unit-I will be made available to the State. Another important hydro electric project—the Dul Hasti Project, where work was suspended since 1992 is being revived. We have taken a decision to ensure full funding of the remaining Rs. 3000 crores required for the completion of this major project.

3. In the meanwhile, allocation of power to J&K is being increased to 876 MW to fully meet the power shortage in the State The State should strengthen the transmission and distribution to utilize this power. We will extend support to the state to exploit its hydel potential through investment Promotion.

4. The State Government have recently presented a Memorandum indicating certain projects and proposals which need to be taken up on a high priority, to put the State economy back on the rails. I and some of my Ministerial colleagues had detailed discussions on these proposals yesterday with the State Cabinet. In principle, I am in full agreement with these priorities and we need to devise ways and means to implement these in a spirit of joint endeavour between the State and the Centre. As you are aware Government is about to finalise the Ninth Plan of the State and we need to incorporate some of these developmental projects in the Ninth Plan of the State and the Centre.

5. We shall devise special funding mechanism including external assistance for implementation of projects such as (a) Protection and Development of Dal and other important lakes. (b) masterplan for control of floods in the valley, and (c) action plan for improving the navigation and environmental aspects of Jhelum on the lines of Ganga Action Plan.

6. The States Annual Plan has reached a record high of Rs. 1250 crores this year. The State Government will be enabled to have a reasonable 9th Five Year. Plan starting with a good annual plan of 1997-98. Necessary Central support will be provided for this purpose so as to ensure that the plan outlay fixed for each year is protected and funds are also made available for meeting the non-plan gap in resources.

7. The demand of the State Government for waiver of Central debt amounting to Rs. 1275 crores would be looked into sympathetically and a decision taken soon. A Central team will be deputed for discussions in this regard with the State Government in the near future. The State will also be assisted in phasing out the chronic overdraft problem.

8. The Central outlay on rural development and basic minimum needs in the State has been enhanced considerably. Nearly Rs. 1500 crores will be provided to the State in the Ninth Plan. The Central Government would provide the requisite additional assistance to restore militant damaged infrastructure.

9. National Highway I-A will be upgraded and strengthened. An outlay of Rs. 140 crores will be made available to Border Roads Organisation to undertake this task.

10. Mughal Road will be taken up and implemented on a priority basis at a cost of Rs. 150 crores, which will be shared equally between the Central Government and State Government.

11. As a special dispensation more towns in J&K will be brought under the Prime Minister's Integrated Poverty Eradication Programme.

12. Orders declaring Jammu as a B-2 Category City will be issued shortly.

13. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already sent a high level technical team and in consultation with the State Government, a decision will be taken to start the Agricultural University at Jammu from the next year.

14. Some other proposals of the Memorandum given by the State Government need to be examined in detail in consultation with the respective departments of Government of India and need to be defined. However, I would like to once again state that availability of funds is not the main constraint or the critical issue. What is required is devising carefully worked out programmes and projects and their effective implementation so that the benefits of these programmes and projects reach the people. I would also lay stress on close monitoring of implementation so that the funds allocated are utilised purposefully.

15. There are certain other proposals relating to the facilities to be provided for return of migrants, etc. I am hopeful that the popular Government would be able to initiate proper measures to instill condifence in the migrants as well as take assistance of the local population so that migrants would be able to return to their homes in the Valley at the earliest. I would like to assure that financial constraints would not be allowed to come in the way of implementation of this.

16. The Central Government shares the concern of the State Government regarding provision of employment opportunities for the youth of the State. Special recruitment drives will continue to be made to ensure that youth of this State will be absorbed to the maximum extent possible in Central establishments and even in private sector. However, more thrust has to be given to implement available programmes by encouraging people to take to self-employment. It would also be necessary to devise

new programmes for enhancement and upgradation of traditional skills, undertaking of new technologies, etc. The youth of the State are well known for their marketing and skills in salesmanship. Government would explore possibilities of earmarking some land for the setting up of specialised industrial estates and shopping complexes inside and outside the State to provide self-employment opportunities.

17. However, progress on these fronts would pick up speed as normalcy on the law and order front improves. Some of the discredited elements, are disrupting the economic progress of the State by resorting to *bandhs* and *hartals*. Government cannot allow these activities to go unchecked. Economic progress and peoples well-being cannot be secured unless these activities are squarely faced. In dealing with these elements, it is necessary not only to approach it from the law and order point of view, but also deal with them politically.

18. I want to assure the people of the State that the Centre and State Governmont are one and will together deal with these special problems of Jammu & Kashmir. I would like to reiterate that this is a national responsibility to bring about resolution as well as reconstruction of the torn economy of the State. This national endeavour should be approached in a non-partisan manner. The entire country is behind you.

**Production of Betelnut**

1202. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUJ BISEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Betelnut Development Scheme is being implemented in the country;

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

(c) whether the betelnut gardens have been affected by diseases in the country particularly in Maharshtra;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such diseases;

(e) whether the Government have formulated a time-bound programme to provide relief to the betelnut growers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is only yellow leaf disease common in Kerala and Karnataka and ganoderma disease in Assam. There is no serious disease affecting betelnut gardens in Maharashtra. However, no alarming situation has been reported from any part of the country.

(d) Management practices recommended by Central Plantation Crop Research Institute of Indian Council of Agriculture Research have been advocated to the farmers to control the diseases.

(e) and (f) There is no specific scheme to provide relief to betelnut growers.

*[English]*

**Permanent Membership in UN**

1203. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian Prime Minister during his recent New Delhi visit indicated their support for India's claim to permanent membership of the UN Security Council;

(b) if so, in what terms;

(c) the steps taken to promote India's claim, during the past three months; and

(d) the developed and developing nations who have so far extended their support for India's claim?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister of the Russian Federation during his visit to New Delhi in December 1998 described India as "an influential member of the international community" and "a strong and appropriate candidate" for permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council.

(c) and (d) India took an active part in the discussions on Security Council restructuring, which took place in

November 1998 at the UN General Assembly and is also engaged in deliberations on the subject in the Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly, which was convened in February 1999. There is widespread recognition in the UN that developing countries must be included in any expansion of permanent membership of the UN Security Council and that India is one of the leading contenders. However, discussions are still continuing on the size of the expanded Council, the numbers of new permanent and non-permanent members, the procedure for selecting the new permanent members and related issues such as the question of the veto.

**Indo-Vietnam Agreement for use of Nuclear Power**

1204. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with Vietnam for peaceful use of nuclear energy; and

(b) if so, the salient features of agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b). Sir. On January 19, 1999, during the visit of Dr. R. Chidambaram, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to Vietnam, a Detailed Co-operation Plan for 1999 was signed between the AEC and the Vitenam Atomic Energy Commission (VAEC). The Cooperation Plan is under the framework of the 1986 bilateral agreement between India and Vietnam for cooperation for the utilisation of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The Cooperation Plan, *inter alia*, envisages (i) AEC assistance to VAEC in training manpower in the field of nuclear power (ii) setting up of a training centre in Vietnam (iii) exchange of scientists (iv) setting up of a Semi-pilot Plant for manufacture, controlling and assessing the quality of U02 ceramics, (v) cooperation in exporation of uranium ore mines in Vietnam and (vi) visit of VAEC delegation in early 2000 to India.

**National Water Management Programme**

1205 DR. SAROJA V.:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in the country to assist the State Governments to augment and harness the water resources, State-wise;

(b) the allocation made and released to each State Government under these schemes during the last three years till date, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(c) the achievement made by each State in implementing these schemes; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to ensure effective implementation of these schemes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) There are nine Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in the country, to assist the State Governments to augment and harness the water resources. These Schemes are:

| Ministry implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes | Schemes under operation |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. Ministry of Water Resources | (i) Command Area Development Programme. |
| | (ii) Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics. |
| | (iii) Satluj Yamuna Link Canal. |

| 1 | | 2 |
|---|---|---|
| 2. Ministry of Agriculture | (iv) | Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects |
| | (v) | Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers |
| | (vi) | National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas |
| 3. Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment | (vii) | Integrated Rural Development Programme |
| | (viii) | Million Wells Scheme |
| | (ix) | Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme |

Details of these Schemes are given in enclosed Statement-I

(b) and (c) Central assistance to the State is provided on the basis of the approved financing pattern of the concerned scheme. The position of the funds released and achievements made during the past three years (1995-96 to 1997-98) state-wise and yearwise as reported under different schemes is given in attached Statement-II (a) to (II(i). In case of Satluj Yamuna Links Canal Scheme there was no release of funds during this period, on account of stoppage of work by the State Government. The case is *sub-judice.*

(d) To ensure effective implementation of these schemes, close monitoring is done by State and Central Government through review of periodical progress reports, meetings and visits of officers.

***Statement-I***

*Details of Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented to augment and harness water resources in the country*

| Sl. No. | Name of the Scheme | Ministry implementing the scheme | Year/Plan of launching | Main components | Financing pattern | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | Command Area Development Programme | Ministry of Water Resources | 1974-75 | (I) Construction of Field Channel (ii) Warabandi (iii) Land Levelling | 50 : 50 Centre: State Loan and Grant to identified items | The scheme envisaged efficient irrigation water utilisation at farm level to optimise agricultural production from irrigated land. It covers 226 projects with a CCA* of 21.95 mha spread over 23 States and 2 UTs. |
| 2 | Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics | Ministry of Water Resources | VIII Plan | Rationalisation/ building data | 100% Central Grant to State | This scheme would indirectly help in future planning for augmenting and harnessing of available water resources. |
| 3. | Sutlej Yamuna Lik Canal Project | Ministry of Water Resources | 1982 | Construction of 121 km long canal through Punjab | 100% Central Assistance | The scheme envisages to supply Haryana's share in the Ravi-Beas waters. The work came to a stand still in 1990. The matter at present is sub-judice. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | Soil Conservation in the catchment of River Valley Projects | Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation | III Plan | (i) Construction of water harvesting structures and farm ponds<br>(ii) Sediment detention<br>(iii) Construction of checks, bunds and drop spill ways etc.<br>(iv) Agro-forestry, Horticulture and other bio measures | (i) 100% Central Assistance (50% grant & 50% loan to States)<br>(ii) 50% grant on matching basis to DVC) | At present the Scheme covers 31 Catchments in 18 States |
| 5. | Soil Conservation in the Catchment of Flood Prone Rivers | Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation | VI Plan | Soil and water conservation measures like contour graded bunding, afforestation Agro-forestry water harvesting structues etc. | 100% Central Assistance 50% Grant and 50% loan to States | Presently the scheme covers 10 catchments spread over 8 States. This scheme is merged with River Valley Project in the 1st year of IX Plan |
| 6. | National Wathershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas | —do— | 1990-91 | (i) Treatment of Arable and non-arable land through moisture conservation measures.<br>(ii) Afforestation, grass & fodder cultivation, etc. | 75% Grant and 25% loan to States | The scheme is in operation in 25 States and 2 UTs. This scheme is being implemented in IX Plan also. |
| 7. | Integrated Rural Development Programme | Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment | 1980 | Activities relating to alleviation of poverty of rural masses through various measures including exploitation of Ground Water | 50 : 50 Centre : State Matching basis and subsidy to identified groups. | This has been a very Popular rural development Programme. |
| 8. | Millons Wells Scheme | —do— | VIII Plan | (i) To provide open irrigation well to poor farmers.<br>(ii) Construction of water harvesting Structures | 80 : 20 Centre : State | For UTs, cent per cent expanditure is borne by the Centre. |
| 9. | Rural Water Supply and Sanitation | —do— | First Plan | Supply of safe drinking water in rural areas. | 50 : 50 Centre : State | During 1990-91 this scheme was renamed as Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. |

• CCA=Colourable Command Area

***Statement II(a)***

*Details of Central Releases under the Command Area Development Programme during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98*

(Unit: Rs. in Lakh)

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/ Union Territory | Central Releases | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 190.81 | 99.40 | 3839.57 | 4129.78 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 0:00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 62.00 | 0.00 | 124.00 | 186.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| 5. | Goa | 13.81 | 39.00 | 20.00 | 72.81 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 550.14 | 444.38 | 97.11 | 1091.63 |
| 7. | Haryana | 1060.00 | 1247.18 | 1116.85 | 3424.03 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 4.00 | 44.02 | 73.07 | 121.09 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 277.61 | 252.23 | 189.90 | 719.74 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 681.80 | 845.59 | 437.87 | 1965.26 |
| 11. | Kerala | 774.46 | 466.96 | 200.00 | 1441.42 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 70.00 | 65.00 | 6.25 | 141.25 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | Maharashtra | 1446.69 | 1439.92 | 298.30 | 3184.91 |
| 14. | Manipur | 102.04 | 130.69 | 86.91 | 319.64 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 16. | Nagaland | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 17. | Orissa | 362.82 | 353.99 | 231.47 | 948.28 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 2925.57 | 3948.17 | 2226.65 | 9100.39 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 1212.94 | 2081.99 | 552.46 | 3847.39 |
| 20. | Tripura | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh | 2204.13 | 2022.60 | 3057.83 | 7284.56 |
| 22. | West Bengal | 206.57 | 112.19 | 90.00 | 408.76 |
| 23. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 24. | Daman & Diu | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 25. | Studies and Other Expenditure (Central Sector) | 164.77 | 242.53 | 319.88 | 727.18 |
| | Total: | 12410.16 | 13835.84 | 12968.12 | 39214.12 |

