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Monday, August 6, 2001
Sravana 15, 1923 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Monday, August 6, 2001/Sravana 15, 1923 (Saka)

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

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of the Question Hour because of the Doda incident...*(Interruptions)* There are repeated incidents in Doda in Jammu and Kashmir Valley...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, let us make a submission...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, it is Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have received your notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, it is an urgent matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will give you the floor during the Zero Hour.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall give you chance to speak on flood during the Zero Hour and a discussion will also be held in the House in this regard. Now you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, curfew has been imposed in Muzaffarnagar as the situation is very serious there.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a serious matter and that is why I will give you chance during the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now it is Question Hour. Shri Owaisi is not here. Now, Shri M. Chinnasamy.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, curfew has been imposed in Muzaffarnagar as the situation is very serious there and the Government of Uttar Pradesh is not doing any thing. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have said that discussion will also be held on flood situation you will be given a chance during the Zero Hour. This is Question Hour. Not now, only during the Zero Hour.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, this is Question Hour. Will you please resume your seat?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

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

*...(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is Question Hour. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, I will have to take a serious note of your behaviour here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Chinnasamy will speak.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Late Delivery of Money Orders

*201. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been substantial increase in the complaints relating to mis-appropriation and late delivery of money orders;

(b) if so, the total number of such complaints received during the last three years;

(c) whether there has been no reduction in number of complaints inspite of various steps taken by the Government;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to set up some new very small Aperture terminals and extended satellite money order stations to cover the entire money order system by Satellite;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these stations are likely to be set up; and

(f) the other steps being considered by the Government to minimize the money orders related complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

There has been no substantial increase in number of complaints relating to delay in payment of money orders. But there has been a decline in complaints relating to misappropriation of money orders during the last three years as would be clear from the following data:

Year	Total Number of Money order complaints	Total Number of complaints about delays in payment of money orders	Total Number of complaints about mis-appropriation
1998-99	388091	109463(28%)	451(0.11%)
1999-2000	422408	101932(24%)	369(0.08%)
2000-2001	426231	109914(26%)	214(0.05%)

If there has not been a substantial decline in the number of complaints received pertaining to delay in payment of money orders, it is partially due to the fact that only about 12% of the money order traffic is being transmitted annually via satellite through 77 low speed VSATs. The Department is in the process of installing 150 high speed VSATs with a network of 943 extended satellite stations which would enable it to put the entire money order traffic to be transmitted via satellite. This would also enable intimation of payment being given to the remitter after obtaining it electronically through the VSAT network which would enhance level of customer satisfaction and bring down complaints for delay in payment of money orders. The network is likely to be commissioned by 30th September, 2001.

As number of steps have been taken recently to reduce the delays relating to payment of money orders. These are as follows:

(i) Line limit for conveyance of cash for payment of money orders specially in rural areas has been increased substantially.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to use mechanical transport for quick supply of cash to post offices.

(iii) Periodic drives are launched with reference to identified geographical areas where delay in payment of money orders is noticed to remove the bottlenecks.

(iv) Stringent actions are taken against defaulting officials.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the decline in complaints received is not the matter as such, but the misappropriation of the money-order is a social crime. It is mentioned in the statement that instructions have been issued to use mechanical transport for quick supply of cash to post offices. I want to know what instructions have been issued.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Sir, it is a fact that there was no substantial increase in the number of complaints relating to delay in payment of money orders, but it is also a fact that there has been decline in the number of complaints relating to delay, misappropriation of money-orders during the last three years as such.

In 1998-99, the total number of money order complaints was 3,88,091 and total number of complaints about the delays in payment of money orders was 1,09,463, that is, 28 per cent, and the total number of complaints about misappropriation was 451, that is, only 0.11 per cent. In the year 1999-2000, the total number of money order complaints was 4,22,408 and total number of complaints about the delays in payment of money orders was 1,19,032, that is 24 per cent, and the total number of complaints in this period about misappropriation was 369, that is 0.08 per cent only. During the year 2000-2001, the total number of money order complaints was 4,26,231, total number of complaints in this period relating to delays in payment was 1,09,914, that is 26 per cent, and the total number of complaints about misappropriation in this period was only 214, that is 0.6 per cent only.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Sir, it is also mentioned in the statement that stringent actions have taken against defaulting officials. I would like to know what stringent actions have been taken, whether it is in the form of suspension or dismissal or penal payment or jail punishment, against defaulting officials.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Sir, during this period, the total number of complaints regarding misappropriation was 214 and the number of cases in which loss of payment was reported was 51,637. That is 12 per cent of the total. Sir, action has been taken in these cases and an enquiry has also been ordered in these cases of misappropriation.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, there are two three questions. First is as to what action has been taken by the Government in this regard? On the one hand we have cautioned all our officers from top to bottom, and on the other, we have established a Vigilance or Grievance cell in the Head office at our own level so that any person having some grievances, may come here. Besides, in all action is taken to send Money Orders through 77-V-sets immediately. We send 560 Money orders a day through one V-set and in this way 41,120 Money orders are sent every day. We are going to install 150 aditional V-sets and I feel that entire area would be covered with this installation. This will improve the situation to great extent. So far as action against the Persons is concerned, we have Punished 427 employees in the year 2000-2001.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Hon. Minister and the Minister of State, both come from rural areas. In my constituency most of the Money Orders are sent from the post offices located in rural areas where plans have been made to start new system, but not yet been implemented. The Hon'ble Minister has said that action is taken only after receiving the complaint, which takes a lot of time, even two to three years. Local officers viz, the superintendent, who work in the district, are not capable enough for this. Directors, at the State level, are competent for this. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what immediate action is to be taken by the Government against guilty persons in respect of complaints received within three years regarding non payment to people in the post offices located in rural areas so that People could easily get their money and immediate action could be taken.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If we had not taken any action then how could such a number of people be suspended? Action is being taken. My objective is not to take action against employees only, action is taken where misappropriation is involved. We receive complaints from many such places where Money Orders reach very late. We are using new equipments and latest technology for sending Money Orders well in time and have fixed a date i.e, if one does not receive Money Order within one month, then either it would be held responsible for it. Such guilty officials and officers are very large in number and action is being taken against them.

[English]

SHRI T GOVINDAN: Sir, I thank you for the opportunity which you have given me.

The statement shows that there is no considerable decline in the complaints regarding the delay and irregular issue of money orders even after the installation of the Satellite system. The workers and their leaders are complaining that the new system is the reason for the delay and irregular issue of money orders. Under these circumstances, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he would consider revival of the old system as the workers and their leaders are preferring the old system. May I know the position?

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Sir, we have actually set up only 77 VSATs and another 150 VSATs will be installed within this financial year. They will cover all the 26006 sub-post offices in the country and these 26006 sub-post offices will cover the total rural post offices and other post offices.

Then only it will be quickened and complaints relating to delay in delivery will be reduced like anything.

Old system, I think, Sir, should not be revived now because it is only 12 per cent of the total money order a day, which is being covered by these 77 V-SATs. When we will be able to install another 150 V-SATs this problem will not arise.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, has the Government considered establishing linkages between the Postal Banking System and the Commercial Banking System? Much of the problems that we are discussing would be over if the Post Offices were allowed to send money directly to the nearest commercial bank. In the same way, I personally feel that a lot of problems would be over if there is a linkage between the postal system and the banking system. In the rural areas also, it is possible because there are branches of the commercial banks.

Secondly, has the Government considered allowing people to pay their income tax, etc. through their Postal Savings Bank Account?

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: The small saving systems are being run through Post Offices. We have made some announcement that Post Office will act as the collecting agent of IDBI. So far as the banking operation is concerned, that has not yet been permitted for the postal department by the Government of India.

Well, the hon. Member has suggested now and we will relay the things to the Government of India. Of course, his suggestion is a very good one. We will place it before the Government and, I think, in the near future, the Government may consider it.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a beautiful compilation of statistics and figures with regard to the complaints regarding Money Orders in the country. Money Order system is the very simple system, which is meant to serve the ordinary people. It is not like taking share certificates and holding some deposits in the banks. It is the system simply to help the poor people and the rural people who are mainly in the countryside. People have so much of faith even today in this system than any other money transferring system. This is a time-tested system. If there is some Department in the country with so much honesty and dedication, people say that it is the Postal Department because the postal service, particularly the money transferring system is very much appreciated by the common people throughout the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, the hon. Minister has now admitted that the number of complaints is declining. That means, complaints are very much there. They are very much concerning the problems of the ordinary people. The complaints are still existing and they continue to exist. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to whether it is because of the exploitation of the labour force in the Department. Throughout the country and in the rural side, the Postal Department employs lakhs and lakhs of people as EDAS. Three and a half lakh people are employed as Extra Departmental Agents. They are employed and they are serving. They are carrying and paying money orders, old age pension, small money or whatever it is. But their own salary is not even Rs. 500 or Rs. 600 and it is nothing more than that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Therefore, my point is that the Government should be a model employer. You have rules, you have conditions and you have laid down your own guidelines. That is the position.

Why and how do you employ these three and half lakh employees as Extra Departmental Agents when you are not even giving them their due payments?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not think there is any supplementary. Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai, this is connected with the late delivery of money orders.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Yes, this is because of misappropriation of money. You are paying very little, very small money to the Extra Departmental Agents. That is the reason. But my view personally and strongly is that if you regularize these employees and give them their due payments for their service, then this complaint regarding non-payment or wrong payment or irregular payment or misappropriation of money-order funds will be stopped. I want to know whether the Minister will take note of this and initiate any action to redress the long-pending grievances of the Extra Departmental Agents.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not think there is any supplementary.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: This question does not arise and it is not related to this particular Question. But for the kind information of the hon. Member, I would like to say that yes, there are 3,09,000 EDAs. They were then called EDAs. Now, the nomenclature has been changed. Now, they are called *Gramin Dak Sewaks...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Only the nomenclature has been changed but not their pay scale...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: I am sorry, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, not merely the nomenclature has been changed but also the salary of the EDA has been increased like anything during Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There is no retirement benefit.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Minister on one basic issue. The communication system in our country, specially, in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, is pathetic. Has the Government decided to envisage any programme, any scheme for increasing vehicles for the speedy disposal of these deliveries? That is the main question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We will provide Vehicles in Bihar, but they will operate only when there are proper roads.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: What are you doing for vehicles...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Shyama Singhji, I am saying that vehicles will run on roads only...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: PaswanJi, there is shortage of Vehicles there...*(Interruptions)*. Of course delivery will not be made by Helicopters. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, there are families of army personal living in far-flung areas especially in Rajasthan, who do not get Money Orders in time, due to lack of a proper Money Order delivery system. They do not get money even after a month or one and half months. Do the Government propose any scheme to enable the families of these soldiers serving the country, have their Money Orders in time.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I have already told that I have the figures 87 Percent Money Orders are received every day and there are many difficulties in the delivery of Money Orders. Sometimes, in rural areas, names and addresses are not Properly mentioned. Shyama Singh ji just said that at certain places one has to cross three or even four rivers. There are certain rules for opening a post office. Besides, there are many difficulties, but despite all this, we are making efforts. With our V-set technique we can make this Process of Money Order time bound. It is still time-bound, but when it is not done accordingly, we take action. I shall look into the Suggestions made by the hon. Member regarding complaints from the army People serving our country and shall conduct immediate inquiry in this regard.

[English]

Cellular Licences

+

*203. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has recently issued licences to the private bidders for the fourth cellular slot in 17 circles in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the companies to whom licences have been issued;

(c) the terms and conditions laid down for granting said licences;

(d) whether there has been gross violations of tender norms in offering the said licences as reported in the "Times of India" dated July 11, 2001;

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

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Sir, based on a bidding process, successful bidders have been declared and demand letters for payment of quoted entry fee have been issued on 31/7/2001 towards award of fresh cellular licences in 17 Service Areas in the country. The name of successful bidder companies, the Service Area for which the said demand letters have been issued and the quoted entry fee is given in the Annexure-I. The bidders are required to pay the quoted entry fee up-front after which Letters of Intent (LOI) shall be issued for award of licences. The Licences shall be awarded based on fulfilment of terms and conditions of LOI.

(c) The salient features of the terms and conditions for granting the Cellular Licences are given in Annexure-II.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) While evaluating the pre-qualification bids it was found that two Reliance group companies namely, M/s. Reliable Internet Services Limited and Reliance Communications Private Limited had submitted their bids for 15 Service Areas each. From the equity holding of these two companies, it was fund that one of their partners are common and as such there was no violation per-se of the eligibility criteria prescribed in the Tender Document. However, in order to ensure fair competition all the bidders were asked to confirm that there is no common interest of any of the partners/promoters/ constituents in any other bidding company who has bid for the same service area and in case there is any common interest, only one bid for a service area shall be considered. In response to this, M/s. Reliance Communications Private Limited chose to withdraw all the bids submitted by them for 15 Service Areas. This was allowed to the company. The Earnest Money Bank Guarantee (EMBG) and Financial Bids were returned to the company before the first stage Financial Bids were scheduled to be opened. Disallowing one of the bids has ensured fair competition in the bidding process.

EMBG can not be forfeited in the situation where a bidder is disqualified in the pre-qualification stage or opted to withdraw the bids in terms of option given by the Government.

(f) Does not arise in view of (d) and (e) above.

Annexure-I

Service Area	No. of Slots	Name of successful Bidder	Entry fee applicable (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4
(Metro Cities)			
Mumbai	1	M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd.	203.66
Kolkata	1	M/s Reliable Internet Services Ltd.	78.01

1	2	3	4
Delhi	1	M/s Birla AT&T Communications Ltd.	170.70
Chennai	1	M/s Barakhamba Sales & Services Ltd.	154.00
(Telecom Circles)			
Andhra Pradesh	1	M/s Barakhamba Sales & Services Ltd.	103.01
Gujarat	1	M/s Bharati Cellular Ltd.	109.01
Haryana	1	M/s Bharati Cellular Ltd.	21.46
Himachal Pradesh	1	M/s Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	1.10
Karnataka	1	M/s Barakhamba Sales & Services Ltd.	206.83
Kerala	1	M/s Bharati Cellular Ltd.	40.54
Madhya Pradesh	1	M/s Bharati Cellular Ltd.	17.4501
Maharashtra	1	M/s Bharati Cellular Ltd.	189.00
Punjab	1	M/s Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	151.75
Rajasthan	1	M/s Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	32.25
Tamilnadu	1	M/s Bharati Cellular Ltd.	79.00
UP-West	1	M/s Bharati Cellular Ltd.	30.55
UP-East	1	M/s Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	45.25

Annexure-II

Salient Features of the Terms and Conditions of the Tender for Granting Fresh Cellular Service Licences.

1. The bidder must be an Indian company, registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956.
2. The bidder company can apply for any service areas subject to fulfillment of all the conditions of entry such as network, paid up equity and experience etc.
3. The licence for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) will be issued on non-exclusive basis, for a period of 20 years, further extendable by 10 years at one time.
4. The total foreign equity in the bidder company must not exceed 49% at any time during the entire licence period.
5. The licences shall be awarded based on the tendering process structured as "Multi-Stage Informed Ascending Bidding Process".
6. The networth of company shall be Rs. 30 crores, Rs. 50 crores, and Rs. 100 crores and paid up equity shall be Rs. 3 crore, Rs. 5 crore and Rs. 10 crores for category 'C', 'B' and 'A' Service Areas, respectively. Networth is to be added for the Service Areas bid for.
7. A promoter company cannot have stakes in more than one Bidder Company for the same service area.
8. The existing cannot bid for the same service area.
9. The bidder company and/or its promoters should have experience in telecom sector.
10. The successful bidder will be required to pay one time Entry Fee based on final bid, furnish Financial Bank Guarantee (FBG) plus Performance Bank Guarantees (PBG) and furnish 'No Dues Certificate' from Department of Telecom in respect of all payments arising out of any license granted under Section 4 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (including Indian Wireless

Telegraphy Act 1933) to the successful Bidder company or any promoter/partner or associate/ sister concern thereof before signing the Licence Agreement.

11. The licence fee for celluar service, for new as well as existing operators, shall be at par with basic Services at 12% of "Adjusted Gross Revenue" (AGR) for Metro Service Areas and category "A" circles, 10% of AGR for category "B" Circles and 8% of AGR for category "C" Circles, excluding spectrum charges.

12. In addition, the cellular licences shall pay spectrum charges on revenue share basis at 2% of AGR for spectrum upto 4.4 MHz (or 3% of AGR for spectrum upto 6.2 MHz, as the case may be).

13. The frequencies shall be assigned from the designated bands prescribed in National Frequency Allocation Plan-2000 (NFAP-2000). Appropriate frequency spots in Cellular band of 890-915 MHz paired with 935-960 MHz will be assigned to operators selected for vacant slots and 1710-1785 MHz paired with 1805-1880 MHz will be assigned to fourth cellular operator.

14. Minimum roll-out obligation: In Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of Licence. The licences shall also be permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. The District Headquarters shall be taken as on the effective date of licence.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: In the reply, it is clearly mentioned in the Annexure—and I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the terms and conditions No.7 — 'a promoter company cannot have a stake in more than one bidder company simultaneously'. In reply to part (c), the hon. Minister has referred to the Reliance group of companies. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how they came to the conclusion that both the companies did not, directly or indirectly, have any common financial interest? How have they come to this conclusion and through whom have they investigated? I would like to know whether they have contacted the Department of Company Affairs. I would also like to know why the company withdrew one licence application if they did not have a common interest. Why did the company withdraw? I want to know how the Government has not disqualified both the applications?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): First thing, as he has asked that the reliance has made a bid only where it did not make one earlier. The second thing is that Reliance Communications and Reliable internet services had made a bid, but both these companies are not the partner companies. Despite it they withdrew the application before the financial bid. Hence the question asked by the hon. Member is not pertinent.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: How did you come to the conclusion that there was no common interest among the two? How did you investigate? From where did you get the information? How did you come to the conclusion that any type of interest — direct or indirect — was not there? If there was no common interest, why did Reliance withdraw an application?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If you read our reply you will find it clearly mentioned there that while evaluating the pre qualification bids, if was found that the two companies of Reliance group i.e. Ms. Reliable Internet Services Limited and Reliance Communication Private Ltd. made their bids in 15 service sectors. By checking the equity holdings of both these companies it became clear that the partners of both the companies are separate. Hence no violation of fixed eligibility criteria has taken place. Despite it, when the bid process began, department came to know that Reliance Telecom and Reliance Industries Ltd. are already in partnership with Reliance Communications. However, the companies have no where applied with their partner. Then the government had not made any such restriction. Only restriction that the government had imposed was that common partner cannot be apply in common area. Yet they were allowed to have other partners. However when we came to know that Reliance Industries have a partner in Reliance Communication and Reliance Telecom in Reliable Internet the government immediately wrote a letter warning the companies to withdraw their bids and they did the same. Out of 15 bids these companies had applied only one place these have been declared the highest bidder.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Before asking my second Supplementary, I would like to point out that the reply

does not explain how and why the company withdrew the second application. If they did not have any common partner and if there was no common interest, there was no need to withdraw. So, my request to you about my first Supplementary is that you should ask the hon. Minister to submit all the data of all Reliance group companies. Let them inquire into that through the Department of Company Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the stock exchanges. I want to know how they came to this conclusion. He should submit to the House who was the partner and what was the common interest. We would also like to know that.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, there is no violation of any contract.