***Statement II(b)***

*Details of Physical Achievement in respect of On-Farm Development Works for 1995-96 to 1997-98 under CAD Programme (Unit in '000 ha)*

| Sl.No. | States/UTs. | Field Channels | | | | Warabandi | | | | Land Levelling | | | | Field Drains | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98* | Total | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98* | Total | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98* | Total | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98* | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 0.09 | 0.03 | 2.15 | 2.27 | 11.04 | 11.49 | 4.80 | 27.33 | 7.41 | 6.00 | 3.89 | 17.30 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 0.74 | 0.15 | 0.44 | 1.33 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.86 | 0.88 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.30 | 0.01 | 0.52 | 0.83 |
| 4. | Bihar | 0.00 | 0.00 | 30.81 km | 30.81 km | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5. | Goa | 0.27 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.37 | 1.50 | 1.50 | 0.00 | 3.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 22.04 | 10.53 | 7.24 | 39.81 | 7.06 | 12.43 | 5.97 | 25.36 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7. | Haryana | 33.95 | 35.79 | 28.21 | 97.95 | 9.58 | 2.17 | 0.00 | 11.75 | 0.65 | 0.51 | 0.47 | 1.63 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 0.01 | 0.55 | 1.41 | 1.97 | 0.13 | 0.25 | 2.38 | 2.76 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.43 | 0.43 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 3.95 | 4.52 | 6.97 | 15.44 | 28.37 | 30.92 | 45.64 | 104.93 | 2.27 | 1.91 | 6.45 | 2.27 | 1.38 | 1.40 | 2.27 | 5.05 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 13.04 | 23.75 | 11.03 | 47.82 | 9.63 | 7.49 | 16.23 | 33.35 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.66 | 0.25 | 0.92 |
| 11. | Kerala | 17.75 | 14.39 | 7.89 | 40.03 | 3.97 | 11.15 | 9.11 | 24.23 | 0.20 | 0.08 | 0.23 | 0.51 | 0.00 | 4.48 | 16.37 | 20.85 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 8.95 | 1.41 | 4.23 | 14.59 | 8.48 | 0.00 | 0.17 | 8.65 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 39.49 | 20.88 | 25.23 | 85.60 | 4.25 | 4.87 | 21.24 | 30.36 | 0.73 | 1.45 | 0.00 | 2.18 | 16.65 | 9.81 | 0.00 | 26.46 |
| 14. | Manipur | 2.50 | 2.24 | 3.33 | 8.07 | 1.36 | 0.51 | 0.57 | 2.44 | 1.28 | 0.00 | 0.35 | 1.63 | 0.98 | 0.47 | 0.07 | 1.52 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 16. | Nagaland | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 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 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17. | Orissa | 8.80 | 18.66 | 7.00 | 34.46 | 56.55 | 0.00 | 15.00 | 71.55 | 3.73 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 3.89 | 9.72 | 8.23 | 5.06 | 23.01 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 51.83 | 69.39 | 54.25 | 175.47 | 53.86 | 69.39 | 54.25 | 177.50 | 3.01 | 0.60 | 3.98 | 7.59 | 2.87 | 2.60 | 2.78 | 8.25 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 43.94 | 41.61 | 46.61 | 132.16 | 58.34 | 60.84 | 75.31 | 194.49 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 20. | Tripura | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh | 116.55 | 126.87 | 112.20 | 355.62 | 198.45 | 204.61 | 170.26 | 573.32 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 453.71 Km. | 453.71 Km. |
| 22. | West Bengal | 5.64 | 5.35 | 0.82 | 11.81 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 23. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 24. | Daman & Diu | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Total | 369.54 | 376.22 | 319.01 + 30.81 Km. | 1064.77 + 30.81 Km. | 452.57 | 417.64 | 421.69 | 1291.90 | 19.29 | 10.76 | 11.23 | 41.28 | 31.93 | 27.66 | 27.75 + 453.71 Km. | 87.34 + 453.71 Km. |

***Statement II (c)***

*Details of Central Releases made under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98.*

(Rupees in lakh)

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Amount Released during 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 15.450 | 12.210 | 10.000 | 37.660 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 3. | Assam | 3.930 | 4.180 | 5.080 | 13.190 |
| 4. | Bihar | 7.960 | — | — | 7.960 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | Goa | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 10.490 | 13.580 | 12.910 | 36.980 |
| 7. | Haryana | 3.130 | 3.850 | — | 6.980 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 6.250 | 6.390 | 5.196 | 17.836 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 3.460 | 8.340 | 7.660 | 19.460 |
| 10. | Karnataka | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 11. | Kerala | 5.800 | — | — | 5.800 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 6.260 | 8.470 | 9.940 | 24.670 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 14. | Manipur | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 16. | Mizoram | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 2.910 | 2.890 | — | 5.800 |
| 18. | Orissa | 6.730 | 6.670 | 8.480 | 21.880 |
| 19. | Punjab | 4.440 | 4.640 | 9.270 | 18.350 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 7.850 | 5.250 | 3.650 | 16.750 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21. | Sikkim | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 23. | Tripura | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 18.460 | — | — | 18.460 |
| 25. | West Bengal | — | 35.130 | 9.380 | 44.510 |
| | Total States | 103.120 | 111.600 | 81.566 | 296.286 |
| 26. | Andaman and Nicobar | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 27. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 1.210 | — | 1.870 | 3.080 |
| 28. | Daman and Diu | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 29. | Delhi | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 30. | Lakshadweep | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| 31. | Pondicherry | — | — | — | 0.000 |
| | Total UTs | 1.210 | — | 1.870 | 3.080 |
| | Total All India | 104.330 | 111.600 | 83.436 | 299.366 |

The scheme is for collection of information on minor irrigation.

***Statement II(d)***

*Details showing State-wise releases of Central Assistance under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments River Valley Projects during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98*

| Sl. No. | Name of State | Amount Released during (Rupees in lakh) | | | | Achievement in thousand Hactare | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 525.00 | 773.00 | 668.00 | 1966.00 | 13.85 | 13.29 | 14.79 | 41.93 |
| 2. | Assam | 23.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 63.00 | 0.95 | 1.54 | 2.78 | 5.27 |
| 3. | Bihar | 0.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 100.00 | 1.47 | 0.35 | 0.10 | 1.92 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 299.00 | 333.00 | 266.00 | 898.00 | 8.53 | 6.04 | 5.02 | 19.59 |
| 5. | Himachal Pradesh | 546.00 | 480.00 | 400.00 | 1426.00 | 6.58 | 5.40 | 5.99 | 17.97 |
| 6. | Jammu and Kashmir | 358.52 | 364.00 | 458.00 | 1180.52 | 3.84 | 6.48 | 7.10 | 17.42 |
| 7. | Karnataka | 767.00 | 751.00 | 950.00 | 2468.00 | 27.85 | 37.95 | 40.26 | 105.86 |
| 8. | Kerala | 211.00 | 92.00 | 0.00 | 303.00 | 2.66 | 1.00 | 0.53 | 4.19 |
| 9. | Madhya Pradesh | 478.00 | 650.00 | 900.00 | 2028.00 | 6.22 | 25.44 | 13.67 | 45.33 |
| 10. | Maharashtra | 0.00 | 600.00 | 820.00 | 1420.00 | 19.54 | 40.26 | 29.63 | 89.43 |
| 11. | Orissa | 140.00 | 260.00 | 100.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 4.88 | 3.62 | 8.50 |
| 12. | Punjab | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 |
| 13. | Rajasthan | 694.00 | 765.00 | 870.00 | 2329.00 | 14.92 | 17.19 | 16.37 | 48.48 |
| 14. | Sikkim | 240.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 240.00 | 0.00 | 5.55 | 0.00 | 5.55 |
| 15. | Tamil Nadu | 522.00 | 600.00 | 600.00 | 1722.00 | 7.79 | 8.24 | 8.52 | 24.55 |
| 16. | Tripura | 0.00 | 0.00 | 31.00 | 31.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.16 |
| 17. | Uttar Pradesh | 453.48 | 360.00 | 100.00 | 913.48 | 5.34 | 5.08 | 2.47 | 12.89 |
| 18. | West Bengal | 664.00 | 400.00 | 500.00 | 1564.00 | 1.56 | 2.14 | 1.01 | 4.71 |
| | Total | 5921.00 | 6498.00 | 6733.00 | 19152.00 | 121.40 | 180.83 | 152.02 | 454.25 |

***Statement II(e)***

*Details showing State-wise Releases of Central Assistance under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers Scheme during the period*

(Rupees in lakh)

| Sl. No. | Name of State | Releases made during the Period | | | | Achievement in hectare | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total |
| 1. | Bihar | 303.00 | 50.00 | 48.00 | 401.00 | 2.04 | 3.72 | 1.10 | 6.86 |
| 2. | Haryana | 138.00 | 70.00 | 90.00 | 298.00 | 4.01 | 4.38 | 3.15 | 11.54 |
| 3. | Himachal Pradesh | 219.00 | 150.00 | 250.00 | 619.00 | 5.67 | 4.54 | 3.12 | 13.33 |
| 4. | Madhya Pradesh | 230.00 | 450.00 | 694.00 | 1374.00 | 8.10 | 7.46 | 12.04 | 27.60 |
| 5. | Punjab | 50.00 | 40.00 | 30.00 | 120.00 | 1.41 | 1.81 | 2.90 | 6.12 |
| 6. | Rajasthan | 957.00 | 758.00 | 747.00 | 2462.00 | 23.19 | 16.44 | 17.38 | 57.01 |
| 7. | Uttar Pradesh | 1445.00 | 1636.00 | 2000.00 | 5081.00 | 48.58 | 52.44 | 50.96 | 151.98 |
| 8. | West Bengal | 101.00 | 15.00 | 0.00 | 116.00 | 1.09 | 0.68 | 0.62 | 2.39 |
| 9. | H.Q. | 0.00 | 10.00 | 20.00 | 30.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Total | 3443.00 | 3179.00 | 3879.00 | 10501.00 | 94.09 | 91.47 | 91.27 | 276.83 |

**Statement II(f)**

*Details showing Statewise releases of Central Assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98*

| Sl. No. | Name of State | Amount Released during (Rs. in Lakh) | | | | Area Treated (In hectare) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | — | 320.00 | 700.00 | 1020.00 | 26570 | 21054 | 29001 | 76625 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 80.00 | — | 10.00 | 90.00 | 390 | 839 | 120 | 1349 |
| 3. | Assam | 512.00 | — | 15.00 | 527.00 | 12434 | 2543 | 17587 | 32564 |
| 4. | Bihar | — | — | 15.00 | 15.00 | 4475 | 11707 | 7976 | 24158 |
| 5. | Goa | 46.00 | — | 5.00 | 51.00 | 250 | 1260 | 49 | 1559 |
| 6. | Gujarat | — | 332.00 | 700.00 | 1032.00 | 63678 | 29557 | 17901 | 111136 |
| 7. | Haryana | 55.00 | 60.00 | 80.00 | 195.00 | 6088 | 3622 | 158 | 9868 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 265.00 | 60.00 | 120.00 | 445.00 | 6336 | 7551 | 11900 | 25787 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 118.00 | — | 108.00 | 226.00 | 5336 | 375 | 462 | 6173 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 476.00 | 1095.00 | 2100.00 | 3671.00 | 76460 | 85616 | 60000 | 222076 |
| 11. | Kerala | — | 700.00 | 500.00 | 1200.00 | 29485 | 20642 | 11000 | 61127 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 1977.00 | 3700.00 | 1750.00 | 7427.00 | 146800 | 228063 | 10470 | 385333 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 3290.00 | 2754.00 | 2500.00 | 8544.00 | 208676 | 116902 | 9240 | 334818 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14. | Manipur | 75.00 | 100.00 | 250.00 | 425.00 | 2235 | 2353 | 150 | 4738 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 55.00 | — | 15.00 | 70.00 | 825 | 840 | 1000 | 2665 |
| 16. | Mizoram | — | — | 225.00 | 225.00 | 5450 | 1230 | 2820 | 9500 |
| 17. | Nagaland | — | 18.00 | 160.00 | 178.00 | 6709 | — | 821 | 7530 |
| 18. | Orissa | 1580.00 | 1000.00 | 1200.00 | 3780.00 | 78147 | 61746 | 28000 | 167893 |
| 19. | Punjab | — | — | 40.00 | 40.00 | 3578 | 2497 | 706 | 6781 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 2855.00 | 3016.00 | 2850.00 | 8721.00 | 119388 | 128543 | 2850 | 248781 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 10.00 | 41.00 | 90.00 | 141.00 | 1713 | 1129 | 2000 | 4842 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 420.00 | 240.00 | 900.00 | 1560.00 | 52740 | 35840 | 25145 | 93725 |
| 23. | Tripura | — | 4.00 | 130.00 | 134.00 | 2092 | 463 | 2286 | 4841 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 2215.00 | 1000.00 | 1000.00 | 4215.00 | 64713 | 38438 | 20311 | 123462 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 1157.00 | — | 10.00 | 1167.00 | 17180 | 18000 | 13176 | 48356 |
| 26. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | — | — | 2.00 | 2.00 | 12 | — | 28 | 40 |
| 27. | Andaman and Nicobar | 50.00 | 50.00 | 25.00 | 125.00 | 595 | 560 | 513 | 1668 |
| | Total | 15236.00 | 14490.00 | 15500.00 | 45226.00 | 922355 | 819370 | 275670 | 2017395 |

***Statement II(g)***

*Details showing Releases made under Integrated Rural Development Programme during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98*

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Amount released during (Rupees in Lakh) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 8221.72 | 12065.74 | 9634.21 | 29921.67 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 582.88 | 471.59 | 651.30 | 1705.77 |
| 3. | Assam | 3186.62 | 2400.47 | 2038.38 | 7625.47 |
| 4. | Bihar | 8297.84 | 10999.78 | 9090.27 | 28387.89 |
| 5. | Goa | 128.25 | 90.33 | 120.89 | 339.47 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 3153.11 | 3213.83 | 3850.61 | 10217.55 |
| 7. | Haryana | 1411.52 | 767.80 | 938.04 | 3117.36 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 212.26 | 242.50 | 386.04 | 840.80 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 680.71 | 766.69 | 777.17 | 2224.57 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 5766.37 | 4072.57 | 4695.63 | 14534.57 |
| 11. | Kerala | 2654.58 | 2061.12 | 2226.81 | 6942.51 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 12846.52 | 9929.21 | 9328.36 | 32104.09 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 7785.50 | 7281.26 | 8541.07 | 23607.83 |
| 14. | Manipur | 355.71 | 501.56 | 235.15 | 1092.42 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 383.47 | 497.86 | 323.10 | 1204.43 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16. | Mizoram | 286.04 | 206.07 | 240.56 | 732.67 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 445.23 | 451.40 | 208.71 | 1105.34 |
| 18. | Orissa | 7058.80 | 6129.85 | 6178.52 | 19367.17 |
| 19. | Punjab | 401.26 | 516.81 | 716.31 | 1634.38 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 3924.24 | 4020.59 | 3743.08 | 11687.91 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 169.99 | 81.75 | 126.92 | 378.66 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 5936.32 | 4517.82 | 6981.61 | 17435.75 |
| 23. | Tripura | 850.00 | 959.87 | 779.58 | 2589.45 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 23220.92 | 20212.39 | 18884.17 | 62317.48 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 4544.13 | 3577.38 | 4525.15 | 12646.66 |
| UNION TERRITORIES | | | | | |
| 26. | A&N Islands | 0.00 | 51.94 | 41.70 | 93.64 |
| 27. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 7.49 | 14.99 | 31.13 | 53.61 |
| 28. | Daman and Diu | 13.98 | 13.98 | 28.91 | 56.87 |
| 29. | Lakshadweep | 4.08 | 6.99 | 17.78 | 28.85 |
| 30. | Pondicherry | 28.98 | 50.13 | 83.52 | 162.63 |
| | | 102558.52 | 96174.27 | 95424.68 | 294157.47 |

Note: 1. Total releases includes State share released so far. State release for 1997-98 are provisional.
2. During the Programme 8158 watersheds were taken up from 1995-96 to December, 1998.