[Translation]

No violation has taken place. I have been even said that if there is any common interest that can be looked into and these things may occur elsewhere also. Your allegation that tender or the bed procedure has been violated is not justified. It has not been violated anywhere. There is no question of withholding the bid...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I will ask my second question...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Minister is evading reply....*(Interruptions)* His question is not regarding tender, his question is different. The Minister is aware of that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The correct answer to the question has not come...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him ask his second supplementary.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The reply is self-contradictory. We should see what they have written. At one point they say 'none of their partners are common' and at the other point they say 'disallowing bids has ensured fair competition.'

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has explained and given whatever information he had to give. If he has to give any further information, he can intimate about it to the Member.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I think the Minister can give us information afterward. You can tell him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, if the information he is seeking is not available, please send it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I will provide the information. Transparency exists everywhere in our department. I will give information to hon. Member about each thing that he desires.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has replied my question in the last.

I welcome the opening up of fourth cellulars by hon. Minister which has been done with a view to give interest to the competition. I have this much submission, that the hon. Minister should keep it in mind that the matter might not be delayed due to legal proceedings. I would feel very obliged and happy if the hon. Minister gives information to the effect as by when the fourth cellular service will be opened alongwith the benefits it will provide?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: As far the court is concerned, I think that all the pending cases are gradually getting cleared. I do not think that any hurdle will come in its way. Three court cases were admitted in the courts of Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai. The case in Delhi court is still pending and it is yet to be opened. No direction has been received from the court as regard this matter. Mumbai court has already dismissed the case. As regards case in Chennai court, it has also vocated its stay on 31st of July. Hence, there should not be say problem now.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: By when the process will start?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Process has already begun.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, one can certainly find no objection to clause 7, which was mentioned by Shri Kirit Somaiya, but surprisingly, that was used against VSNL, Sir, VSNL, which had suffered immensely at the hands of the Governments for the reasons known best to the Minister only, is a company which is under disinvestment and which should have been put in a position where it could have raised its stock high in the world so that more investors could come in. VSNL wanted to apply for 4th slot but VSNL was directed not to apply on a specious argument that BSNL, Bharat

Sanchar Nigam Limited, was already there. This does not hold to reason. This does not strictly fall within the condition that 'a promoter company cannot have stakes in more than one bidder company.' This is the condition, but this condition does not really apply to VSNL which was actually inflicted a heavy below when termination its monopoly has been preponed by two years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why this has been done.

Further, at a time when the convergence of telecommunication, broadcasting and IT is becoming a reality, we are faced with a situation where the Government is sticking to some artificial distinctions between WLL and mobile. Sir, at one point, perhaps to overcome this, the hon. Minister in his reply refers to condition No. 11 which says "the licence fee for cellular services and for new as well as existing operators shall be at par with basic services at 12 per cent.' Why is he bringing basic services here when he knows very well that conditions for basic services have all been different elsewhere? Many people are raising objection to, and even raising their fingers at the conditions which have been artificially introduced therein.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Then, what is your question?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: My question is in two parts. First why have you debarred VSNL from bidding? Second, why have you brought in an artificial distinction between the WLL and the mobile, as far as payment of fees is concerned and as far as the payment for spectrum charges etc. is concerned?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far VSNL is concerned, we have a made a provision that a company already holding 10 per cent equity cannot enter into bidding in that area. From that point of view VSNL and MTNL cannot be allowed in view of their more than 10 per cent equity. As far the question of WLL is concerned....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Hon. Minister, Sir, I would like to know whether you have obtained legal opinion that VSNL cannot apply for this. You take the decisions about VSNL and decide to finish their monopoly over the international calls of long distance which they continued to enjoy till as late as two years before...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Let me complete my answer.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Why this is happening with the public sector undertakings. This Government are bent upon destroying the public sector undertakings...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete his answer.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It is true that VSNL could have started to service two years ago also. However, at that time, as per the infrastructural cost the tarrif on outgoing calls was approximately Rs. 16 per minute and in total each call costed Rs. 25 per minute, hence it costed Rs. 75 for every three minutes. When the Government has set up the target of providing telephone connection to each village which require a huge spending, keeping this thing in view I would say the government do not have any magic exchequer...*(Interruptions)* Sir, let me explain it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What are you saying. All the private operators had taken the responsibility. Neither the hon. Minister is paying any attention nor the Government is doing anything in regard to the roll out plan...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is a deliberate plan or design of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, let him complete his answer.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is a deliberate plan of the Government so that they can go in for disinvestment of VSNL. Do you know about the inside report of VSNL one year before? They were making high profits, but they were deliberately keep out of bidding to make it sick...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Since the Minister is referring to the villages, let him just say whether the conditions, which were stated earlier, have been adhered to or not.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete his answer.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will reply to each and everything but you listen to met first. I am telling that we have to assume the responsibility like a cricketer who is supposed to make runs as well as defend his wicket. Similarly we have to keep in mind as to how much funds we have and also have to provide services despite all constraints.

As far the ground work is concerned for mobile service, we laid cable wires for it. You are aware that earlier mobile service was very costly affair. When we have got WLL technology and as far as WLL hand shake is concerned and which you are opposing entirely...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these people are not allowing proceeding in the House to take place...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, let him answer. Why are you interrupting?

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You are wasting revenue receipts?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, he has raised two points and you just answer them.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is not fulfilling its responsibility.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say only this much that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We are not opposing. We want that the hon. Minister should work efficiently but the work is not being performed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bansal ji, the hon. Minister is trying to reply both of your question, you please listen.

[English]

He is trying to answer your question, Shri Bansal.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the place of 70 thousand telephones only 36 telephones have been installed and he is talking about the roll out plan.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is trying to answer your two questions....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, Please do not interrupt now. This is Question Hour, and we have some questions also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said that since we have got cheaper technology that is why, we are providing telecom facility to the people at the rate of Rs. 1.20 per minute upto 200 km. We have done this still why are the hon. Member is opposing the move?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I want to ask one simple question. May I know from the hon. Minister as to why he has evolved a tender policy is respect of four cellular licenses? It is your business whether you accept or reject it. When you supply the information to Shri Kirit Somaiya, we will look into it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker has permitted me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as long as I am not allowed to speak, he should not be permitted to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chaubey, what is happening in this House? I have given the floor to him.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not necessary to reply his question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I want to from the hon. Minister as to why he has invited tenders in case of four cellular licences, and why he did not invite tenders in case of WLL....*(Interruptions)* Sir, this is too much...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Sir, they unnecessarily make hue and cry and interrupt the proceedings....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chaubey, what is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is too much. He cannot stop me because I have the right to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chaubey, I have given the floor to him...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Sir, these people shout meaninglessly, stand in between...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, if this is his behaviour, then I will also not allow the Question Hour to continue...*(Interruptions)* This is too much...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

As one place it is tender and at another place it is first come first served, what does it mean.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: The business of the House is run as per the rule and they interrupt the proceedings....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chaubey, I have given the floor to him....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, my question is, why in case of according licences to four cellular operators was the norm of floating tenders followed and why, in the case of WLL, there were no tenders and it was done only on the basis of 'first-come-first-served?...*(Interruptions)* Why was this discrepancy?...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I repeat my question. Why in the case of four cellular licences the norm of tenders was followed and why there was no tender in the case of WLL and why was it done on 'first-come-first-serve' basis?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: If he does not listen to the reply of the Minister, we should not listen to his questions also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now please listen to his reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: My submission is that we should not listen to his question unless his leader puts his question after getting up only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chaubey, you are a senior Member. Please do not interrupt like this. The hon. Minister is replying to the question....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: His question must not be listen unless he listens to the reply....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing, except the reply of the Minister, would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I do not care. If you do not want to listen, do not listen. Please do not teach me...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chaubey, I am on my legs now. You please take your seat.

[Translation]

What has gone wrong with you today.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all please make him quiet...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi wanted to know why tenders were not invited for that and why not for this. The straight answer to the question is that the WLL technology comes under fixed line telephony. I have already said that unlimited numbers of players one allowed in the area of fixed line telephony so. There is no need to invite tender for this....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this WLL has been done without floating tenders and the hon. Minister is admitting it...*(Interruptions)*

This is a shameless act...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas, I have to name you now. Please resume your seat. You stand for anything and everything.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Shri Dasmunsi just asked about W.L.L. and in reply to this the hon. Minister said that two companies of the Reliance Group had participated in the bid but later on they withdrew and the Government also returned their deposit. I would like to ask as to what was the pressure under which their deposit was returned.

My second submission is.

[English]

On the floor of the House you have made this commitment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: My question is that what is the guarantee that the Government will not convert WLL into mobile in future as presently they are offering it without license on first come first served basis. Paswan ji your Ministry is getting bad name as there is no transparency in you Ministry....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I want to ask whether the Government is going to convert WLL into Cellular phone after some time or not.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: First of all I would like to submit that our Ministry does not need certificate from them about it performance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: The hon. Minister has to seek certificate from the people of the country, the people of this country will give him certificate about has performance...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We are in politics for last 30-35 years and we know what the people need. The people will get these services at cheaper rates. We will provide their services at affordable rates. There is no Chief Minister in the country belonging any of the political

* Not recorded.

parties who is not demanding WLL. Everybody is demanding WLL and it is not proper on his part to oppose it in the House.

So far as the question of first come first served basis is concerned, it does not mean that come first get first. First of all they have to take POP (Point of Presence) and for that certain criteria have been fixed by the Ministry that one third telephones will be installed in rural areas, one third in urban areas and one third in semi-urban areas. Only then spectrum will be allocated to them and for that separate allocation will be made. Thus there is full transparency in it and there is no lacunae in the process. Those who one opposing it are the enemies of the poor.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We all support WLL but we do not support the first-come-first served method.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: The hon. Minister did not reply to my question....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAMSUNSI: Sir, I say with authority that it was not done. The Minister is misleading the House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, the views raised by the hon. Members of Parliament can not be overlooked by the Minister in this manner. We are also the representatives of the common man saying that we do not need certificate from them.

[English]

It is not a correct attitude on the part of the Minister.

[Translation]

I have objection to it...*(Interruptions)*

I did not interrupt you...*(Interruptions)*

Nobody is opposing WLL. Only it has been asked why tender was not invited for this. However Shri Paswan did not reply to the question asked by Rashid Alvi ji whether WLL will be converted into cellular in future or not. My submission is that the hon. Minister should clearly give his reply to this question in the House.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have already replied that WLL has been put under fixed telephony. What am I to do if tomorrow their party comes to power and change the norms...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, any body can understand the position from what the Minister says. It is implied that it can be changed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Minister has not replied to the question...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: All that the Minister has to say in reply to question is either "yes" or "no"...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Minister has to clarify this point...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: My submission to Shri Scindia is that WLL has been put under fixed telephony. If he wants to do same thing he can do but it is not good to level allegation of corruption or scam in every thing. My submission is that the hon'ble Member should make a point with utmost responsibility in the House.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even now the Minister has not replied the question...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I said that it would not go to cellular in future. I have also said that the spectrum allocation will be made on the basis of POP and the spectrum allocation, will be made to the operators as per their POP. I am repeating all these things time and again. I said this is the last session also. Still he is asking the same thing, then what reply should I give to that?

[English]

Increase in Fares of Indian Airlines and Air India

*204. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air India have increased their air fares recently whereas foreign airlines have reduced their air fares;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of the increased fare on disinvestment process and tourism in India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) In accordance with Aircraft Rules, airlines operating air services to and from India are required to obtain prior approval of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) before implementing revision in fares.

2. International Air Transport Association (IATA) holds Tariff Coordination Conferences for determining air fares for different sectors. These meeting are attended by the concerned airlines. The fares are unanimously agreed to by all airlines operating on the concerned route. Air India files the agreed fares with DGCA on behalf of all IATA airlines for approval. These fares are then approved by the DGCA.

3. Based on the increase agreed to in the above conference, Air India and India Airlines have increased their fares alongwith other airlines this year. The increase in air fares is in the range of 5% to 21.5% depending upon the sector and class of travel.

4. However all international airlines are permitted to file with the DGCA special unilateral fares lower than IATA approved fares for direct operations between India and their respective countries. These fares are generally for a limited fixed period filed during lean season. Most of the airlines including Air India and Indian Airlines have filed special unilateral fares for limited duration at different times this year in different sectors which are lower than IATA approved fares. Generally the other airlines match the unilateral fares filed by the direct operating airlines (3rd and 4th freedom carriers) to remain competitive. Therefore it is not the fact that only foreign airlines have lowered the fares and Air India and Indian Airlines have increased the fares.

5. Since increase/decrease in air fares to basically dependent upon the commercial viability and demand and supply situation in the market and resorted to by most of the airlines, it is not going to affect tourism and disinvestment in any significant manner. Moreover tourism depends upon many factors and air fares is only one of them.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the entire country knows about the state of public undertakings in our country and the people of the entire country share the concern of those employees of these PSU's who have laid the very foundations of these undertakings and today stand to lose their source of livelihood.

"Naasir Teri galion Mein vataan, jahan chali hao Rasam ki koi na sar utta ke chale."

These lines are very apt in regard to the public Undertakings. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the government is increasing the fares of Air India and Indian Airlines despite the fact that our Airlines are in much worse condition then the foreign airlines even after repeated hikes in fares? Our airlines provide much less passenger facilities yet the government is continuously revising the fares. However, this tendency leads to the bankruptcy of the entire enterprise and then the government starts its disinvestment. I would like to submit that the decision of the government to hike the fares to the tune of 5% to 21.5% has adversely affected the tourism in the country. However, despite the worsening performance of Air India and Indian Airlines, every Indian feels proud to travel by Air India and Indian Airlines. I would request the hon. Minister to throw some light in this regard.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a written and comprehensive reply in regard to the question asked by the hon. Member. I have tried to cover all the points in my reply. The government have not hiked the fare. I give you the comparative data of fares charged by various Airlines flying to Newyork to make my print clear. British Airways charges Rs. 41 thousand, Air France Rs. 35 thousand, KLM Rs. 43 thousand; United Airlines Rs. 41 thousands, Scandinavian Airlines Rs. 38 thousand, Virgin Airlines Rs. 36 thousand, Emirates and Ausrtrian Airlines Rs. 35490 land Kuwait Airlines Rs. 41280 while the Air India Rs. 41,280.

Sir, I would also like to provide information about the comparative fares of Tornto bound flights to the hon. Members British Airways charges 38 thousand rupees while we charge 35 thousand rupees. For London, British Airways charges Rs. 28 thousands, Air France Rs. 26 thousand, KLM 28 thousands, United Airlines 22 thousands, Scandinavian Airlines 22 thousand and Air India charges Rs. 20 thousand only and still the hon. Member is saying that we have been charging more than other Airlines. For Paris bound flights, British Airways

charges Rs. 28 thousand, Air France Rs. 26 thousand, KLM Rs. 28 thousands and we charge 22 thousand rupees. Now I would like to give you the comparative figures of other destinations. Air France charges Rs. 13,900 for Bangkok and Air India has a fare of Rs. 14,500 while the Singapore Airlines charges Rs. 15 thousand...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: What about the Gulf countries.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I am giving the figures about the Gulf countries...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Sir, I do not have, with me, the details being provided by the hon. Minister. When I do not have the comparative data, what can I comment?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I will send you all the details.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to state only this much that the fares of Air India and Indian Airlines are less in comparison to the fares of other International Airlines. Perhaps there are one or two countries where we may have been charging a bit more than the Airlines. There is no such problem and our Airlines are functioning well. When I took over the reins of the Ministry of Civil Aviation; Air India was incurring losses to the tune of 175 crore rupees. However, now Air India have been earning profits of 4 to 5 crore rupees.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary is about the cities of Ludhiana and Amritsar which are known as the Manchester of India. Ludhiana is a huge industrial city yet no flight of Indian Airlines operates from there. Even, for Amritsar only three flights in a week are operated. The position of Chandigarh flights is extremely bad. There is total irregularity and uncertainty. On enquiry pet comes the reply that nothing can be said with certainty and flight will be operated as soon as the aircraft arrives. There is no proper coordination on that route. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the government will consider operating some more flights to Chandigarh in view of its importance and connectivity to Leh and Amritsar?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised the issue of Amritsar. Though his supplementary is not related to the original question yet. I will reply to it for I have recently been to Amritsar. On return from Amritsar. I have declared it as an International Airport...*(Interruptions)* There is the problem of runway.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: You did not invite any of the Congress MPs.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I beg your pardon, Shri R.L. Bhatia was with me...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: He was present in Amritsar.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I had taken him alongwith me. I had made him the Chief guest...*(Interruptions)* I agree that I could not take along all the MPs with me, but Shri R.L. Bhatia, who had been a Minister of External Affairs, went alongwith me and several other persons of the Congress party were also present at Amritsar. All the parties had been demanding for increasing the number of flights and passenger amenities at Amritsar. Right now, we have a smaller fleet. Hence we have decided to take six air buses, six ATR, the smaller aircrafts, on lease. As soon as these join our fleet we will try to increase the connectivity of Amritsar with in India and with the outside world...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You said that Air India has been earning a profit of four to five crore rupees. Under such circumstances whether, the government would give up the idea of its disinvestment and give an assurance to this effect to the House?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister is very satisfactory. The performance of both Air India and Indian Airlines has been improving and these have started earning profit instead of incurring losses. However whether the hon. Minister can give the rationale behind the proposed disinvestment of both these airlines? You can not deny it that the government is not willing to sell these companies for I have, with me, a letter supporting this claim. I know that the opinion of the Cabinet is not in consonance with the opinion of the hon. Minister. The same is the case with hon. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan who had spoken before me. He is willing to undertake reforms and improve the functioning of the department of communication but he is not being given free hand. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he can give any assurance to the effect that the government do not intend to undertake the disinvestment of the profit earning Air India's Indian Airlines?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Disinvestment is a separate one. There does not exist any such difference of opinion as has been stated by hon. Chandrashekharji. The decision to disinvest these Airlines had been taken by the Cabinet. Certainly, we are trying our best to make them profitable. The government is strengthening and not selling it and its has been making efforts to improve their management to realise this objective.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Whether these will be handed over to private management?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: The 'Modern Bakery' was sold when it was earning profits. Now it is incurring losses. Whether the same story will not be repeated in case of Air India and Indian Airlines? Wherever this kind of privatisation has taken place in the world, the private companies have caused the share prices to plummet and hasten the doom of the organisation and ultimately end up buying the remaining shares which were in the hands of the government? Whether the hon. Minister, Shri Sharad Yadav, will learn any lessen from the disvinvestment of 'Modern Bakery' and "BALCO"?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The question asked by hon. Chandra Shekharji is not related to my portfolio and is related to the Department of Disinvestment. The Minister of Disinvestment is the competent person to answer his question. I have neither the details nor I want to give reply in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, is the Minister of Civil Aviation taken into confidence in matters of disinvestment...*(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He does not have the floor to ask the question...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the government are going to purchase ATR aircrafts. Whether the Government are aware that the Dornier planes currently operational in Himachal Pradesh have adversely affected the tourism owing to the high fares charged on these flights? Besides I would also like to know as to whether the government will also make arrangement for expending and modernising the airport at Kullu so that ATR may operate from this airport?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The hon. Member has asked a relevant question. The fares of Kullu flight are extremely high. Certainly there are several sections in the country including Himachal Pradesh where no subsidy is being given and the fares are high. Subsidy is given on North-East and Ladakh sectors but there is no subsidy on Kullu sector. The flight to Kullu is not commercially viable. It takes one to two days to reach there and the operational cost involved is very high. I agree and accept that we should improve the service and the government has every intention to do so. We also wish to modernise the Kullu Airport where the maximum number of accidents have taken place. We are deliberating as how to proceed in this direction.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, please allow a full-fledged discussion on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since a lot of Members want to ask supplementaries on this, do you agree for Half-an-hour discussion?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: No, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We do not want Half-an-hour discussion, we want a full-fledged discussion on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question Hour is over