***Statement II(h)***

*Details Showing Releases made under Million Wells Scheme during the Period 1995-96 to 1997-98*

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Amount Released during (Rupees in lakh) | | | | Achievement in Wells (In Numbers) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 4342.13 | 4342.14 | 4280.93 | 12965.20 | 10899 | 13169 | 7952 | 32020 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 36.28 | 28.56 | 28.61 | 90.45 | 130 | 12 | 152 | 294 |
| 3. | Assam | 1429.41 | 1312.68 | 1512.78 | 4254.87 | 1866 | 2332 | 1842 | 6039 |
| 4. | Bihar | 8516.94 | 5811.98 | 5836.15 | 20165.07 | 25476 | 22911 | 23307 | 71694 |
| 5. | Goa | 48.16 | 24.06 | 13.15 | 85.37 | 37 | 33 | 16 | 86 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 1593.91 | 1442.70 | 1216.18 | 4252.79 | 4107 | 3148 | 3770 | 11025 |
| 7. | Haryana | 382.88 | 257.01 | 225.79 | 875.68 | 572 | 388 | 483 | 1423 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 153.04 | 112.15 | 120.43 | 385.62 | 168 | 670 | 602 | 1410 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 236.28 | 294.76 | 241.18 | 772.22 | 1395 | 1126 | 1745 | 4266 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 2915.55 | 2635.64 | 2550.56 | 8101.75 | 5236 | 3004 | 3096 | 11336 |
| 11. | Kerala | 1910.34 | 880.94 | 1029.53 | 3820.81 | 3468 | 2288 | 3976 | 9712 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 5502.11 | 4296.14 | 4221.46 | 14019.65 | 35854 | 15273 | 15296 | 66223 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 4733.53 | 4128.54 | 4096.46 | 12958.53 | 9143 | 8002 | 8324 | 25469 |
| 14. | Manipur | 47.06 | 52.25 | 33.76 | 133.07 | 520 | 222 | 218 | 960 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15. | Meghalaya | 52.75 | 37.68 | 42.10 | 132.53 | 732 | 820 | 448 | 2020 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 28.16 | 28.16 | 28.19 | 84.51 | 382 | 266 | 325 | 973 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 71.66 | 61.76 | 71.66 | 205.08 | 0 | 80 | 608 | 688 |
| 18. | Orissa | 3522.49 | 2373.35 | 3581.61 | 9477.45 | 24263 | 18349 | 15798 | 58410 |
| 19. | Punjab | 0.00 | 243.84 | 107.71 | 351.55 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 2285.93 | 1272.96 | 1630.98 | 5189.87 | 2457 | 2389 | 3420 | 8266 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 52.16 | 21.70 | 26.09 | 99.95 | 364 | 91 | 89 | 544 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 3925.20 | 3439.71 | 3925.23 | 11310.14 | 10899 | 5962 | 3626 | 20487 |
| 23. | Tripura | 111.33 | 74.21 | 74.21 | 259.75 | 2049 | 1221 | 926 | 4196 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 13706.63 | 8666.26 | 9669.41 | 32042.30 | 518 | 43 | 44 | 605 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 4041.18 | 3381.56 | 2170.89 | 9593.63 | 2147 | 1401 | 542 | 4090 |
| UNION TERRITORIES | | | | | | | | | |
| 26. | A&N Islands | 16.56 | 10.55 | 0.00 | 27.11 | 6 | 13 | 4 | 23 |
| 27. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 4.16 | 11.07 | 5.73 | 20.96 | 24 | 8 | 16 | 48 |
| 28. | Daman and Diu | 6.76 | 3.38 | 0.00 | 10.14 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 29. | Lakshadweep | 10.60 | 5.29 | 5.29 | 21.18 | 0 | 0 | 140 | 140 |
| 30. | Pondicherry | 10.32 | 10.32 | 0.00 | 20.64 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Total | 59693.48 | 45288.37 | 48745.96 | 151727.81 | 142462 | 103201 | 96787 | 342450 |

***Statement II(I)***

*Details of showing releases made under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98*

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Amount Released during (Rupees in lakh) | | | | Population Covered in Lakh | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 63.803 | 66.722 | 88.068 | 218.593 | 40.196 | 27.800 | 32.260 | 101.256 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 10.920 | 12.000 | 24.760 | 47.680 | 0.089 | 0.579 | 0.490 | 1.158 |
| 3. | Assam | 22.450 | 23.535 | 23.765 | 69.750 | 3.353 | 3.655 | 4.850 | 11.858 |
| 4. | Bihar | 35.495 | 31.130 | 0.00 | 66.625 | 20.630 | 6.430 | 30.330 | 57.390 |
| 5. | Goa | 2.550 | 5.504 | 1.965 | 10.019 | 0.234 | 0.364 | 0.030 | 0.628 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 40.500 | 41.970 | 58.866 | 141.336 | 5.130 | 7.060 | 10.140 | 22.330 |
| 7. | Haryana | 25.691 | 25.500 | 32.592 | 83.783 | 14.810 | 15.020 | 16.940 | 46.770 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 16.612 | 19.340 | 17.090 | 53.042 | 0.995 | 1.080 | 1.520 | 3.595 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 38.939 | 37.350 | 46.940 | 123.229 | 0.078 | 0.003 | 0.000 | 0.081 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 65.440 | 67.207 | 99.377 | 232.024 | 23.090 | 22.740 | 30.700 | 76.530 |
| 11 | Kerala | 29.190 | 32.637 | 35.647 | 97.474 | 3.651 | 2.377 | 4.260 | 10.288 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 66.730 | 73.136 | 83.457 | 223.323 | 22.253 | 21.294 | 44.490 | 88.037 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 74.749 | 91.810 | 120.872 | 287.431 | 31.089 | 36.413 | 33.950 | 101.452 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14. | Manipur | 4.010 | 4.786 | 9.070 | 17.866 | 0.210 | 0.495 | 1.320 | 2.025 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 2.208 | 5.720 | 7.432 | 15.360 | 0.646 | 0.675 | 0.550 | 1.871 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 3.400 | 4.289 | 5.836 | 13.525 | 0.123 | 0.149 | 0.320 | 0.592 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 2.110 | 4.220 | 2.110 | 8.440 | 0.018 | 0.000 | 0.040 | 0.058 |
| 18. | Orissa | 33.760 | 41.538 | 50.384 | 125.682 | 10.930 | 10.681 | 8.240 | 29.851 |
| 19. | Punjab | 15.060 | 12.890 | 17.140 | 45.090 | 1.632 | 2.341 | 2.030 | 6.063 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 100.390 | 115.870 | 137.832 | 354.092 | 8.110 | 6.630 | 7.110 | 21.850 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 5.720 | 4.720 | 4.356 | 14.796 | 0.137 | 0.096 | 0.090 | 0.323 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 52.620 | 53.330 | 58.344 | 164.294 | 18.953 | 20.970 | 29.590 | 69.513 |
| 23. | Tripura | 7.600 | 8.500 | 7.620 | 23.720 | 2.280 | 2.611 | 0.950 | 5.841 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 113.344 | 117.282 | 151.827 | 382.453 | 55.545 | 26.240 | 94.110 | 175.895 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 34.956 | 45.213 | 44.115 | 124.284 | 14.690 | 11.650 | 12.400 | 38.740 |
| | UNION TERRITORIES | | | | | | | | |
| 26. | A&N Islands | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.093 | 0.044 | 0.070 | 0.207 |
| 27. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 0.000 | 0.030 | 0.00 | 0.030 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.040 | 0.040 |
| 28. | Daman and Diu | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.381 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.381 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29. | Delhi | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 30. | Lakshadweep | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.202 | 0.000 | 0.030 | 0.232 |
| 31. | Pondicherry | 0.600 | 0.100 | 0.100 | 0.800 | 0.273 | 0.345 | 0.090 | 0.708 |
| | Total | 868.846 | 946.329 | 1129.563 | 2944.738 | 279.881 | 227.742 | 366.940 | 874.959 |

**Leimakhong Heavy Fuel Power Project**

1206. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes sanctioned till date in the North-Eastern States from the 10% Non-Lapsabled Fund created for North-Eastern States;

(b) the amount sanctioned for the Leimakhong Heavy Fuel Power Project (36 MW) in Manipur; and

(c) the reasons for not disbursing the sanctioned amount well in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources has been constituted during 1998-99 from out of unspent amount(s) from 10% of the Budget(s) of the concerned Central Ministries/Departments earmarked for the North-East and Sikkim for assisting development projects, including in the infrastructure sector, in these States.

Releases amounting to Rs. 93.10 crore, including Rs. 10.34 crore for the Leimakhong Heavy Fuel Power Project in Manipur, have been made from the Central Pool for the Projects in the North-East.

**Watershed Development Project**

1207. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds released by the Union Government under National Watershed Development Projects for the rainfed areas during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether all the State Governments have utilised the released funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons thereon;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the scheme and issue any guidelines in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b). A statement showing State-wise funds released and utilised under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) during the last three years is attached.

(c) Among the main reasons for the funds remaining unutilised with some of the States are:

(i) Non-release/delayed release of funds by the State Finance Department to the line department;

(ii) Carry over of large unspent balance as a result thereof;

(iii) Natural calamities like flood, cyclone etc. in the State which delayed implementation;

(iv) Non-finalisation of the upward revision of costs norm approved at the beginning of VIIIth Plan due to delay in the approval of EFC.

(d) and (e) The progress of work under the scheme are regularly reviewed at different levels both at the Centre and State. Based upon the feedback received from the various State Governments and the first hand information gathered during the field inspections, changes have been incorporated in the EFC Memo for the IXth Plan with a view to ensure sustainability of works, flexiblity to the State Government and effective and timely utilisation of funds.

***Statement***

*Position of Funds Released and Utilised under N.W.D.P.R.A during last three years*

| S.No. | Name of State | 1995-96 | | | | 1996-97 | | | | 1997-98 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Unspent Bal. as on. 1.4.95 | Released | Total funds available | Utilised | Unspent Bal. as on 1.4.96 | Released | Total Funds available | Utilised | Unspent Bal.as on 1.4.97 | Released | Total funds available | Utilised |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 1. | Anchra Pradesh | 1143.63 | — | 1143.63 | 653.04 | 490.59 | 320.00 | 810.59 | 700.81 | 148.87 | 700.00 | 848.87 | 719.06 |
| 2. | Arunachal Prasad | 24.90 | 80.00 | 104.90 | 22.00 | 82.90 | — | 82.90 | 37.60 | 45.30 | 10.00 | 55.30 | 45.29 |
| 3. | Assam | 1199.46 | 512.00 | 1711.46 | 250.07 | 1461.39 | — | 1461.39 | 665.32 | 796.02 | — | 796.02 | 431.50 |
| 4. | Bihar | 1562.35 | — | 1562.35 | 116.36 | 1445.99 | — | 1445.99 | 289.04 | 1156.95 | — | 1156.95 | 170.84 |
| 5. | Goa | 20.37 | 46.0 | 66.37 | 3.16 | 63.20 | — | 63.20 | 15.87 | 47.43 | — | 47.43 | 8.88 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 2244.95 | — | 2244.95 | 1408.29 | 836.66 | 332.00 | 1168.66 | 997.90 | 170.75 | 700.00 | 870.75 | 602.91 |
| 7. | Haryana | 108.37 | 55.00 | 163.37 | 123.99 | 39.38 | 60.00 | 99.38 | 92.10 | 7.28 | 80.00 | 87.28 | 71.12 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 233.91 | 265.00 | 498.91 | 297.82 | 201.09 | 60.00 | 261.09 | 219.27 | 41.80 | 120.00 | 161.80 | 48.98 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 71.47 | 118.00 | 189.47 | 114.31 | 75.17 | — | 75.17 | 20.99 | 54.18 | 108.00 | 162.18 | 9.70 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 1500.30 | 476.00 | 1976.30 | 1591.29 | 385.02 | 1095.00 | 1480.02 | 1550.32 | (-)70.29 | 2100.00 | 2029.71 | 1573.82 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. | Kerala | 1000.00 | — | 1000.00 | 326.10 | 673.90 | 700.00 | 1373.90 | 1372.38 | 1.52 | 500.00 | 501.52 | 500.00 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 1615.22 | 1977.00 | 3592.22 | 3703.84 | (–)111.62 | 700.00 | 3588.38 | 3691.34 | (–)124.16 | 1434.00 | 1309.04 | 1208.00 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | (–)159.61 | 3290.00 | 3130.39 | 3855.66 | (–)725.27 | 2754.00 | 2028.73 | 2816.72 | (–)788.01 | 2500.00 | 1711.99 | 1761.39 |
| 14. | Manipur | 20.00 | 75.00 | 95.00 | 95.00 | — | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | — | 250.00 | 250.00 | 75.00 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 130.37 | 55.00 | 158.37 | 33.32 | 125.05 | — | 125.05 | 47.55 | 84.52 | — | 84.52 | 81.51 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 247.85 | — | 247.85 | 240.76 | 7.09 | — | 7.09 | 37.03 | (-)129.73 | 225.00 | 195.27 | 147.28 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 488.50 | — | 488.50 | 468.50 | — | 18.00 | 18.00 | 18.00 | — | 160.00 | 160.00 | 160.00 |
| 18. | Orissa | 1306.05 | 1580.00 | 2886.05 | 1801.46 | 1084.59 | 1000.00 | 2084.59 | 1422.83 | 661.76 | 1200.00 | 1861.76 | 917.69 |
| 19. | Punjab | 157.06 | — | 157.06 | 77.36 | 79.70 | — | 79.70 | 51.24 | 28.46 | 40.00 | 68.46 | 28.45 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 1438.97 | 2855.00 | 4293.97 | 3500.50 | 793.47 | 3016.00 | 3809.47 | 3548.26 | 261.20 | 2581.00 | 2842.20 | 2577.58 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 96.53 | 10.00 | 106.53 | 78.71 | 27.82 | 41.00 | 68.82 | 52.61 | 7.22 | 90.00 | 97.22 | 74.46 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 894.34 | 420.00 | 1314.34 | 720.44 | 593.90 | 240.00 | 833.90 | 810.51 | 22.98 | 900.00 | 922.98 | 736.09 |
| 23. | Tripura | 70.13 | — | 70.13 | 62.09 | 8.04 | 4.00 | 12.04 | 16.84 | (- )4.94 | 130.00 | 125.06 | 80.00 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 954.84 | 2215.00 | 3169.84 | 1724.94 | 1444.90 | 1000.00 | 2444.90 | 2115.55 | 1213.06 | 1000.00 | 2213.06 | 1150.99 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 378.05 | 1157.00 | 1535.05 | 595.20 | 939.85 | — | 939.85 | 93.21 | 519.55 | 10.00 | 529.55 | 370.30 |
| 26. | D & A Haveli | — | — | — | 0.59 | — | — | — | — | — | 1.00 | 1.00 | — |
| 27. | A & N. Island | — | 50.00 | 50.00 | 32.13 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 26.92 | — | 25.00 | 25.00 | 24.42 |
| | Total | 16721.00 | 15236.00 | 31957.00 | 21916.00 | 10222.94 | 14490.00 | 24712.94 | 20810.27 | 5269.40 | 14864.00 | 20133.40 | 13576.28 |

**Space Technology**

1208. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement in the field of Space technology with Canada in the last one year;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government are holding any talks with other developing countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Indian Space Research Organisation has a policy of co-operation with other space agencies in the area of peaceful uses of outer space. Agreement for cooperation with specific countries are taken up for consideration as and when there is mutual interest.