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Environmental Damage Due to Flowering of Bamboo

*202. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any strategy to tackle the environmental damage likely to be caused by the lowering of bamboo;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of damage taken place during the last flowering season; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The cyclic flowering of bamboos is an established phenomenon. There is an information available about the adverse effect on the ecosystem and environment as a result of the flowering of bamboos. However, large scale gregarious flowering entails possibilities of severe forest fires and rodent menace. The areas where this phenonmenon takes place has to be suitably managed by the State Government after taking into account all the relevant factors.

[Translation]

Increase in PF coverage

*205. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem regarding coverage of more establishments under PF scheme appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated June 30, 2001;

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

(c) the details of schemes formulated by the Government to curb retrenchment which is likely to happen as a result of the new scheme; and

(d) the likely increase in the amount in the P.F. corpus following the implementation of the above proposal and its likely impact on future employment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) Government is aware of the news item. It was reported in the news item that in the event the threshold for coverage under the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is reduced from 20 employees to 10, on the one hand more employees would get benefit of social security and on the other opportunity for employment will get reduced.

The proposal to amend the Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 to reduce the threshold for coverage under the provident fund from 20 to 10, has been referred to the Central Board of Trustees (EPF) for tripartite discussion. It is too early to assess the increase in the PF corpus and its impact on employment in the event the threshold for coverage is reduced.

[English]

Road Accidents

*206. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of accidents on National Highways has drastically gone up during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the compensation given by the Government to the victims' families;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to widen the National Highways and to prevent encroachments as well as accidents on the National Highways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) As per information available the number of road accidents on National Highways have increased from 1997 to 1998 but during the year 1999 these have gone down. The total number of road accidents, persons killed and injured during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999, State-wise and year-wise is enclosed as statement.

(c) The compensation is given by the concerned State Governments on the basis of structured formula provided in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1998.

(d) and (e) Widening of National Highways, Prevention of accidents and prevention of encroachment is a continuing process. Steps taken to prevent accidents are taken into consideration while formulating proposals for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). These include undertaking various improvement works like widening to 4 lanes, strengthening existing two lane pavements, construction of bypass, geometric improvements and also provide road signs, markings etc. to make roads safer. Prevention of encroachments is dealt under "The Public Premises (eviction of unauthorised occupants)" Act, 1971 through the concerned State Governments.

Statement

Road Accidents on National Highways

All India/States /UTs.	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	5679	8245	8518
Arunachal Pradesh	54	51	53
Assam	1584	1647	1754
Bihar	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Goa	886	1000	887
Gujarat	7071	7765	7758
Haryana	2316	2832	2779
Himchal Pradesh	661	1033	829
Jammu & Kashmir	567	2120	2112
Karnataka	8530	8275	N.A.
Kerala	7508	7212	7596
Madhya Pradesh	7587	7885	6783
Maharashtra	16473	15197	15343
Manipur	161	192	214
Meghalaya	203	250	159
Mizoram	27	61	36
Nagaland	22	43	57
Orissa	2107	2353	2651
Punjab	1229	1160	1223
Rajasthan	6924	7219	6778
Sikkim	48	32	33
Tamil Nadu	13107	13731	16329
Tripura	291	108	242
Uttar Pradesh	5648	5741	6442
West Bengal	3815	3130	N.A.
A & N Islands	NIL	NIL	NIL
Chandigarh	56	38	56

1	2	3	4
D & N Haveli	NIL	NIL	NIL
Daman & Diu	NIL	NIL	NIL
Delhi	1227	1155	1153
Lakshadweep	NIL	NIL	NIL
Pondicherry	233	215	378
Total	94014(P)	98690(P)	96163(P)

N.A. - Not Available
P - Provisional

Persons Killed on National Highways

All India/States /UTs.	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	2228	3102	3273
Arunachal Pradesh	13	28	13
Assam	866	787	848
Bihar	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Goa	111	107	96
Gujarat	1590	1380	1241
Haryana	1110	1154	1137
Himachal Pradesh	181	292	209
Jammu & Kashmir	131	423	360
Karnataka	1896	1947	N.A.
Kerala	851	826	876
Madhya Pradesh	1506	1519	1480
Maharashtra	3197	3156	3181
Manipur	43	40	73
Meghalaya	100	87	78
Mizoram	12	39	16
Nagaland	15	10	13
Orissa	673	803	869

1	2	3	4
Punjab	938	859	887
Rajasthan	2078	2118	2313
Sikkim	10	10	10
Tamil Nadu	2775	3106	3639
Tripura	59	46	86
Uttar Pradesh	3165	3318	3700
West Bengal	1843	1172	N.A.
A & N Islands	NIL	NIL	NIL
Chandigarh	25	14	21
D & N Haveli	NIL	NIL	NIL
Daman & Diu	NIL	NIL	NIL
Delhi	415	305	296
Lakshadweep	NIL	NIL	NIL
Pondicherry	32	34	72
Total	25863(P)	26682(P)	24787(P)

N.A. - Not Available

P - Provisional

Persons Injured on National Highways

All India/States /UTs.	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	7052	9286	10181
Arunachal Pradesh	134	62	72
Assam	2623	2364	2938
Bihar	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Goa	605	695	504
Gujarat	7069	7735	7275
Haryana	2554	2897	3047
Himachal Pradesh	1006	1488	1121
Jammu & Kashmir	526	2646	2066

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	11128	9906	N.A.
Kerala	10748	10805	8782
Madhya Pradesh	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Maharashtra	13388	13050	12624
Manipur	294	472	375
Meghalaya	329	165	219
Mizoram	57	147	49
Nagaland	63	30	50
Orissa	2669	2913	3701
Punjab	1077	990	1096
Rajasthan	7664	9122	7996
Sikkim	69	40	68
Tamil Nadu	9074	9822	14706
Tripura	504	209	399
Uttar Pradesh	4084	4437	4809
West Bengal	3338	3667	N.A.
A & N Islands	NIL	NIL	NIL
Chandigarh	44	34	48
D & N Haveli	NIL	NIL	NIL
Daman & Diu	NIL	NIL	NIL
Delhi	1011	1012	950
Lakshadweep	NIL	NIL	NIL
Pondicherry	265	204	375
Total	87375(P)	94198(P)	83451(P)

N.A. - Not Available
P - Provisional

[Translation]

Amendment of Mines and Mineral (R&D) Act, 1957

*207. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 with a view to delegate more powers to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the draft Bill is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Norms for Declaring National Highways

*208. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the standard norms fixed for declaring a National Highway;

(b) the criterion and specifications adhered to while improving the National Highways; and

(c) the basis on which funds are allotted for different National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The criteria for the declaration of State road into National Highway is as under:-

(i) Roads which run through the length and breadth of the country.

(ii) Roads connecting adjacent countries.

(iii) Roads connecting the National Capital with State capital and roads connecting mutually the State capitals.

(iv) Roads connecting major ports, large industrial centres or tourist centres.

(v) Roads meeting very important strategies requirements.

(vi) Arterial roads which enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achieve substantial economic growth thereby.

(vii) Roads which help opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly regions.

(viii) National Highway grid of 100 Km is achieved.

(ix) The road must be up to the standard laid down for State Highways — both in its technical requirements as well as the land requirements.

(x) The road and right of way must be free of any type of encroachment and should be the property of the State.

(xi) The right of way required for the National Highway (preferably 45m, minimum 30 m) must be available for acquiring, free of encroachment and the State Government would complete acquiring formalities within six months.

NB: Declaration of National Highways is considered on the basis of requirements of the country as a whole and not particularly with respect to any local requirement.

(b) These are based on the condition of the National Highway, traffic intensity, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

(c) The funds are allotted State-wise and not NH-wise.

[Translation]

Decline in Ground Water Level

*209. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of drinking water has been adversely affected due to the depletion in the ground water level in various parts of the country during the past few years;

(b) if so, whether any financial and technical assistance is proposed to be provided to the State Governments to remedy the situation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The provision for drinking water is planned, financed and implemented by the State Governments. The Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission under the Ministry of Rural Development has been assisting and guiding the States in the provision of safe drinking water to rural population under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. In urban areas, the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation assists the States for provision of drinking water.

In so far as depletion in ground water level is concerned, the Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources have carried out ground water recharge experiments and rain water harvesting on pilot basic in various States of the country under its Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water". The Government have earmarked funds amounting to Rs. 25.00 crore for the scheme during the IX Five Year Plan. State-wise details of the proposals approved under the scheme are given in enclosed Annexure. The approved proposals are expected to be implemented within 1-2 years.

ANNEXURE

State-wise Details of proposals approved concerning Ground Water Recharge Schemes

Sl. No.	State	Schemes (Nos.)	Approved cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	54.55	Under implementation
2.	Assam	1	56.69	Under implementation
3.	Bihar	4	18.69	Under implementation
4.	Delhi	14	86.43	Four schemes completed and rest are under implementation
5.	Gujarat	3	18.95	Under implementation
6.	Haryana	8	139.12	Three schemes are completed and rest are under implementation
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6	81.65	Three schemes are completed and rest are under implementation
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	190.19	One scheme completed and rest are under implementation
9.	Jharkhand	6	28.04	Under implementation
10.	Karnataka	1	13.75	Under implementation
11.	Kerala	9	67.62	Five schemes are at final stage of completion and rest are under implementation
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5	53.85	Four schemes completed and rest are under implementation
13.	Maharashtra	3	76.63	Under implementation
14.	Meghalaya	1	28.00	Under implementation
15.	Mizoram	1	28.00	Under consideration

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Nagaland	1	70.00	Under implementation
17.	Orissa	2	437.40	Under implementation
18.	Punjab	15	251.49	Six schemes completed and rest are under implementation
19.	Rajasthan	13	84.27	One scheme is completed and rest are under implementation
20.	Tamil Nadu	8	198.98	One scheme completed and rest are under implementation
21.	Uttar Pradesh	5	37.21	Under implementation
22.	Uttaranchal	1	2.00	Under implementation
23.	West Bengal	8	167.82	Under implementation

[English]

Post Offices as Super Market

*210. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding conversion of Post Offices into Supermarkets appearing in 'Nav Bharat Times' dated July 11, 2001;

(b) if so, the new services likely to be provided in the post offices to make them a financial super market;

(c) the number of post offices being equipped with new services; and

(d) the manner in which the people are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) In the recent past, the Department of Posts has introduced a series of new financial services such as Instant Money Transfer from across 185 countries and distribution of Mutual Fund products of various mutual fund companies. The Instant Money Transfer service is being operated from 253 post offices and the mutual fund products have been introduced in 215 post offices in major cities including State and Union Territory capitals.

Initially these new services have been introduced on a pilot basis in select post offices and the question of extending them to a larger number of post offices will depend upon the customer response to them.

While with the money transfer service the Non Resident Indians (NRIs) are making direct remittances to their families, this service is also bringing much needed foreign exchange to the country through the post office. The distribution of mutual funds of various financial companies through the Post office is providing easy access to the investors to these products. Thus, the present day post offices with a variety of traditional financial and premium products are being described as financial supermarkets by the press.

Report on Deforestation in Delhi

*211. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi is likely to become a desert by 2021 as per a study report conducted by the Tata Energy Research Institute published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated June 2, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent large scale deforestation in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. The State of Environment Report for Delhi, 2001 prepared by the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) for Department of Environment,

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi indicates that the forest cover of Delhi has increased from 15 sq. km. in 1987 to 88 sq. km in 1999 as per assessment of Forest Survey of India.

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

(c) Although encroachments in the ridge forests have resulted in biodiversity degradation, there is an overall increasing trend in the status of vegetation and forest cover in Delhi. Afforestation efforts of Delhi Government since 1981-83 have yielded results in increasing forest/tree cover and there is no reason to believe that by 2021 Delhi would be a desert. The Government of Delhi has prepared an Action Plan for large scale afforestation and greening of Delhi to further increase the forest/tree cover which serves as the city's green lung.

Deforestation of Himalayas

*212. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of deforestation of Himalayas and the extent to which it has affected the ecological balance of North India so far;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to prevent deforestation of Himalayas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Forest Cover is assessed biennially by Forest Survey of India. There are 77 districts, having elevation more than 500 meter above sea level in the hill regions of the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttaranchal adjoining the Himalayas. These districts have shown a net increase of 460 sq. km. between 1997 and 1999 assessments. No specific study report is available about the exact effect of change in forest cover between 1997 and 1999 on the ecological balance of North India. However, the change in forest cover affects the ecological balance including soil erosion, water table, rainfall, fauna and flora.

(b) and (c) The important steps undertaken by the Government to prevent deforestation are:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments/UT Administrations from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to all States/UTs to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest and for non-forestry purposes.

(v) A net work of protected areas has been established.

(vi) Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Programme to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through increased investments in conservation and development of forest resources.

[Translation]

Encroached Forest Land

*213. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any policy to give on lease the encroached forest land holdings to the landless agricultural labourers and the tribals who have been cultivating these land holdings for several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to direct the State Governments to handover the holdings of the encroached forest land to the tribals and landless people of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh for cultivation purposes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Rules and Guidelines framed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provide

for regularisation of the encroachments made on forest lands by the local communities for cultivation purposes prior to 25.10.1980. Such regularisation is permissible only if the concerned State Government had evolved certain eligibility criteria in accordance with local needs and conditions and had taken a decision to regularise such encroachments but could not implement their decision either wholly or partially before the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 25.10.1980.

Regularisation of any such encroachments made after 25.10.1980, the date of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 coming into effect, is not permissible.

(c) and (d) Encroachments on 1.03 lakh hectare of forest land in the 46 districts of Madhya Pradesh made before 31.12.1976 were regularised by the Ministry in July, 1990.

The erstwhile State of Madhya Pradesh have submitted an additional proposal for regularisation of encroachments on 1.83 lakh hectare of forest land as per details below:-

Category	Period of encroachment	Area (ha.)	No. of families
I	Upto 31.12.1976	64966.633	46642
II	01.01.1977 to 06.03.1979	106565.401	96115
III	07.03.1979 to 25.10.1980	11953.981	9281

Category-I proposal covers only such cases that had been left out in the earlier proposal. Approval for regularisation of encroachments covered under this category has been issued in May, 2001, subject to certain conditions.

Examination of Category-II proposal reveals that regularisation of encroachments by certain non-eligible persons have also been included in the proposal. The State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have been requested to revise their proposals and work out the area on the basis of the eligibility criteria existing on 6.3.1979.

Category-III proposal could not be approved because the State Government has not given any documentary evidence about the policy decision to regularise the encroachments on forest land up to 25.10.1980.

[English]

Import and Use of Mercury

*214. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

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

(a) the quantity of Mercury imported and used by each Mercury Cell Plants manufacturing Caustic Soda in the country during the last three years;

(b) the manner in which it has been disposed of in water and air;

(b) whether its disposal has been made in accordance with the environmental standards; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As per information made available by Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the quantity of mercury imported during the last three years is as under:

Year	Mercury imported (in tonnes)
1998-99	125
1999-00	207
2000-01	251

Total Mercury consumption in production of caustic soda during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity consumed (in tonnes)
1998-99	36
1999-00	33.3
2000-01	34.1

(b) to (d) The mercury bearing waste water is treated through precipitation/adsorption/ion-exchange techniques in order to meet the standards laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board. The mercury bearing emissions such as hydrogen and hydrochloric acid vapours are scrubbed to maintain the level of mercury within the

prescribed limit. As per information, all the Chlor-alkali plants in operation have provided the requisite pollution control system.

Increasing Pollution of Indian Rivers

*215. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution in major rivers in the country has assumed serious proportions;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the results of studies conducted in this regard in India and abroad; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b)The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring water quality at 507 locations covering all major rivers in the country. The results of these studies indicate that the water quality is degraded in stretches of the rivers especially where large urban centres are located. This is mainly due to discharge of untreated waste water from the towns/cities followed by reduced flow conditions due to over abstraction of surface and ground water in the basin of the rivers. The details of the identified polluted stretches of major and medium/minor rivers are given in the statement enclosed.

In April 1995 a comprehensive evaluation of the Ganga Action Plan Phase I was undertaken jointly by a team consisting of representatives of the Aligarh Muslim University, Roorkee University, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. The Evaluation Report has concluded that Ganga Action Plan as conceived and implemented is an appropriate programme for application to other river basins. The reduction of discharge of organic matters, a necessary first step in restoring the water quality, has been achieved to fair level. In January 1998, a cost benefit analysis of the Ganga Action Plan Phase I was undertaken by a team consisting of representatives from Metroeconomica, UK, and some Indian Institutes viz. Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, Indian Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow and All India Institute of Hygeine and Public Health, Calcutta. The broad conclusion of the study is that inspite of its many shortcomings, the Ganga Action Plan has delivered significant benefits to India. The polluted stretch of the river violating the bathing class standards would have been atleast 740 Kms. between Kannauj and Varanasi as compared to 437 Kms. between the same towns with the Ganga Action Plan, Phase I. Both users and non-users have been benefited and the result is that the real rate of return on Phase-I is well about 10% required of public sector projects. Also is terms of both the cost and time taken, Ganga Action Plan compares favourably with those of the other major rivers of the World like Thames, Rhine and Danube.

(c) The steps taken for prevention and control of pollution are as follows:

(i) Under National River Conservation Plan, polluted stretches of 27 major rivers have been taken up for pollution abatement in 151 towns spread over 16 States at an estimated cost of Rs. 3318 crore. The list of these rivers is at part 'A' of the Annexure referred to above.

(ii) The important pollution abatement works taken up under the National River Conservation Plan include;

- Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.
- Sewage Treatment Plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- Low Cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on riverbanks.
- Electric crematoria and Improved Wood Crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.
- River Front Development works such as improvement of bathing ghats etc.
- Other minor miscellaneous works.