**Production of Horticulture**

1209. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Horticultural production has increased during the last three years;

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

(c) whether any research is being done to improve the quality of the produce; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES ( SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) According to Indian Horticultural Database published by the National Horticulture Board, the production of fruits and vegetables have registered considerable increase between 1993-94 and 1995.96 for which data is available. The State-wise and year-wise details are furnished in the attached statement.

(c) and (d). Indian Council of Agricultural research undertakes research on production and post harvest technology for improvement of quality of horticulture produce. As a result, a number of improved varieties of fruits and hybrid vegetables have been introduced for commercial production in the country. Post harvest treatment to control storage diseases, pre-cooling and temperature management to increase shell life and processing of fruits and vegetables are certain areas where research has been pursued.

***Statement***

1.1 State-wise

1.1.1. Fruits

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/UTs | AREA | | | | | PRODUCTION | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1991-92 | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1991-92 | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 313138 | 338512 | 354025 | 372332 | 390570 | 4008230 | 4766421 | 5022766 | 5161528 | 5469626 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 20169 | 22340 | 24670 | 24670 | 27363 | 47308 | 40257 | 50266 | 50266 | 66392 |
| 3. | Assam | 72308 | 98323 | 100587 | 1100752 | 101100 | 806381 | 1102030 | 1166423 | 1239064 | 1211643 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | Bihar | 266921 | 271170 | 282838 | 278998 | 285654 | 2799250 | 3358983 | 3583817 | 3378162 | 6045390 |
| 5. | Delhi | 69 | 502 | 922 | 157 | 248 | 690 | 4218 | 9581 | 1584 | 3154 |
| 6. | Goa | 10997 | 11280 | 11280 | 11447 | 11512 | 84200 | 88260 | 88260 | 121450 | 93599 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 84550 | 93500 | 103553 | 113954 | 150226 | 1828880 | 1915000 | 2243756 | 2447664 | 2068143 |
| 8. | Haryana | 13930 | 15303 | 16761 | 18310 | 19797 | 110000 | 121390 | 123300 | 133500 | 145000 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 157187 | 121247 | 167891 | 189689 | 195545 | 339903 | 324855 | 325477 | 325477 | 311889 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 119078 | 184621 | 123923 | 127012 | 129524 | 700802 | 786986 | 867528 | 746143 | 790309 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 209290 | 225389 | 242201 | 259350 | 275806 | 3191835 | 3438046 | 4196935 | 4510728 | 4726421 |
| 12. | Kerala | 236284 | 342000 | 194088 | 195242 | 195824 | 1101296 | 1931000 | 1782949 | 1809796 | 1826057 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 64699 | 68403 | 68599 | 60364 | 61619 | 1245000 | 1282264 | 1320210 | 1118000 | 1143000 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 256109 | 294014 | 322274 | 367197 | 310754 | 3518409 | 4313870 | 5112549 | 5099340 | 4798899 |
| 15. | Manipur | 19775 | 20705 | 21165 | 22572 | 22677 | 42990 | 100000 | 110000 | 110075 | 110998 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 24240 | 25190 | 25435 | 23817 | 24800 | 218068 | 232000 | 236508 | 202136 | 239008 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 9306 | 10211 | 10211 | 11625 | 15278 | 34821 | 43668 | 43668 | 50636 | 71299 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 5153 | 5153 | 5867 | 4889 | 4820 | 9233 | 9233 | 55968 | 72836 | 71855 |
| 19. | Orissa | 136308 | 149452 | 160848 | 176481 | 187240 | 978000 | 1036000 | 1150900 | 1272100 | 1241500 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20. | Punjab | 72665 | 76519 | 81766 | 81766 | 84422 | 663808 | 693377 | 727981 | 736802 | 760721 |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 22812 | 20908 | 20864 | 19825 | 19795 | 113602 | 94607 | 95005 | 230134 | 238475 |
| 22. | Sikkim | 7745 | 7870 | 8720 | 9000 | 9200 | 18778 | 19034 | 21557 | 11500 | 12000 |
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | 136153 | 136908 | 179596 | 185587 | 185587 | 2316100 | 2369033 | 3620646 | 4818576 | 4818576 |
| 24. | Tripura | 44853 | 46845 | 46845 | 46845 | 32263 | 319060 | 325550 | 325550 | 325550 | 400894 |
| 25. | U.P.(Hills) | 150470 | 176170 | 163314 | 181750 | 183920 | 428700 | 461793 | 460345 | 492616 | 502200 |
| | U.P.(Plains) | 303247 | 305120 | 304847 | 308038 | 310262 | 2449787 | 2892270 | 3010629 | 2870534 | 3008838 |
| 26. | West Bengal | 111290 | 133880 | 134640 | 112200 | 115600 | 1131680 | 1149220 | 1458123 | 1219400 | 1282500 |
| 27. | Andaman & Nicobar | 3303 | 1700 | 3716 | 3725 | 3730 | 12900 | 16333 | 16015 | 16665 | 16670 |
| 28. | Chandigarh | 94 | 125 | 125 | — | — | 1867 | 793 | 793 | — | — |
| 29. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 708 | 708 | 707 | 707 | 707 | 7100 | 7100 | 7100 | 7100 | 7100 |
| 30. | Daman & Diu | 314 | 382 | 396 | 396 | 396 | 3140 | 3160 | 3375 | 3375 | 3375 |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 273 | 213 | 217 | 231 | 242 | 501 | 384 | 478 | 575 | 677 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | 970 | 976 | 753 | 729 | 802 | 19660 | 18151 | 17047 | 19550 | 20803 |
| | Total | 2874408 | 3205619 | 3183644 | 4200657 | 3357283 | 28631979 | 32955276 | 37255405 | 38602962 | 41507011 |

Notes: 1. Excluding data of NUIS
2. Where current data were not available, last year's data incorporated as such.

Source: Directorate of Horticulture/Agriculture of respective State/UTs.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.1.2 | Vegetables | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 155186 | 148519 | 154457 | 163323 | 169477 | 1452583 | 1368068 | 1420029 | 2341204 | 2444295 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 17166 | 17166 | 17217 | 17217 | 17217 | 79947 | 79947 | 80117 | 80117 | 80117 |
| 3. | Assam | 222430 | 191900 | 206257 | 188384 | 249091 | 2132273 | 1754355 | 1931874 | 1970007 | 2484538 |
| 4. | Bihar | 843308 | 887309 | 913979 | 807731 | 856854 | 8643080 | 16200449 | 13610198 | 11726318 | 12284700 |
| 5. | Delhi | 55010 | 47217 | 25334 | 51259 | 55664 | 627816 | 735164 | 463897 | 551232 | 613113 |
| 6. | Goa | — | — | — | 7500 | 7500 | — | — | — | 65000 | 65000 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 114600 | 142000 | 114500 | 121600 | 167882 | 1667900 | 1556500 | 1869900 | 1729800 | 2089089 |
| 8. | Haryana | 60800 | 73581 | 75260 | 85000 | 94000 | 877000 | 1029530 | 1155000 | 1275000 | 1420000 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 38680 | 38680 | 38325 | 38369 | 38869 | 476000 | 476000 | 537800 | 544000 | 569000 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 180300 | 180300 | 32900 | 32900 | 32900 | 745000 | 745000 | 353706 | 353706 | 353706 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 351060 | 416958 | 261434 | 290064 | 293137 | 3673235 | 4662172 | 5035203 | 5668400 | 5705142 |
| 12. | Kerala | 202091 | 202503 | 243932 | 243932 | 243932 | 3229069 | 2902922 | 2789555 | 2789555 | 2789555 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 176360 | 254049 | 181114 | 180811 | 189799 | 2221000 | 2046852 | 2551000 | 2241000 | 2353000 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 241080 | 201633 | 225492 | 220847 | 216259 | 4171340 | 3570887 | 2737625 | 2809022 | 2957335 |
| 15 | Manipur | 11819 | 4663 | 4291 | 4645 | 4839 | 50280 | 36470 | 33000 | 35000 | 36250 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16. | Meghalaya | 25881 | 25376 | 25436 | 25400 | 22292 | 219224 | 237750 | 238071 | 199845 | 211452 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 5975 | 121319 | 5635 | 11899 | 12444 | 31753 | 70099 | 45102 | 76648 | 79351 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 8235 | 8235 | 8664 | 8184 | 8104 | 66860 | 66860 | 107643 | 87104 | 87147 |
| 19. | Orissa | 710288 | 760660 | 774978 | 801276 | 877104 | 7275000 | 7745000 | 7983536 | 7896400 | 8705654 |
| 20. | Punjab | 84500 | 85299 | 102500 | 102500 | 105000 | 1450008 | 1455300 | 1721379 | 1721379 | 1774102 |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 62868 | 59525 | 67332 | 67670 | 75948 | 307033 | 302478 | 363164 | 283357 | 356908 |
| 22. | Sikkim | 7566 | 8386 | 7544 | 8693 | 8703 | 46119 | 51792 | 46911 | 28792 | 50640 |
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | 889333 | 53530 | 170922 | 174818 | 174818 | 3796897 | 959073 | 4389043 | 4397932 | 4397932 |
| 24. | Tripura | 30350 | 31950 | 31950 | 31950 | 32000 | 306850 | 320850 | 320850 | 320850 | 358480 |
| 25. | U.P.(Hills) | 57065 | 79588 | 84000 | 86503 | 88092 | 617600 | 687000 | 717850 | 774408 | 790530 |
| | U.P.(Plains) | 576709 | 593327 | 624408 | 742889 | 776367 | 9627326 | 8911199 | 10359928 | 11911660 | 13082540 |
| 26. | West Bengal | 456000 | 551990 | 470300 | 490000 | 510000 | 4680000 | 5776880 | 4858500 | 5340000 | 5391000 |
| 27. | Andaman & Nicobar | 3384 | 3600 | 3307 | 3275 | 3115 | 13200 | 14592 | 18872 | 16380 | 15850 |
| 28. | Chandigarh | 273 | 270 | 310 | — | — | 11070 | 5509 | 8720 | — | — |
| 29. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 1520 | 1520 | 1522 | 1522 | 1520 | 13560 | 13560 | 13565 | 13565 | 13500 |
| 30. | Daman & Diu | 33 | 29 | 48 | 56 | 56 | 330 | 290 | 869 | 1029 | 1029 |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 379 | 240 | 241 | 248 | 252 | 348 | 125 | 127 | 132 | 130 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | 2363 | 2353 | 2353 | 2507 | 2212 | 22337 | 23379 | 23379 | 37075 | 33573 |
| | Total | 5593532 | 5044675 | 4875933 | 5012972 | 5335447 | 5853208 | 63806052 | 65785713 | 67285917 | 71594561 |

Note. 1. Excluding spices and Candiments.

**Electronic Producing Units**

1210. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector units under the department of Electronics are running in profit;

(b) if so, the details of profit of each unit during the last three years;

(c) whether these units are exporting their items; and

(d) if so, the details of exports made by each of them during each of the last three years; till date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) There are three public sector enterprises under the administrative control of the Department of Electronics namely CMC Limited, Electronics Trade & Technology Development Corporation Ltd. (ET&T) and Semiconductor Complex Ltd. (SCL).

The details of profit/loss incurred by these companies during the last three years are as follows:-

| Year | CMC Ltd. Profit | SCL Ltd. Profit/Loss | ET&T Ltd. Loss |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | Rs.1266 lakhs | Rs.358.12 Lakhs | Rs. (-) 1484.74 lakhs |
| 1996-97 | Rs. 257 lakhs | Rs. (-) 239.30 lakhs (Loss) | Rs. (-) 1622.78 lakhs |
| 1997-98 | Rs.680 lakhs | Rs. 34,40 lakhs | Rs. (-) 1829.69 lakhs |

CMC Ltd. which is an Information Techonology is not manufacturing any electronic items.

(c) and (d).The details of export earnings by these companies during the last three years are as follows:-

Rs.in lakhs)

| | Export Earnings | |
|---|---|---|
| | CMC | ET&T |
| 1995-96 | 2416.00 | 140.19 |
| 1996-97 | 3369.00 | 225.35 |
| 1997 -98 | 5339.00 | 674.27 |

SCL is not exporting their items.

*[Translation]*

**Sone Canal**

1211. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the modernisation work of Sone Canal phase-I is likely to commence;

(b) the amount likely to be spent on the said project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Work on Sone Canal Modernisation Project phase-I, of Bihar was started during VII Plan.

(b) The latest estimated cost of the Project is Rs. 304.07 crores.

(c) Completion of this project will depend upon the priority attached to it by the State Government.

*[English]*

**Utilisation of River Water**

1212. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any estimate of water flowing in the river Ganges per annum;

(b) if so, the quantum of water being utilised for irrigation, drinking and industrial purposes, separately;

(c) the quantum of water of the river going waste into the sea annually; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for optimum use of the water of the river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c). The average annual flow in river Ganga in India is estimated to be 501643 million cubic metre. Out of this a quantum of 2,50,000 million cubic metre is estimated to be available for utilisation. The utilisation assessed or various purposes for the year 2000 is as under:

(i) Irrigation — 150764 million cubic metre

(ii) Drinking — 7900 million cubic metre

(iii) Industries (including thermal and nuclear power stations) — 5870 million cubic metre

(d) A number of water resources projects have been taken up and are proposed by the concerned States Governments for optimum utilization of the waters of the river Ganga.

**Assessment of Green and Dry Fooder**

1213. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Agriculture has made any assessment of requirement of green and dry fodder in the country by turn of this century;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commission had made the assessment on all India basis. The details of assessment are given in the Statement attached.

(c) Question does not arise.

***Statement***

*Requirements of Fodders for Productive Livestock in 2000 A.D.*

(Million tonnes)

| Category of livestock | Requirement for projected population per year | |
|---|---|---|
| | Green fodder | Dry fodder |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Cattle | | |
| Males working and breeding | 133.3 | 146.7 |
| Females milch and dry non-descript | 38.9 | 31.2 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Improved indigenous | 39.6 | 24.1 |
| Crossbred | 136.1 | 41.4 |
| —Crossbred | 58.3 | 11.7 |
| Young stock —Others | 48.4 | 14.5 |
| Buffaloes Males working and breeding | 12.7 | 12.7 |
| Females milch and dry non-descript | 23.7 | 23.7 |
| Improved | 64.3 | 38.5 |
| Young stock | 34.8 | 13.9 |
| Total for bovines | 590.1 | 358.4 |
| Improved Poultry | 1.6 | — |
| Improved Sheep | — | 8.8 |
| Improved Goats | — | 5.8 |
| Improved Pigs | 3.1 | — |
| Horses & Ponies | — | — |
| Camels | — | — |
| Total | 594.8 | 373.0 |

**Production of Rice**

1214. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of rice has declined during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the specific steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to increase the production of rice during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES ( SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The production of rice at the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan was 81.74 million tonnes (during 1996-97) as against 72.86 million tonnes (during .992-93) at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan. Thus, the production of rice during the Eighth Five Year Plan has increased.

(c) In order to increase production of rice, the government is implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas under which incentives are provided to farmers for quality seeds and location specific high yielding/hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field demonstration on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organized for effective transfer of technology. Further, under the national agenda for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years. In addition, the Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy and undertakes market support operations.

*[Translation]*

**Recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission**

1215. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations made by the Fifth Pay Commission regarding promotions of employees of Central Secretariat Service, Central Secretariat Clerical Service and Central Secretariat Stenographer Service; and

(b) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The complete details are available in the Report of the Fifth Pay Commission. The recommendations, by and large, have been processed. However, some of the more important recommendations and action taken thereon are given in the attached Statement.

***Statement***

*Recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission regarding Promotions of CSS/CSSS/CSCS Employees*

| Para No. | Recommendation | Action taken |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| **CSS** | | |
| 45.25 | (iii) 25% of the sanctioned posts of SOs may be converted into Desk Officers and placed in the newly created scale of Rs. 2500-4000/-. | The Government has decided not to operate the newly created scale for CSS, as per the demand of the Associations of the CSS officers. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| **CSSS** | | |
| 45.37 | (i) 65 posts of Private Secretaries may be upgraded to the level of Principal Secretaries | Implemented |
| | (ii) 25% posts of Private Secretaries may be placed in the pay scale of Rs. 2500-4000 and redesignated as Sr. Private Secretaries | The Government has decided not to operate the newly created scale for CSS, as per the demand of the Association of the CSS officers. |
| | (iii) 58 posts of Principal Secretaries may be placed/operated in the scale of Rs. 3700-5000 and redesignated as Sr. Principal Private Secretaries | Implemented |
| | (iv) Lateral Entry of Private Secretaries to the Grade of Under Secretaries should be discontinued | Recommendation not accepted. |
| | Only those Grade 'C' Stenographers who are graduates should be allowed to participate in the Departmental Examinations for Section Officers' grade | Recommendation not accepted. |
| | For Direct Recruitment at the level of Stenographers Grade 'C' the educational qualification should be graduation | Accepted and under process. |
| **CSCS** | | |
| 45.56 (c) | LDCE for promotion to grade of Assistants may be introduced and UDCs with three years regular service may be allowed to compete for promotion to the grade of Assistants against 25% quota to be carved out of 50% seniority quota. | A view has been taken not to accept the recommendation because it will have adverse effect on the promotion changes of UDCs. As for reducing DR quota for LDCE, it will affect the quality and standard of service. The Staff side has in the meanwhile, raised the matter in the agenda of the Departmental Council of Department of Personnel & Training (JCM) for the next Scheduled meeting. |

*(English)*

**National Capital Venture Fund**

1216. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Electronics propose to set up a National Capital Venture Fund; and

(b) if so, the main purpose for which the fund is being set up?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Venture capital has been an important trigger in the growth of IT industry around the world. The objective of setting up this fund is to provide SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) in the software and IT sector of India.

*[Translation]*

**Basmati Rice**

1217. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any time bound program to increase the production of Bastmati rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the estimated demand and supply of Basmati rice for the current financial year and during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No separate data are generated on production, demand and supply of Basmati rice.

*[English]*

**Transportation of Goods**

1218. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government have requested the Government of Bangladesh to provide facility for transportation of passengers and goods through Bangladesh to North-East;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government of Bangladesh to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c). India has limited transit facility through Bangladesh under the provisions of the India-Bangladesh Waterways Transit & Trade Protocol (IWT&TP), which has been in operation since 1972. Government has made repeated proposals to the Government of Bangladesh for overland transit facilities for passenger and freight traffic. Bangladesh has not agreed to these proposals. Government continues to pursue the matter.

**Command Area Development Programme**

1219. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of field channels constructed under Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme in North-East, Particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) the existing ceiling of construction cost of field channel per hectare in Assam;

(c) whether any request has been made by the Government to raise existing ceiling considering the physio-graphical and geographical features by the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The project-wise details, as reported by the State Governments, of field channels constructed in the North-Eastern States including Assam under the Command Area Development Programme is given in the attached statement.

(b) The existing maximum ceiling of cost of construction of field channels per hectare in Assam is Rs. 10,000/- per hectare.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

***Statement***

| S. No. | Name of State/Project | Field Channels constructed upto 31.12.98 under Command Area Development Programme (hectare) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | ARUNACHAL PRADESH | |
| (i) | Chowkham CAD Project | 0 |
| 2. | ASSAM | |
| (i) | Jamuna Irrigation Project | 31,615 |
| (ii) | Kaliabor Lift Irrigation Project | 9,636 |
| (iii) | Integrated Irrigation Scheme for Kollong and Sonai basins | 0 |
| (iv) | Bordikarai Irrigation Project | 100 |
| (v) | Sukla Irrigation Project | 12,801 |
| (vi) | Kaldia Irrigation Project | 72 |
| (vii) | Dekadong Irrigation Project | 261 |
| | Total Assam | 54,485 |
| 3. | MANIPUR | |
| (i) | Loktak Lift Irrigation Project | 24,000 |
| (ii) | Sekmai Barrage Project | 5,000 |
| (iii) | Imphal Barrage Project | 1,945 |
| (iv) | Thoubal Multipurpose Project | 4,003 |
| | Total Manipur | 34,948 |
| 4. | MEGHALAYA | |
| (i) | A cluster of six Minor Irrg. Project (Lokrok, Kyrdoh, Kawarg, Anojong, Marakhapara, Bebelapara) | 1,000 |
| (ii) | A cluster of four Minor Irrg. Project (Madan Mawser, Tyraso, Gumai Jhora,Dandlama) | 0 |
| 5. | NAGALAND | |
| (i) | Alichila Minor Irrg. Project | 0 |
| (ii) | Dzupharu-Kheru Minor Irrg. Project | 49 |
| | Total Nagaland | 49 |
| 6. | TRIPURA | |
| (i) | Gumti Irrigation Project | 320 |
| | Total for North-Eastern States | 90,802 |

**Exploitation of Minerals**

1220. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a policy decision for allowing Private sector in the exploitation of beach sand minerals;

(b) if so, whether any request has been received from Kerala Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India has notified a Policy on Exploitation of Beach Sand Mineral in the country which *inter alia* allows private sector participation in the exploitation of beach sand minerals, subject to certain conditions. Salient features of the policy are summarised in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) In a letter dated 10 November 1998 addressed to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Industries and Social Welfare, Government of Kerala had inter alia referred to the above mentioned policy resolution and expressed apprehension that the policy resolution, if implemented, can have serious adverse impact and the reasons stated in the resolution were untenable for allowing entry of private sector. The apprehensions expressed in this letter are misplaced because adequate statutory and other safeguards are available to the Central Government to exercise requisite controls even under the new policy, as may be seen from the details in the Annexure.

***Statement***

*Summary note on the policy for exploitation of Beach and Sand Minerals*

1. India has large reserves of beach sand minerals in the coastal stretches around the country. Ilmenite is the largest constituent of the Indian beach sand deposits, others being rutile, leucoxene, zircon, sillimanite, garnet and monazite. The minerals other than garnet and sillimanite have been classified as "prescribed substance" under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

2. Under the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1991, the mining and production of minerals classified as "prescribed substances" is reserved for the public sector. However the Policy Resolution also allows selective entry of the private sector in the industries so reserved. At present, the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a Government of India (Department of Atomic Energy) undertaking and Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd. (KMML), a Government of Kerala undertaking are engaged in mining, production and processing of these minerals from the beach sand deposits at a few locations in Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Considering the growing demand for these minerals and/or their value-added products in the domestic as well as international markets and the potential available in the country, setting up of new plants for exploitation of the deposits in fresh locations would be in the interest of the country. Production of various value-added products of these minerals is, however, highly capital intensive and it may not be possible for only the PSUs (both Central and State owned) operating in this field to set up the new plants on their own. It is, therefore, necessary to allow the private sector to set up such plants within the framework of some broad guidelines.

3. In view of the background explained above, Government of India has recently approved policy to encourage further exploitation of these mineral deposits through a judicious mix of public and private sector participation (including foreign investment).

4 (a) The captivities in this field have been placed in three categories:

(i) Mining and mineral separation.

(ii) Value addition per se to the products of (i).

(iii) Integrated activities ( comprising both (i) and (ii).

(b) Participation of wholly Indian owned companies will be permitted in all the above mentioned categories of activities, with or without joint venture with the Central or State Government(s) concerned or any existing or new Central/State PSUs.

(c) Foreign direct investment, Particularly with more advanced/latest technology *vis-a-vis* what is being used by the domestic entities currently operating in the field, will be permissible in pure value addition projects (category in para 4 (a) (ii), i.e., without mining and mineral separation) as well as integrated projects (category in para 4(a) (iii), i.e., comprising both mining & mineral separation and value addition).

(c)(i) Upto seventy four percent (74%) foreign equity participation will be permissible in both pure value addition and integrated projects, provided the level of value addition is the maximum according to the prevailing international Standards/levels of value addition to the products of mining and mineral separation of beach sand minerals.

(c)(ii) For pure addition projects as well as integrated projects with value addition upto any intermediate stage foreign equity participation would be permitted upto seventy four per cent (74%) through the instrument of joint venture company(ies) with Central/State PSUs such that the independent equity holding or at least one PSU is not less than twenty six per cent (26%) of the total equity.

(c)(iii) In exceptional cases where foreign equity participation above seventy four per cent (74%) is unavoidable, approval will be subject to the clearance of the Atomic Energy Commission.

(d) If Monazite is produced in the process of exploration of beach sand minerals, such monazite shall be disposed of by the entity concerned, at its cost, in accordance with directions/directives of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board or any person/body authorised by the competent authority in accordance with the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act and the Rules and Order thereunder.

(e) The provisions of the Atomic Energy Act and the Rules and Orders thereunder will continue to apply to the exploitation of beach sands minerals are notified as prescribed substances and require licensing under the said provisions. The mining leases under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act will continue to be granted by the State Government(s) concerned.

(f) All cases of foreign direct investment in activities relating to exploitation of beach sand minerals, whether or not such minerals per se are notified as prescribed substances under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, will continue to be processed for approval and regulated in accordance with all other guidelines, norms, stipulations etc., of the Central Government (Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Finance, etc.,) and the Reserve Bank of India, to the extent that these other guidelines, etc., are not inconsistent with the guidelines detailed in this policy.

**Employment Scheme**

1221. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to involve or seek States' participation in framing different employment scheme:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of employment opportunities created in organized sector during the last three years and by the month of October in 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) States are involved in framing employment policies and programmes.

(c) Employment in organised sector as of 31st March in the years 1995,1996 and 1997 is 27.53 million, 27.94 million and 28.25 million respectively. The latest data on organised sector employment, which is released by Director General of Employment and Training, pertains to the year 1997.

*[Translation]*

**Cultural Agreements**

1222. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with whom trade and cultural agreements have been signed during the year 1998-99; and

(b) the details of the exchange programmes likely to be implemented thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b). The following trade and cultural agreements were signed during the year 1998-99:—

**Slovenia**

A protocol at the conclusion of the 3rd Joint Session of the Slovenia-India Joint Committee and the Third meeting of the Slovenia-India Joint Business Council was signed in May, 1998.

**Poland**

Poland Agreed Minutes of the Working Consultations on Trade and Economic matters under the aegis of the Indo-Polish Joint Commission for Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation held in Warsaw on June 22-23, 1998 incorporating the understanding reached between the two sides was signed.

**Iraq**

An Executive Programme for Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation for the period 1998-2001 was signed with Iraq in September, 1998. The Programme envisages exchange of visits, such as historians professors, journalists and educational delegations, exchange of audio-visual aids, scientific publications, exchange of Art and folklore exhibitions, exchange of visits of artists, musicians, theatrical and fashion show groups, etc.

**Seychelles**

A trade agreement was signed with Seychelles in September, 1998.

**Hungary**

An Indo-Hungarian Cultural Exchange Programme for 1999-2000 was signed in Budapest in November, 1998. This periodically renewable programme aims at further strengthening our traditionally close cooperation with Hungary in the field of art, culture, science, education, youth affairs and sports, mass media, and others through exchange of visits of experts, scholars and cultural events between the two countries.

**Russia**

An Indo-Russian Joint document on development of Trade, Economic, Industrial, Financial, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, valid up to 2010, was signed in December 1998. Through this document, both sides have sought a further consolidation of our bilateral trade and economic relations.

An Indo-Russian Cultural Exchange Programme for 1998-99 was also signed in January, 1998. This periodically renewable programme aims at further strengthening our traditionally close and comprehensive cooperation with Russia in the field of culture, art, mass media, sports and youth exchanges, science and education through exchange of cultural troupes, visits of prominent cultural personalities, experts and scholars, exchange of publications, literature and research material, holding of seminars, cultural events, cooperation between higher educational and other institutions and universities, etc.

**Sri Lanka**

A Free Trade Agreement was signed with Sri Lanka in December 1998. Under the agreement, both India and Sri Lanka have agreed to progressively eliminate tariffs on bilateral trade. Tariffs are to be phased out in 3 years by India on imports from Sri Lanka and in 8 years by Sri Lanka on imports from India. The agreement has built-in safeguards to prevent market disruption with respect to sensitive domestic sectors on both sides.

A Memorandum of Understanding to establish the Indo-Sri Lanka Foundation for promoting bilateral exchanges in various fields like science and technology, education, culture, etc. was also signed with Sri Lanka in December, 1998.

**Vietnam**

Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 1998-2000 was signed with Vietnam in December, 1998.

**Lao DPR**

Protocol on Extension of validity of cultural exchange programme for the period 1999-2001 was signed with Loa PDR in January, 1999.

**Austria**

An agreement on Bilateral Economic Relations and Economic, Industrial, Technical and Technological Cooperation was signed with Austria in February, 1999.