(iii) Cities and towns discharging wastewater in the major and medium/minor rivers are identified for preparation of action plan. The list of these rivers is at part 'B' of the Annexure referred to above.

(iv) Grossly polluting industries are being monitored for the discharge of their effluents into rivers and lakes.

(v) A Scheme for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) in clusters of small scale industrial units has been taken up.

Statement

A. Grossly polluted and less polluted stretches of some major national rivers where pollution abatement works have been taken up under the National River Conservation Plan.

River		Polluted Stretch	Existing Class	Desired Class	Critical Parameters
1		2	3	4	5
I. Grossly Polluted Stretches					
Sabarmati	i)	Immediate upstream of Ahmedabad city upto Sabarmati Ashram	E	B	DO, BOD, Coliforms
	ii)	Sabarmati Ashram to Veutha	E	D	-do-
Indus (Tributaries)	i)	D/S Ludhiana to Harike	Partly D Partly E	C	DO, BOD
Sutlej	ii)	D/S of Nangal	E	C	Ammonia
Yamuna	i)	Delhi to confluence with Chambal	Partly D Partly E	C	DO, BOD, Coliforms
	ii)	In the city limits of Delhi, Agra and Mathura	-do-	B	-do-
Subarnarekha		Hathi Dam to Bharagora	Partly D Partly E	C	-do-
Godavari	i)	D/S of Nasik to Nanded	Partly D Partly E	C	BOD
	ii)	City limits of Nasik and Nanded	-do-	B	BOD
Krishna		Karad to Sangli	Partly D Partly E	C	BOD
Chambal		D/S of Nagda & D/S Kota (approx 15 Kms both the places)	Partly D Partly E	C	BOD, DO
Damodar		D/S of Dhanbad to Haldia	Partly D Partly E	C	BOD, Toxic
Gomti		Lucknow to confluence with Ganga	Partly D Partly E	C	DO, BOD, Coliforms
Kali		D/S of Modinagar to confluence with Ganga	Partly D Partly E	C	-do-
Khan	i)	In the city limits of Indore	E	B	-do-

1		2	3	4	5
	ii)	D/S of Indore	E	D	DO, BOD, coliforms
Kshipra	i)	In the city limits of Ujjain	E	B	-do-
	ii)	D/S of Ujjain	E	D	-do-
Hindon		Saharanpur to confluence with Yamuna	E	D	DO, BOD, Toxic
II. Less Grossly Polluted Stretches					
Baiterni		Upstream of Chandbali	D	B	BOD & Coliforms
Krishna	i)	Dhom Dam to Narso Babari (Maharashtra)	D	C	BOD & Coliforms
	ii)	Tributary Streams (Maharashtra)	D	C	-do-
	iii)	Upto Naga-Arjun Sagar Dam and from that Dam to Upstream of Repella (Andhra Pradesh)	D	C	BOD & Coliforms
Bhadra		Origin to downstream of KICCL of Bhadra Dam (Karnataka)	D	C	Toal Coliforms
Brahmini		Upstream of Dharmashalla	D	C	BOD & Coliforms
Tunga		Thirthahalli to confluence with Bhadra	C	B	Total Coliforms
Cauveri	i)	From Talakkavari to 5 Kms of Mysore District Border Yagani (Karnataka)			
	ii)	From KR Sagar Dam to Hogenekkal (Karnataka)			
	iii)	From Pugalur to Grand Anicut (Tamil Nadu)			
	iv)	From Grand Anicut to Kumbakonam (Tamil Nadu)			
Tapi		From city limits of Nepanagar to the city limits of Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh)			
Narmada		Along the city limits of Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)			

1	2	3	4	5
Betwa	Between Vidisha and Mandideep and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)			

Note: Classification of water quality is as under:
A Drinking Water source without conventional treatment but after disinfection
B Outdoor bathing, swimming and water contact sports
C Drinking water source with conventional treatment followed by disinfection
D Propogation of wild life and fisheries
E Irrigation, Industrial colling, and waste disposal

B. Identified Pollluted Stretches of medium and minor rivers

No.	River/Stretch		Agency
1	2		3
1.	Damanganga/Minor	d/s. GIDC Estate Weir, Vapi Daman Village	Gujarat SPCB/CPCB
2	Kolak/Minor	d/s. confluence GIDC drain, Vapi Kolak Village	Gujarat SPCB/CPCB
3.	Par (estuary)/ Minor	after weir of Atul — Village Magod—Dungari	Gujarat SPCB/CPCB
4.	Vishwamitri/ Medium (sub)	U/s. Vadodara city-confluence with R. Dhadar at Pingalwada	Gujarat SPCB/CPCB
5.	Dhadhar/Medium	d/s. confluence with R. Vishwa—mitri at Dingalwada—village Amod	Gujarat SPCB/CPCB
6.	Dhadhar/Meidum	Village Jetpur-villager Ratia coastal highway)	(on Gujarat SPCB/CPCB
7.	Ambica/Medium	Village Bilimora-village Vagheroge	Gujarat SPCB/CPCB
8.	Khandepar (Mandovi basin-Medium)		Goa SPCB/CPCB
9.	Guloli (Zuari basin)		Goa SPCB/CPCB
10.	Sal/Minor		Goa SPCB/CPCB
11.	Valapattanam/Minor		Kerala SPCB/CPCB
12.	Kallada/Minor		Kerala SPCB/CPCB
13.	Chalakkudy/Minor		Kerala SPCB/CPCB
14.	Muvattupuzha/Minor		Kerala SPCB/CPCB
15.	Achencoil/Minor		Kerala SPCB/CPCB
16.	Karamana & Killiyar/Minor		Kerala SPCB/CPCB

1	2		3
17.	Chaliyar/Medium		Kerala SPCB/CPCB
18.	Bharathapuzha/Medium		Kerala SPCB/CPCB
19.	Pariyar/Medium		Kerala SPCB/CPCB
20.	Pamba/Medium		Kerala SPCB/CPCB
21.	Vaigai/Medium	u/s-d/s Theni.	Tamil Nadu SPCB/CPCB
22.	Vaigai/Medium	Madurai — Thiruppuvanam	Tamil Nadu SPCB/CPCB
23.	Budhabalanga/Medium		Orissa SPCB/CPCB
24.	Nagavali/Medium		Orissa SPCB/CPCB
25.	Kalinadi/Medium		Karnataka SPCB/CPCB
26.	Netravali/Medium		Karnataka SPCB/CPCB

SPCB — State Pollution Control Board
CPCB— Central Pollution Control Board

[Translation]

Four Laning Work on National Highways

*216. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to undertake four laning works of National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the targets fixed for completion of the projects;

(d) whether the Government have initiated the construction work of four laning by dividing the entire length of the road into different parts; and

(e) if so, the length of the road, out of the total roads, given to the private sector under 'Build and Operate' scheme and the length of the road which has been given to the public sector for construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Four laning of National Highways has been undertaken in a major way under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) which envisages 4/6 laning in 13252 kms consisting of the Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) connecting the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata and having a length of 5952 kms as well as North-South and East-West corridors (NS/EW) connecting Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir with Kanyakumari and Silchar with Porbander, having a length of 7300 km. The two components of NHDP are scheduled for completion by December 2003 and December 2007 respectively.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As on date a length of 202 km has been undertaken by private sector under BOT and 61 km by public sector.

[English]

Social Security-Cum-Insurance Cover for Emigrants

*217. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the overseas employment agencies for providing social security-cum-insurance cover to protect

the emigrants from such eventualities as maltreatment/ retrenchment while abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to permit emigration on selective basis on the strength of social security/insurance cover provided by the agent;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps the Government propose to make the process of emigration more transparent and legal?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) A proposal was received from M/s Maharaja Travel Service, Mumbai, a registered recruiting agent, for providing insurance cover especially for women workers going abroad for employment as housemaids to Gulf countries. The said proposal was examined under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and could not be agreed to. The prescribed process and procedures for grant of emigration clearance are in accordance with the requirements of the Emigration Act, 1983 and rules framed thereunder. Making emigration procedure more streamlined and transparent is an ongoing process.

Innovative Projects for Games/Sports

*218. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any new innovative projects to improve the standard of games and sports in the country;

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

(c) the funds allocated for the said projects, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have signed any agreement with foreign countries/funding agencies like IMF and World Bank to provide better sports infrastructure facilities in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has already introduced a scheme named "National Sports Development Fund" (NSDF) with a view to mobilise resources for promotion of sports from various sources such as government, semi-government, private and corporate sector units/agencies, and individuals including non-resident Indian (NRIs).

(c) The funds under the scheme of NSDF are not allocated State-wise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Privatisation of ILD Telephone Services

*219. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the International Long Distance (ILD) telephone services;

(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 COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) With the termination of monopoly of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) on International Voice Services on 31st March, 2002, it will be possible to allow private sector to provide such services. Accordingly, in accordance with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, the recommendations of the regulator have been sought, based on which new service provider will be inducted.

National Telephone Service Committee

*220. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted a National Telephone Service Committee in March, 2000;

(b) if so, the functions and powers of the said Committee;

(c) whether the Government have invited some suggestions for the improvement in telephone service from all the Members of Parliament in March, 2001; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The National Telephone Service Committee (NTSC) was initially constituted in February, 2000 and reconstituted on 21/3/2001.

(b) The Committee can deliberate upon the following issues and submit their suggestions/recommendations on the same:-

(a) Improvement of telecom services in places of public utility especially in rural/backward and hilly areas, hospitals, highways, pilgrimage and tourist centres and places of national importance.