**SAARC**

The Third Round of SAPTA Negotiations conducted in Kathmandu on November 23,1998. Tariff concessions on 3456 tariff lines (at a 6 digit level of the HTS) were exchanged among SAARC Member States. More than half of these were extended by India. The Tariff concessions granted by India to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Maldives ranged from 10 to 50%. (Separate bilateral trade treaties exist between India-Nepal and India-Bhutan where we allow imports at zero duty from these countries).

The outcome of the SAPTA-III negotiations has been approved by the SAARC Commerce Ministers who have directed that notifications to bring the decisions into effect should be issued before October 1, 1999. They have also endorsed the agreement reached on the Rules of Origin. All SAARC countries have agreed on a 10% reduction in the Domestic Value Addition norms under both Rules 3(a) and Rule 4 of the SAPTA Rules of Origin.

SAPTA-III

*Concessions Exchanged:*

| | Bangladesh | Bhutan | India | Maldives | Nepal | Pakistan | Sri Lanka | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bangladesh | - | 10 (10-15%) | 260 (10%) | 113 (10%) | 20 (10-15%) | 71 (10%) | 7 (10%) | 481 |
| Bhutan | 34 (100%) | - | - | 26 (18%) | 41 (10-20%) | 16 (10%) | 7 (10%) | 124 |
| India | *1758 (50%) | - | - | 116 (50%) | - | 18 (20%) | 25 (10%) | 1917 |
| Maldives | 368 (5-10%) | 368 (5-10%) | 368 (5-10%) | 368 (5-10%) | 368 (5-10%) | 368 (5-10%) | 368 (5-10%) | 368 (Consd.) |
| Nepal | 39 (10-15%) | 77 (10-15%) | - | 21 (10%) | - | 42 (10%) | 10 (10%) | 189 |
| Pakistan | 231 (30%) | 8 (30%) | 18 (20%) | 15 (30%) | 17 (30%) | - | 6 (20%) | 295 |
| Sri Lanka | 21 (10-50%) | 6 (10-75%) | 25 (10%) | 22 (10%) | 5 (10-75%) | 3 (10%) | - | 82 |

*In addition, India deepened the concessions on 256 tariff lines extended to Bangladesh under SAPTA-I and II as follows:- (i) tariff preference of 25% or below deepened to 50% (ii) Tariff preference above 25% and up to 50% deepened to 60%.

*[English]*

**Talks with Bangladesh**

1223. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several issues were taken up for talks with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh during her recent visit;

(b) if so, the issues discussed with her;

(c) whether the Indian Government took up the issue of illegal immigrants with the Bangladesh Government; and

(d) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS ( SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister of Bangladesh visited India on 27-29 January, 1999. A wide range of bilateral issues was discussed during the visit.

(c) and (d) Government has often conveyed concern about the seriousness and the magnitude of the problem of infiltration and illegal migration to the Government of Bangladesh. Both sides have agreed to adhere to specific procedures for repatriation of illegal immigrants. The Government of Bangladesh has also conveyed the assurance that measures will be taken to strengthen security to the border to prevent illegal border crossing.

**Stronger Economic Ties with SAARC Countries**

1224. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the specific steps taken during the last six months to foster stronger economic ties amongst the SAARC countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

1. Several important steps have been taken during the last six months to increase economic cooperation amongst SAARC countries:

2. The Tenth SAARC Summit at Colombo in July, 1998 decided that a Group of Experts from all the seven SAARC countries will be set up to commence negotiations on a Treaty for a South Asian Free Trade Area which should be concluded by 2001. This treaty is expected to spell out legally binding schedules for freeing trade and provide a predictable and transparent blue-print for achieving a Free Trade Area in South Asia (SAFTA). The Expert Group for negotiating this treaty is being constituted and is expected to hold its first meeting in August this year.

3. Negotiations for deepening and widening trade preferences under the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangements are continuing, in Parallel. The Third round of trade negotiations under SAPTA concluded on 23rd November, 1998. A total of 3456 tariff lines were covered under concessional tariffs ranging from 5 to 50% in this Round. India offered more than half the concessions. A significant feature is that India has extended a minimum tariff concession of 50% for nearly half the basket of tradable products for Bangladesh and Maldives, SAARC LDCs. These concessions are in addition to the Zero tariff on all goods already offered to Bhutan and Nepal under bilateral trade agreements.

4. Several new areas of economic cooperation and regional arrangements, like Intra-regional Investment Promotion and Protection and Avoidance of Double Taxation, are being considered. Harmonization and Simplification of Customs Procedures is the subject of another on-going exercise for which a Standing group on Customs Coordination has been constituted. This Group has held three meetings and drawn up a Customs Action Plan. A Working Group on Standards is expected to meet

5. India has also taken some bold unilateral initiatives to enhance access to its market for SAARC countries. Quantitative Restrictions on over 2000 items have been lifted for SAARC countries with effect from August 1, 1998. The ceiling for Indian investment in SAARC countries under fast track procedures has been increased from $8 million to $15 million.

6. The third SAARC Commerce Ministers Meeting was held in Dhaka from February 2-3, 1999. The Commerce Ministers decided to intensify intra-SAARC consultations for coordination of SAARC positions at the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Meeting in the USA in November, 1999. India has offered to host the first preparatory meeting.

7. The Commerce Ministers also approved the outcome of the Third Round of SAPTA negotiations and called for issue of notifications giving effect to the Round not later than October 1, 1999. They decided that the Fourth Round of SAPTA negotiations should commence by the first half of August, 1999. The First Meeting of the Expert Group to commence drafting the SAFTA Treaty would also be held immediately thereafter.

8. At the bilateral level, a free trade agreement was concluded with Sri Lanka on December 28, 1998. This Agreement provides for phased elimination of tariffs on bilateral trade. India will abolish tariffs on Sri Lankan goods in three years while Sri Lanka will eliminate tariffs on Indian goods in eight years. This Agreement is complementary to the SAARC trade liberalisation process.

9. A revised Transit Treaty with Nepal was signed on January 5, 1999. The renewed Treaty, valid for a period of seven years upto January 5,2006, contains liberalised procedures for the transit of Nepalese goods. Nepal's request for "automatic renewal" of the Treaty for further seven years period was accepted. However, the Protocol and Memorandum to the Treaty, containing modalities and other arrangements, would be subject to review and modification every seven years or earlier, if warranted. The working of the Phulbari transit route has also been further streamlined.

10. Indo-Bangladesh Trade Review talks were held in Dhaka from 8-9 December, 1998. The talks covered a number of issues including cooperation in infrastructure development including rail, road and inland water transport.

11. Bilateral discussions on trade and economic cooperation, including the possibility of purchasing power, have also been held with Pakistan as part of the composite dialogue process.

**Agricultural Science Centre**

1225. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has received proposal from the Ministry of Agriculture regarding closing of some Agricultural Science Centres in the country;

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

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

(d) The reasons advanced by Ministry of Agriculture for closing these Centres; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation so that these Centres continue to function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Public Sector Projects**

1226. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive status report on public sector projects has been prepared by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Production of Mushroom**

1227. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally sponsored scheme undertaken for promotion of mushroom production in the country;

(b) whether the target to boost mushroom production in the country has been fixed for the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Government of India have initiated various measures to increase the production of mushroom in the country. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation provides financial assistance under central sector scheme of mushroom production to the State Governments for the following components:

(1) Establishment of Spawn Production Units (Rs. 11.50 lakhs unit).

(2) Establishment of Pasteurised Compost Units (Rs. 28.50 lakhs unit)

(3) Training of farmers (Rs. 500/- per farmer)

National Horticulture Board under Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) also provides Soft Loan assistance to the extent of Rs. one crore to private/public and cooperatives for post harvest management of fruits and vegetables including mushroom. National Centre for Mushroom Research and Training (NCMRT) is a premier research institute of ICAR engaged in research for evolving different strains of mushroom and strains of Mushroom and perfeeting production techniques for commercial purposes. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries also provide financial assistance for setting up of integrated projects of mushroom under its plan scheme of development of infrastructural facilities. APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce is engaged in creating necessary infrastructure for export of perishable horticulture produce including mushroom, in collaboration with Airports Authority of India and other Government agencies.

(b) and (c) No target has been fixed for mushroom production for the IX Plan period. However, the Central sector scheme of mushroom production has been continued as per VIII Plan guidelines, for the first two years of IX Plan. According to NCMRT estimates, the production of mushroom is likely to cross one lakh tonnes by the end of IX Plan

**Task force on Information Technology**

1228. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a task force on Information technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether task force has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the task force; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) the Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development was set up on 22.05.1998 comprising members from Government, public sector, private sector, industry associations and professionals. Its major objectives are to suggest measures and policies to enable India emerge as an information technology superpower within the next ten years.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Task Force has submitted two reports *viz.* (i) Information Technology Action Plan on 4.7.98, and (ii) Information Technology Action Plan, Part II Development, Manufacture and Export of Information Technology Hardware on 26.10.98.

(d) In the case of first report, the task Force has made 108 recommendations aiming to accomplish (i) Infrastructure Drive, (ii) Target of IT Exports of $ 50 billion, and (iii) IT for all by 2008.

The recommendations of the second report mainly relate to Soft-Bonded IT Unit. Fiscal and Financial Policies, Procedural Simplifications, Export, Investment and RBI related issues, Banking Issues, Company Law Issues, Labour Laws, Information Technology Units in DTA Information Technology Product Design and Development etc.

(e) Government has already accepted the first report and has issued the Gazette Notification No. IT-TF/5/98 dated 25.7.1998.

The second report is under consideration.

**Godawari Action Plan**

1229. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has prepared a comprehensive action plan for the utilisation of Godawari water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has consulted some experts and eminent persons on the subject; and

(d) if so, the time by which the action plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No such proposal for the utilisation of Godawari Water has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Special Package for North-East States**

1230. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have announced any special package for the development of North-East particularly the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total funds allocated for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the details of schemes that have been implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) (a) and (b) The then Prime Minister made a statement at Guwahati on 27th October, 1996 announcing New Initiatives for the North Eastern Region. The details are given in attached Statement-I. Some additional features

to the package for the North Eastern Region were announced by the then Prime Minister in May, 1997. A copy of this announcement is given in attached Statement-II.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement I***

*Statement by the Prime Minister on October 27, 1996 at Guwahati announcing New Initiatives for the North Eastern Region*

My first visit to the seven States of the North East has come to an end. To me, this has been a very moving experience. The warmth of the people here will bring me back. I came to the area to know the people, their aspirations, their problems, how they feel and what they think. I came with an open mind. I am going back with pleasant memories and with a firm resolve to work with the people to mark a new beginning in the development of this region. Wherever I went, the people from different sections of the society came and met me in large numbers. They were friendly and frank in expressing their views, their desires, their apprehensions and their hopes. The warmth which they extended throughout my visit has really overwhelmed me.

2. I am fully convinced that the problems can be resolved if all of us work together and look ahead jointly towards a better future. I am thankful to the people for showing so much love and affection for me during the visit.

3. I have also met at each Capital, a cross-section, of people, like leaders of political parties, chiefs of Autonomous District Councils, representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations, students unions, women's associations, church leaders, and the press, in addition to Ministers, State Government officials and officials of Security Forces, to get first hand account of the condition in these States.

4. The North eastern region is endowed with abundant natural resources. In fact, Assam was in the forefront of the economic development of the country 100-150 years ago. It was a pioneering State and enterprising entrepreneurs invested in the development of tea plantations, oil, mining, forestry, Railways and inland waterways. However, in the recent years investors have shunned these areas, because some of these States turned inward-looking, while others have been afflicted by militancy and terrorism. This has set in a vicious circle of terrorism, discouraging investments and economic development, leading to growing unemployment, which in turn provided recruits to militancy. Today, there are no major industries or other economic activities which can absorb the educated unemployed. The only venue for employment in almost all these States is Government service. However, Government service cannot absorb too many people. Also, too many people in Government service only breed inefficiency. The only way out of unemployment or militancy is massive all round economic development, leading to prosperity.

5. One of the important factors impinging on the identity of the people of the north eastern States is the question of foreigners. I have reviewed this issue in some details during my discussions with All Assam Student's Union and also several others. It was represented that the laws existing for the detection of foreigners such as IMDT (Act),1983 as amended have not proved to be effective. We would take steps to repeal the ineffective laws, and strengthen the legal and administrative measures for dealing with foreigners in consultation with the States. Further, the policing of the border including fencing at appropriate places would be strengthened.

6. The other important factors which led to militancy, and is leading to unrest in some of the States is the feeling of loss of identity by various ethnic groups, and the feeling that the Centre has been giving step-motherly treatment to this region. These feelings may or may not be entirely justified. But the feeling is certainly there. It would be our endeavour to remove this feeling and to see that the basic infrastructure in this region is developed for reach the standards in the rest of the country, in a specific time-frame. I believe that India as a whole cannot progress unless every State, including the seven states of the N.E. Region keep in step with the rest of the country.

7. For too long senseless violence has prevailed in some of the States of North East. For too long certain misguided elements have been killing their brothers and fellow citizens, and resorting to extortion, kidnapping etc. Violence cannot achieve any political objective. I would like to appeal to all those who have taken to the gun, to see the path of reason. I believe that all problems can be resolved by mutual discussions. I am giving an open invitation to any group of individuals, including militants and without any pre-condition to meet me to discuss their legitimate grievances. I genuinely wish to understand their points of view and what exactly is troubling them. At the same time, I would like to clearly state that violence would not be tolerated, and would be put down with a firm hand. We also want friendly relations with all our neighbours, and we would expect them not to encourage or allow cross-border terrorism, or support militant groups from India.

8. Tackling unemployment would require productive investments, in the area. With this view, as a first step, my government would take the following measures:

*(a) Commission to determine gaps in infrastructure and backlog in basic minimum services*

A High-Level Commission will be appointed within 30 days to critically examine the gaps in important sectors, specially in power, communication, railways, roads, education, agriculture etc. The Commission will also critically examine the backlog in the Basic Minimum services in the seven N.E. states. The Commission, after assessing these requirements, will suggest policies, programmes and fund requirements to bridge the gaps in the infrastructural sectors and the backlog in Basic Minimum Services in the seven NE States. The Commission will submit its report within three months, and the Planning Commission will take the recommendations of the Commission into consideration and formulate specific programmes and funding arrangements for the development of the NE states in the Ninth Five Year Plan. additional adequate funds will be provided on an annual basis over and above the annul Plan location in the Ninth Five Year Plan to achieve objectives.

*(b) Priority for Creation of Employment opportunities for the Educated Unemployed*

A High-Level Expert Committee will be appointed within one month to examine all aspects of the problem pertaining to the educated unemployed in the NE region and urgently suggest specific steps to promote employment among the educated unemployed in the NE States. Relevant infrastructure extensive training and schemes for productive employment generation, specific for each of the NE States, will be established in each NE State. The High-Level Committee will submit its report within three months and recommend a blue-print for time-bond implementation. The recommendation will be implemented by the State Government and the relevant National Level Institution/Central Ministries straight way. We will also give high priority for employment generation in the NE in the Ninth Plan.

Experts from the North Eastern region would be associated with both these Committees on infrastructure and employment.

*(c) North-East Sub-plan in all Central Ministries/ Departments.*

All Central Ministries/Departments will earmark at least 10% of their budget for specific programmes in the NE Stats. They will also ensure that the programmes are speedily implemented.

*(d) Visits and Intensive Monitoring by Central Ministers/ Secretaries.*

Ministers and Secretaries-in-charge of the Central Ministries/Departments, specially those in charge of the Social Sectors, Petroleum, Surface Transport, Railways, Civil Aviation, Tourism, Water Resources etc. would tour all NE States, at least once in a quarter and pursue the implementation of their plans and programmes.

*(e) Full funding of the Ongoing Projects*

A number of important projects in the NE region concerning Highways, Railways, Power, etc. are not progressing satisfactorily for want of adequate funds. Full funding will be assured for all on-going Central Projects, including Numaligarh refinery. The Home Ministry, the Planning Commission and the Cabinet Secretariat will regularly monitor these projects on a quarterly basis to ensure that these are completed as per schedule.

*(f) Comprehensive Water Management and Flood Control measures*

Control of floods and water management are extremely important to the economy of this region. I have recently appointed a High-Level Commission for suggesting urgent measures for comprehensive water management in our country. This Commission would examine and make recommendations on flood control and comprehensive water management aspects in North-East also. The Brahmaputra Board will be immediately activated to prepare a list of projects relevant for flood control, power generation and water management. Dredging operations will be launched to make inland waterways more efficient in the discharge of water and for transport. All Brahmaputra flood control project works henceforth will receive 100% grant from the Centre.

*(g) Full coverage through employment assurance scheme*

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) will be extended to all Blocks in the N E States by 31.3.1997

*(h) Extension of border roads/BADP Programme*

The Border Area Development Programme as well as Border Roads Programme will be extended to some areas in the Indo-Myanmar border also, as representec by some States.

*(i) Full Coverage of North East through Tele communication and Electronic Media*

Telecommunication/TV/AIR coverage will be accelerated so as to cover 100% of the population from Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh by the end of the Ninth Plan. At least Rs.50 crores will be separately earmarked for this purpose.

*(j) Improved credit flow to the North east.*

A special cell will be set up in the Reserve Bank of India under a Deputy Governor to ensure that more credit is made available to industry, agriculture and for self-employment schemes.

*(k) New Industrial Policy*

A new industrial policy, specific to the North Eastern Region and its requirements will be considered and announced by 31.3.1997 to promote private investment, both domestic and foreign.

*(l) Decentralisation*

In this region, there is a need for greater decentraliasation at the District and Sub-district levels so that people are involved in decision making process. The Government of India will actively promote such decetralisation.

*(m) Development of Tourism*

An Integrated Tourism Development Plan for the entire North East as a whole is under formulation. This will develop some tourist circuits covering several States.

*(n) Strengthening of Central Agencies*

The presence in the N.E. region of certain Central agencies concerned with the promotion of agriculture, trade and industry—like NABARD, various commodity boards etc. will be strengthened.

*(o) Export Policy*

Commerce Ministry will work out an export policy including border trade for NE region aimed at promoting trade with South East Asia.

*(p) Measures for Control of Narcotics and AIDs*

Centre would take immediate measures to strengthen the institutional arrangements and programmes in some of the North Eastern States for control of AIDS, narco-trafficking, and drug addiction and provide adequate funding for all these purposes.

*(q) Improvement in Railway Services*

The performance, punctuality and service by Railways in the region will be improved. On-going Railway projects, such as new lines, gauge conversion etc. will be completed soon with adequate funding. The new Railway lines proposed by the States without rail-head or very limited access would be included on priority.

9. I intend to visit North Eastern region at least two times in a year to satisfy myself that the plans and programmes for development in these states are implemented properly.

10. Finally as already stated by me, the Prime Minister's Office will ensure that all these commitments and the Package of programmes and schemes being launched forthwith are implemented according to the time schedules announced and regular monitoring is done of progress in implementation.

11. There are, of course, several other items raised during my visit. On returning to Delhi, I shall hold consultations with the Planning Commission and other Central Ministers and take decisions on these issues also within the next one month. The Chief Ministers will be further consulted on these issues, before final decisions are taken.

12. In the above endeavour, I solicit the whole-hearted cooperation of all the Chief Ministers, political parties, students unions, media and the people at large in these States. We should all work together to launch a drive for peace and harmony, in the troubled states. It is necessary to create a suitable atmosphere of confidence and optimism for this. Abiding peace must replace the current conflict, harmony must replace hatred, mutual trust must replace suspicion. We are all sons and daughters of the same country. We are all one family. Our future and prosperity are common to all of us. We must share our concerns and prosperity. I would also request the State Governments to improve the performance of their bureaucracy, take steps to eliminate corruption and to fine tune the Government machinery for better delivery of services. I am sure I will have the full cooperation of all people of the North East, judging from the tremendous enthusiasm and response people gave me during my visit.

13. The State Governments, proposed during discussions with me, various projects which will need to be taken up for implementation. We have examined all the proposals. A list of important projects, state-wise which Government have decided to take up is attached.

**Mizoram**

1. Sanction for Tuirial Hydro Electric Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 425 crores will be accorded this year.

2. Sanction for one State Referral Hospital with selected specialities and 200 beds at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 crores; land to be provided free-of-cost by State Government. The State Government and Central Government will jointly prepare the project report by 31st December, 1996 for sanction before 31.3.1997.

3. Sanction for Phase-II of the Aizawl Urban Drinking Water Supply Scheme including sewage at an estimated cost of Rs. 130 crores. Centre will provide 75% of the funds and the balance 25% by the State Government. The work to be completed within three years.

4. Border Roads/ BADP with outlay of Rs. 30 crores will be sanctioned for implementation for 1997-98 onwards.

5. One Industrial Growth Centre with Central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores will be sanctioned this year.

**Tripura**

1. Kumarghat-Agartala Railway Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 525 crores. Adequate funds will be provided in each year of 9th Five Year Plan to complete the same within 5 years.

2. Two India Reserve Battalions will be sanctioned before 31.3.1997 (estimated cost Rs. 10 crores).

3. Rs.34 crores will be provided for upgradation of facilities at Agartala Airport.

4. One LPG Bottling Plant will be estimated (Rs. 15 crores).

5. One Industrial Growth Centre with Central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores.

6.Upgradation of State Highway from Agartala to Sabroon at an estimated cost of Rs. 60 crores in the 9th Five Year Plan.

**Manipur**

1. Upgradation/widening of NH-53 by Border Roads Organisation at estimated cost of Rs. 130 crores will be sanctioned beore 31.3.1997 and work commenced in 1997-98.

2. Rs.17.10 crores will be sanctioned for the infrastructural facilities for National Games 1997 in Imphal.

3. An Industrial Growth Centre with Central subsidy of Rs.10 crores will be sanctioned this year.

4. An LPG Bottling Plant for Manipur will be sanctioned-(Rs. 15 crores).

5. Phase-II of project for upgradation of RIMS, Imphal at an estimated cost of Rs. 90 crores will be sanctioned by 31.3.1997.

6. Loktak Down Stream HEP will be sanctioned this year at an estimated cost of Rs.426 crores.

7. Construction of border road linking Maram (NH-39) to Phaibung(59 Kms.) at estimated cost of Rs. 15 crores will be sanctioned this year.

**Arunachal Pradesh**

1. Sanction for water suply schemes for Itanagar and Naharlagun (estimated cost of Rs. 36 crores) would be sanctioned, as soon as the project report is received from the State Government.

2. An institute for Bio-diversity studies will be set up in Arunachal Pradesh (estimated cost Rs. 10 crores).

3. Construction of new airport at Itanagar to be taken up during 9th Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crores. Land to be provided free of cost by the State Government.

4. The GOI will actively promote investment in Arunachal Pradesh, especially in there fields of Hydel power generation, tourism and agro-processing.

5. Improvements to Leelabari Airport including extension of runway etc. at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.50 crores will be sanctioned before 31.3.1997.

6. The proposal for extending NH-52A from Itanagar to Gohpur would be considered and sanctioned in the 9th Five Year Plan.

7. Two India Reserve Battalions would be sanctioned to Arunachal Pradesh by 31.3.1997 (estimated cost Rs. 10 crores).

8. The Central Government will provide 75% grant for construction of new Assembly Hall at Itanagar for which Foundation Stone was laid 10 years back by Late Rajiv Gandhi.

**Nagaland**

1. Additional funds required for the completion of Doyang HEP (Rs. 127.80 crores over two years) will be provided.

2. Helicopter services would be provided between Guwahati to Dimapur & Kohima with 75% Central Subsidy (Rs. 15 crores/annum).

3. Four laning of 17 km of NH 39 will be sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 38 crores.

4. Development of Dimapur Airport (extension of runway and installation of ILS) (Rs.15 crores).

5. Rs. 10 crores for additional infrastructure for University of Nagaland.

6. Upgradation of District Hospital for referral facilities at Kohima (Rs. 25 crores).

7. Setting up Industrial Growth Centre with Central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores.

8. Gauge conversion works of Dibrugarh to Dimapur section would be sanctioned.

9. Additional allotment of Rs. 10 crores for housing to Village Development Boards under IAY.

10. Rajdhani Express to Delhi from Dimapur *via* Guwahati will be introduced.

11. Indian Airlines will operate from Dimapur to Delhi *via* Guwahati thrice a week.

**Assam**

1. Additional funds of Rs. 55 crores would be provided in 1996-97 to complete Rail-cum Road Bridge at Jogighopa. Rs. 120 crores for 1997-98 to fully complete the project.

2. Proposal for Road-cum-Rail Bridge at Bogibheel. Rs.1000 crores will be sanctioned this year and the work commenced next year and completed within the 9th Five Year Plan.

3. Upgrading Guwahati airport as hub centre for the NE and develop it as an international airport (Rs.128 crores).

4. Three Industrial Growth Centres will b e set up with Central Subsidy of Rs. 10 crore each (Total 30 crores).

5. Centre would take up flood control works on Brahamputra as Central Sector Project and provide Rs.500 crores in 9th Five Year Plan as Central Grant.

6. An LPG Bottling Plant will be set up at a cost of Rs. 24 crores.

7. GOI would finalise the 'on account' royalty rates for the three years period 1996-1999 by the end of November, 1996 and payments at these rates would be made to Government of Assam by 31.3.1996, including the arrears from 1.4.1996.

8. Upgradation of Guwahati Medical College will be considered.

**Meghalaya**

1. Indira Gandhi Health Institute for which foundation was laid in 1986 would be taken up for full completion in a time bound manner.

2. Shillong Bypass Road would be provided Rs. 50 crores and the implementation expenditure in 9th Plan.

3. Railhead within Meghalaya at Burnihat from Guwahati would be provided and work on this would commence as soon as the required land is made available by the State Government.

4. The Umroi Airport would be extended and upgraded during the 9th Plan period and work would commence as soon as land is made available.

5. New Satellite Township near Shillong would be established during the Ninth Plan Period by obtaining funds from external financial sources.

6. A Regional Biological Products Unit will be established in Meghalaya as recommended by State Government at a total cost of about Rs. 3.5 crores.

7. Sanction for widening of NH-51 near Tura will be accorded.

8. An Industrial Growth Centre with Central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores would be sanctioned.

9. An Institute of Hotel Management at Shillong would be set up.

10. Construction of Dowki Bridge connecting Meghalaya and Bangladesh would be taken up urgently with assistance from Government of India.

***Statement II***

*Announcement made by the then Prime Minister during his visit to the North Eastern Region in May, 1997*

1. Schemes/Programmes covered in the "New Initiatives for North Eastern Region" announced by the then Prime Minister during his visit to North Eastern Region in October, 1996 would be fully implemented.

2. Security related expenditure incurred by the Assam Government in containing insurgency would be borne by the Government of India. Government of Assam is to send a detailed proposal to Ministry of Home Affairs.

3. Central Government would provide necessary funds for Bodo Autonomous Council (BAC) and further release of fund should be made to the State Government. The State Government would, in turn release the funds immediately to BAC.

4. Ministry of Home Affairs should check up the latest position of vacant posts in scientific bodies etc., in the North Eastern Region and review the position.

5. For restructuring of NEC, Prime Minister desired to have a meeting with Home Minister and Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission and seven Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States.

6. Prime Minister desired that Government of India would consider the proposal for security related expenditure of Government of Manipur on the same lines as that of Assam and Tripura.

7. As regards the patrolling of National Highways, Prime Minister informed that a special scheme was being prepared separately to control the highways in the North East region. The proposal of Government of Manipur would be accommodated in that.

8. The number of flights between Agartala and Calcutta have been reduced. Prime Minister desired that a meeting on this issue should be taken with Civil aviation Minister. Subsequently, the State Government of Manipur and the representatives of Assam Chamber of Commerce also raised similar issues. Ministry of Home Affairs is to organise a meeting with Ministry of Civil Aviation to restore the flights.

9. For proper exploitation of gas, a meeting is to be organised between Government of Tripura and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas by Ministry of Home Affairs.

10. At present, Tripura is second to Kerala in producing rubber. As the rubber is not included in the forest species, rubber plantation in degraded forests is not allowed. Action is to be initiated so that rubber is included as a forest species.

11. Representations were given to the Prime Minister for increasing age limit for PMRY(at present it is 35 years). Prime Minister desired that this issue should be examined immediately.

12. Referring to the request of Chief Minister, Manipur for adequate allocation of rice, Prime Minister informed him that Union Food Minister had been requested to take a meeting with Chief Ministers of North Eastern region. Ministry of Food has been asked not to reduce the allocation of rice/wheat. The allocation for below poverty level would be as per the figures given by the Ministry of Food, the balance quantity of foodgrains would be given to States for people above the poverty level at normal place.

13. Prime Minister declared that 130 kms stretch of road connecting the NH namely DAMRA-SIJUTHU-BAGHMARA would be declared as National Highway and Ministry of Surface Transport should take action.

14. The Vice-Chancellor, NEHU informed that in 1996-97 the grant of NEHU by UGC was reduced due to general budget cut. Prime Minister desired that Ministry of Human Resource Development should issue instructions to UGC on this so that the general cut should not apply to North Eastern region.

15. The need for establishment of an Institute of Mass Communication under NEHU similar to Jamia Milia to be considered.

**Prime Minister's Visit to Namibia**

1231. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the Prime Minister's visit to Namibia five agreements between the two countries were signed;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Prime Minister's visit to Namibia in August 1998, the following five agreements were signed/ exchanged:

(i) Agreement on Technical Cooperation.

(ii) Agreement for setting up of the Plastic Technology Demonstration and Common Facility Centre in Namibia.

(iii) Memorandum of Agreement for Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research.

(iv) Protocol for Foreign Office Consultations between the Ministries of External Affairs of the two countries, and

(v) Agreement on Mutual Professional Cooperation between the Press Trust of India and the Namibia Press Agency.

(c) Concrete follow up steps have been taken by both the Governments for speedier and coordinated implementation of these agreements.

**Construction Industry Development Council**

1232. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Construction Industrial Development Council has prepared a White Paper on Construction Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this paper has revealed the issues confronting this industry;

(d) if so, the ways and means suggested for cost reduction and durability, etc. in construction field; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Refund of Subsidy on Fisheries**

1233. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from various State Governments particularly from Goa for refund of a portion of the subsidy granted by the State Government to fish farmers for construction of hatcheries and fish seed rearing farms, treating fish seed production as a Centrally sponsored scheme for the purpose of financial assistance and for development of infrastructure for inland fish marketing and proposed construction of fishery harbours and landing centres; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir. The Union Government have received no proposals from various State Governments particularly from Goa for refund of a portion of the subsidy granted by the State Government to fish farmers for construction of hatcheries and fish seed rearing farms treating fish seed production as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the purpose of financial assistance and for development of infrastructure for inland fish marketing and proposed construction of fishery harbours and landing centres.

(b) The Question does not arise.

**Kolab Irrigation Project**

1234. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages, families and the details of other infrastructures affected in Orissa due to construction of Kolab multipurpose irrigation project;

(b) the measures taken by the Union Government for the rehabilitation of oustees of the project; and

(c) the funds provided by the Government for the rehabilitation and compensation paid to the affected families of the project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The construction of Upper Kolab Multipurpose Irrigation Project has affected nearly 3180 families of about

60 villages and 12086 hectares of land in orissa due to submergence.

(b) and (c) The work of Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) of oustees of the project has already been completed by the State Government. Out of 3180 number of families affected, 526 families have been shifted to 4 Rehabilitation Camps development as per R&R policy of Government of Orissa. The remaining families were paid cash compensation at the rate of Rs. 14,040 per family as they opted for self-rehabilitation.

**Indians in Pak Jails**

1235. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian minors in various jails of Pakistan, who are reported to be in custody alongwith their parents; and

(b) the steps taken by the Indian Government to secure the release of these minors?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) According to information available with Government, three Indian minor children alongwith their father, an Indian national, are amongst civilian detainees presently under detention in Pakistan.

Following a news report carried by a Pakistan daily in May, 1996 regarding these detentions, the matter was immediately taken up with Government of Pakistan and the issue of their release and repatriation was pursued. Government of Pakistan now conveyed its decision to release the three minor children and their father, and steps are being taken to repatriate them to India on an urgent basis.

*[Translation]*

**Posting of Ambassadors**

1236. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of High Commissioners/Ambassadors working at the same place for more than five years;

(b) whether the Government have taken any decision for their transfers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Shri Kushak Bakula, Ambassador of India to Mongolia has been working at Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) with effect from 1.1.1990.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

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**13.31 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at thirty one minutes past thirteen of the clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we may be listened to...*(Interruptions)*:

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, I shall listen to you also, Laluji also and all of you, first let me take the papers.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like that we should be listened to first... *(Interruption)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, murders are taking place in Bihar during President's rule and Bihar is being castigated....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Samata is ruling there not B.J.P....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, murders have been committed three times in Bihar during President's rule. Three massacres have taken place.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first listen to us...*(Interruption)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: People are being killed and we are sitting here quietly. Three massacres have taken place during the President's rule..... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the way how you should conduct.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Bring it on the agenda. That House is not in session....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have told you that let me lay the papers. Then I will listen to you.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please do justice with us...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, you are a senior leader. Do us a favour. First let me lay the papers.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Till we would not be listened to, we would not allow you to lay the papers ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, people of all castes are being killed there. Whosoever is found wherever is being murdered. People of all castes are being killed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia, nothing is going on record. Why are shouting? It is not going to be recorded. I am telling you that you will have to hear me.

*..(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I may have to name you. Do not compel me to name you. Please go back to your seats. I will not tolerate this.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

*....(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have told you that I shall listen to you but first you permit me to finish the item to lay the papers on the Table of the House.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, you are a senior leader. Why do you behave like this?

*...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: If we are senior, then whether we will be murdered.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You first allow me to lay the papers in the House.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I first want to lay the papers. Thereafter, I shall listen to you.

*...(Interruptions)*

**13.36 hrs.**

*(At this stage Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav and some other Hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You go to your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall listen to you but first you go to your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have told you that I shall listen to you. Making noise like this will serve no purpose.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You go to your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the proper way.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You ask them to go to their seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have told you that I shall listen to you but you are not ready to hear anything.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have told to your leader that I shall listen to you.

*...(Interruption)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot do like this. You will have to go to your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not do it. I will name you.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not do that. No shouting here. No slogans here please.

*...(Interruptions)*

**13.39 hrs.**

## OBSERVATION RE: SENDING OF MESSAGE TO THE OTHER HOUSE ABOUT ADOPTION OF STATUTORY RESOLUTION

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, Shri Chandra Shekhar has raised a point as to whether a message has been transmitted to the other House about the adoption of the Statutory Resolution regarding approval of the proclamation issued by the President on 12 February, 1999 under Article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Bihar

I may inform the House that there is no stipulation in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha for sending any message to the other House on adoption of Statutory Resolutions. The only requirement under the Rules is that an intimation is to be sent to the concerned Minister on adoption of the Resolution. The Statutory Resolution in relation to the State of Bihar was passed by the House in the night of 26 February, 1999 and the requisite intimation was sent to the concerned Ministry on 27 February, 1999.

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*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your place.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

**13.41 Hrs.**

## PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

**A copy of the Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—2456/99].

Notification under Sub-section (4) of Section 12 of the Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 51(E) in the Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 1999, under sub-section (4) of section 12 of the Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976.

(2) A copy of the Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 52(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 1999, under sub-section (4) of section 16 of the Limestone and Dolomite Mines Welfare Fund Act, 1972.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—2457/99].

**Notification under Sub-section (2) of Section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Officers of Parliament (Advances for Motor-Car) Amendment Rules, 1999 (Hindi and

English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 132(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1999, under sub-section (2) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953.

(2) A copy of the Leaders of Opposition in Parliament (Advance for Motor-Car) Amendment Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 133(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1999, under sub-section (3) of section 10 of the Salaries and Allowances of Leader of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—245899].

**Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the National Centre of Films for Children and Young People, Mumbai**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): On behalf of Shri Pramod Mahajan, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre of Films for Children and Young People, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre of Flims for Children and Young People, Mumbai, for year 1997-98.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delav in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—2459/99].

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**13.42 hrs.**

*...(Interruptions)*

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

**Second Action-taken Report**

*[English]*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations and observations contained in the Sixth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants ( 1997-98)' of the Ministry of Railways.

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**13.42$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.**

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

**Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth Reports**

*[English]*

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism:—

(1) Thirty-fifth Report on functioning of Air India.

(2) Thirty-xixth Report on Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

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**13.42$^{3}/_{4}$ hrs.**

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

**Evidence**

*[English]*

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism on the Major Port Trusts ( Amendment) Bill, 1998.

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**13.43 hrs.**

## CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Killing of Hindus by Extremists in Jammu Region**

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up item no. 11—Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy

*...(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of killing of 22 Hindus by extremists in Jammu Region and the action taken by the Government in regard thereto"...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I have called Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy. Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take strict measures against you. If you do not go to your place, I will take strict measures against you all.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I request Dr. Bikram Sarkar to lay the Report.

...*(Interruptions)*

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**13.44 Hrs.**

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

### Twelfth Report

*[English]*

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Howrah): I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill, 1998.

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...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you not cooperate, Lalu Prasad ji?

*[English]*

Shri Lalu Prasad please ask your Members to go to their places.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You ask him. I shall listen to you, you ask him to go to his seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

**13.45 hrs.**

## GOA BUDGET

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Goa for the year 1999-2000...*(Interruptions)*

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—2460/99]

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**13.45½ hrs.**

## DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—GOA

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to present statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Goa for 1998-99.

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*[Translation]*

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): In our State also, a bullet was fired,

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up 'Zero Hour'.

Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: In West Bengal, police is raping the women...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

Sir, I have given a notice regarding the police firing incident in Khanakul in Hooghly District in West Bengal. One girl was molested by the police. *(Interruptions)* After the incident, they demanded justice, but police started firing. The personnel belonging to R.A.F. started firing and brutal torturing took place.*(Interruptions)* A lot of people have been killed. We do not know the exact position because 10,000 ladies have been sitting with the dead bodies since yesterday and the bodies are yet to be removed. They belong to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe communities. ...*(Interruptions)*.

So, I humbly request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to make a statement in the House and let us know about the action taken in this regard. He should immediately inform the House about it because the law and order situation is deteriorating. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your place.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They do not want to run the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your place, then I will call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take severe action against all of you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House Stands adjourned to meet again at 3.30 p.m.

**13.50 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock*

---

**15.30 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at Thirty Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock*

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are welcome but we would like to tell you that the Constitution is being violated grossly. You know that during President's Rule in Bihar, people are being killed on large scale, murders are taking place..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request you that this time is allotted for non-official business. Therefore let it continue.

MR. LALU PRASAD: You are Chairman Sir, you listen to us. What does the Constitution of India speak..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request you that this time is allotted for non-official business. Therefore, let it continue. Whatever you want to say, you can say afterwards...

...*(Interruptions)*

**15.31 hrs.**

*At this stage Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table*

*[English]*

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakashi): We have to introduce the Private Members Bills.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This time is allotted for non-official business. Let it continue. You can raise it afterwards.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: People are running away from there..*(Interruptions)*

**15.32 hrs.**

## MOTION RE: FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

*[English]*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 24th February, 1999".

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 24th February, 1999"

*The motion was adopted*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will see after the Bills are introduced.

*...(Interruptions)*

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**15.33 hrs.**

## RAGPICKING AND OTHER VAGABOND STREET CHILDREN (REHABILITATION AND WELFARE) BILL*

*[English]*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare measures to be undertaken by the Union and State Governments for the ragpicking and vagabond street children who subsist on collecting and selling waste material from garbage dumps and other places endangering their health and lives and for their rehabilitation through education, training, vocational education and guidance and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare measures to be undertaken by the Union and State Governments for the ragpicking and vagabond street children who subsist on collecting and selling waste material from garbage dumps and other places endangering their health and lives and for their rehabilitation through education, training, vocational education and guidance and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I introduce the Bill.

---

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am requesting you to please go back to your seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

**15.33$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.**

## NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE BOARD BILL*

*[English]*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of Welfare Board at the national and State levels for welfare of children and for matters connecting therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of Welfare Board at the national and State levels for the Welfare of Children and for matters connected therewith"

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I introduce the Bill.

---

**15.34 hrs.**

## YOUTH WELFARE BILL*

*[English]*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive policy for the development of the youth in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive policy for the development of the youth in the country."

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I introduce the Bill.

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*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 4.3.99.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go back to your seats. I am requesting you again.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Bill be introduced.

*...(Interruptions)*

**15.35 hrs.**

## CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
**(Insertion of new articles 75A and 164A)**

*[English]*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India"

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I introduce the Bill.

---

**15.35$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.**

## CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
**(Insertion of new article 9A)**

*[English]*

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India"

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI VAIKO: I introduce the Bill

---

**15.36 hrs.**

## CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
**(Amendment of article 179)**

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH (Bellary): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India"

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: I Introduce the Bill.

---

**15.36$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.**

## CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL*
**(Amendment of the Schedule)**

*[English]*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Bill,1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1958".

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: I introduce the Bill.

---

**15.37 Hrs.**

## REQUISITIONING AND ACQUISITION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (AMENDMENT) BILL*
**(Amendment of section 8, etc.)**

*[English]*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, 1952.

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*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 4.3.99.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, 1952."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: I introduce the Bill.

---

**15.37½ hrs.**

## LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

**(Insertion of new section 54-A)**

*[English]*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

'That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I introduce the Bill.

---

15.38 hrs.

## FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT TRIBUNAL BILL*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of Tribunals for enforcement of fundamental right and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of Tribunals for enforcement of Fundamental rights and for matters connected therewith"

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: I introduce the Bill.

---

**15.38½ hrs.**

## CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

**(Omission of article 44, etc.)**

*[Translation]*

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India"

Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

*..(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

*[Translation]*

You please go to your seats. Two or three bills are left, let these bills be introduced.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go to your seats. Please take your seats.

*[Translation]*

You go to your seats. Three or four bill are left. Let these be introduced.

*[English]*

This is your time.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Shri Banatwalla.

*.. (Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill is a directed towards annulment of religious laws...*(Interruptions)* .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us hear Shri Banatwalla...

*...(Interruptions)*

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*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 4.3.99.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: It is totally unacceptable ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Banatwalla is speaking.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: It kills the secular democracy and leads to fascism. I therefore, oppose the motion for introduction of this Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow Shri Banatwalla to speak....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 5th March, 1999 at 11 AM.

**15.43 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned tili Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 5, 1999/Phalguna 14, 1920 (Saka)*

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*Not recorded

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Thursday, March 4,1999/Phalguna 13, 1920 (Saka)

....

| Col./line | For | Read |
|---|---|---|
| (i)/20 | ATTENTION | IMPORTANCE |
| 51/10 | MINISTARY | MINISTER OF |
| 54/9 (from below) | MINISTRY | MINISTER |
| 71 & 72/2(from below) | 13885 | 1386 |
| 161 & 162/12 | 1.4 | 0.4 |
| 285/1 | Facalities | Facilities |
| 344/7 | 73.20 | 73.40 |
| 445 & 446/6 (from below) | 77,18,877 | 77,18,700 |
| 470/9 (from below) | SHRI SHANKAR PANNU | ER. SHANKAR PANNU |
| 473/13 | 2850.00 | 280.00 |
| 653/5 (from below) | SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH | SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH |
| 671/7 | SHRI ARJUN SETH | SHRI ARJUN SETHI. |
| 707 & 708/6 | 696.4 | 996.4 |
| 707 & 708/11 | 132. | 132.4 |
| 707 & 708/last | 2695.9, 2,875.6 | 2696.9 2876.6 |
| 744/6 | (a) and (d) | (a) to (d) |
| 817 & 818/18 | 1750.00 | 50.00 |
| 819 & 820/5 | 1063.83 | 1063.60 |
| 859 & 860/16 | 10.06 | 16.06 |
| 1015 & 1016/3 | 4221.46 | 4221.40 |
| 1037, 1038/last | 5853208 | 58532008 |
| 1059 & 1060 | Add Total 3456 after line 17 | |

PLS 40/VIII/7/99
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