(b) Public telephone concept.

(c) Fault clearance, requests for new telephone connections and for shifting of telephones.

(d) Billing practice specially pertaining to disconnection/restoration of telephone for non-payment so as to improve the overall telephone billing systems in the country.

(e) Extension of amenities to subscriber, when then visit telecom premises.

(f) Courtesy to customers, when they call/contact the telephone personnel.

(g) Simplification of procedures to make them customer friendly.

(h) Accelerating the efficacy/revamping of grievances redressal machinery at all levels.

(i) Improvement of special services e.g. 197, 198 and 199 etc.

(j) Creating mass awareness about telecom service by way of dissemination of information.

(c) and (d) The then Chairman of NTSC had addressed a letter indicating the terms of reference of the committee and inviting suggestions on the same before the reconstitution of the committee on 21/3/2001.

[English]

Exemption to Foreign Airlines from Sales Tax

2087. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision for exempting the foreign airlines from payment of sales tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) purchases;

(b) if so, whether a huge amount of arrears have accumulated on account of non-payment of such taxes;

(c) if so, whether the domestic airlines are also expected to be benefited from such exemption from payment of taxes of ATF;

(d) whether it may have any impact on the fares;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) A Bill has been introduced in Parliament to enact a legislation under Article 253 of the Constitution to exempt from all duties and taxes, the fuel and lubricants uplifted by an aircraft registered in another State operating international services to, from and through India.

(b) The oil companies have incurred under-recoveries amounting to Rs. 694.27 Crores as on 31.3.2001 on account of amounts of sale taxes paid to the State Governments on sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to foreign airlines from Indian ports but not paid by the said airlines.

(c) Domestic airlines will not be benefitted from this Bill as it is meant for fulfilling India's obligation under the Air Services Agreements with various countries.

(d) to (f) It will not have any impact on the fare as foreign airlines are not paying sale tax even now on ATF uplifted by them from various Indian ports.

[Translation]

Installation of Runway Lights at Airports (Against ICAO Rules)

2088. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India has installed runway lights at Indore, Hyderabad and Bangalore airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the positioning of runway of lights was found erroneous and the same is being removed and to be installed at a new place;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this exercise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The runway lights at Indore, Hyderabad and Bangalore airports were installed in 1970 by Central Public Works Department (CPWD) prior to formation of National Airports Authority in 1986.

(c) No, Sir. The positioning of runway lights was meeting the ICAO guidelines which were in force when these lights were installed. These lights are now being re-positioned at a distance of not more than 3 metres to meet the present ICAO guidelines.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Airports Authority of India has spent Rs. 1.74 lakhs at Bangalore, Rs. 1.80 lakhs at Hyderabad and at Indore, the work is in progress.

[English]

Ban of use of Hazardous Chemicals

2089. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the study by Nistads on Hazarouds Chemicals etc. in NISTADS news Vol.3 No. 1 April 2001 by two senior scientists;

(b) if so, the highlights and new findings which are not readily available in several other reports the manner in which this data is going to be utilized by the Government in view of special outlays incurred on the study;

(c) whether a list of alternative chemicals compiled which might be used in place of these harmful chemicals has been prepared in different categories;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the policies of different countries regarding management of these chemicals and how are these different from those followed in India and China;

(f) whether list of manufacturers of these chemicals in the country has also been compiled and updated over the earlier CPCB/CIB list;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether there is any of chemicals in our list which are banned in other countries; and

(i) if so, list thereof for public information, including details of safe handling compiled by the scientists including the one on mosquito repellants in use in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (i) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India assigned the preparation of a "State of Art Report on Chemicals and Products whose Production, and Import/Export have been banned by other countries but continue to be produced and used in India" to the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), New Delhi. Following were the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the study:

(1) To develop an inventory of chemicals and products (both industrial and agricultural) whose production and trade (import/export) have been banned by other countries but continue to be manufactured and used in India.

(2) To develop an inventory of alternatives to chemicals banned abroad but continue to be manufactured and used in India.

(3) To suggest ways and means like additional levy or other disincentives on chemicals which are banned in other countries but continue to be manufactured and used in India.

(4) Chemical Safety Policies followed by other Asian Countries (China, Korea etc.) and Europe & USA.

(5) Location and ownership of units manufacturing chemicals and products banned/restricted abroad.

NISTADS has submitted the draft final report to the Ministry of Environment & Forests on 23rd July, 2001.

STD/ISD/PCO Booths

2090. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
DR. JAYANTA RONGPI:
DR. SANJAY PASWAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths;

(b) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths functioning in each district of West Bengal particularly in Durgapur region and Diphu region of Assam at present;

(c) the number of applications lying pending for the installation of said booths;

(d) the time by which the said applications are likely to be cleared; and

(e) the number of said booths proposed to be installed during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, STD/ISD/PCO booths are allotted liberally to all the eligible applicants on first come first served basis as per their registration.

(b) The number of STD/ISD/PCO booths functioning in West Bengal & Assam, district-wise, is given in the statement enclosed. STD/ISD/PCOs functioning in Durgapur region of West Bengal & Diphu region of Assam are 554 and 152 respectively.

(c) 5493 and 340 applications are lying pending for installation of STD/ISD/PCO booths in West Bengal & Assam respectively.

(d) The pending applications are to be cleared progressively by March 2002.

(e) 6353 and 2000 STD/ISD/PCO booths are proposed to be installed in West Bengal and Assam respectively during 2001-2002 subject to availability of applicants.

Statement

Name of the State: West Bengal

Name of the District	Number of STD/ISD/PCO Booths functioning
1	2
1. Asansol	2124
2. Bankura	158
3. Berhampore	702
4. Howrah	79
5. Hooghly	131
6. 24 Pargana North	347
7. 24 Pargana South	98
8. Coochbehar	312
9. Jalpaiguri	611
10. Kharagpur	1105
11. Krishnagar	363
12. Malda	400
13. Purulia	95
14. North Dinajpur	347
15. South Dinajpur	268
16. Siliguri	1164
17. Suri	697
18. Calcutta Metro	14426
Name of the State: Assam	
1. Kamrup	3219
2. Dibrugarh	526
3. Tinsukia	520
4. Cachar	662
5. Karimganj	458
6. Hailakandi	112
7. N.C.Hills	64
8. Jorhat	340
9. Sibsagar	304
10. Golaghat	159
11. Bongaigaon	260
12. Goalpara	94
13. Dhubri	261
14. Kokrajhar	93
15. Barpeta	289

1		2
16.	Nalbari	124
17.	Sonitpur	612
18.	Darrang	254
19.	North Lakhimpur	221
20.	Dhemaji	73
21.	Nagaon	637
22.	Morigaon	108
23.	Karbi Anglong (Diphu region)	152

Delivery of Mail

2091. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed Governmental and non-Governmental organisations for delivery of mail; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The delivery of mail is done through the Department's own delivery network and Gramin Dak Sewaks.

Public Offering for Indian Airlines

2092. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to adopt initial public offering for the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a decision is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to reduce the Government of India's equity in Indian Airlines to 49% through sale of 26% stake to a strategic partner (SP) within the parameters of the domestic air transport policy and disinvestment of 25% equity to financial institutions and by offering employees stock options etc. The implementation of Government decision is being done.

[Translation]

More National Highways In U.P.

2093. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to approve more National Highways passing through Uttar Pradesh for the development and prosperity of this State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Some small lengths of missing links in National Highways in Uttar Pradesh are proposed for declaration as National Highways.

[English]

Land for Airports in Karnataka

2094. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of acres of land have been occupied by the Airports Authority of India at Gulbarga, Hassan and Mysore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount that has been spent so far for the development of these airports; and

(d) the present status of development of these airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of Indian (AAI) is in possession of about 144 acres of land at Hassan and 292 acres of land at Mysore airports. The airport at Gulbarga belongs to State Government of Karnataka.

(c) and (d) Airports at Hassan and Mysore have remained non operational for last few years as no flights are operated through these airports. As such, there is no demand for developmental works at these airports.

[Translation]

Widening/Expanding/Repairing Work in Bihar

2095. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of National Highways in Bihar where their widening, expanding and repairing work has been started February 1997, till date;

(b) the time by which said work is likely to be started for the remaining National Highways passing through Bihar; and

(c) the details of expenditure likely to be incurred thereon alongwith the actual amount spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The work of widening, expanding and repairing on National Highways No. 2, 19, 28, 28A, 30, 31, 57, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84 and 85 passing through Bihar have been undertaken since February, 1997.

(b) Development and maintenance of National Highways is continuous process and is taken up depending upon the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

(c) Allocation and expenditure on National Highways in Bihar State are given below:-

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Development Works		Maintenance work	
		Allocation (Rs. in Crores)	Expenditure (Rs. in Crores)	Allocation (Rs. in Crores)	Expenditure (Rs. in Crores)
1.	1998-99	83.27	81.60	33.37	33.37
2.	1999-2000	171.73	151.56	61.88	53.06
3.	2000-2001	176.55	167.15	56.99	48.59

[English]

Cost-Sharing Ratio for Visakhapatnam Airport Expansion Project

2096. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost-sharing ratio for Vishakhapatnam airport expansion project with the Defence Ministry and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated cost of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Airport at Visakhapatnam is being developed at an approximate cost of Rs. 105 crores excluding the cost of land. The cost of development and expansion of runway is being shared by Ministry of Defence, State Government of Andhra Pradesh and Airports Authority of India in the approximate ratio of 50% - 25% - 25% respectively.

(c) The time frame for completion of the above project will be 30 months from the date of award of work.

[Translation]

Irrigation Schemes of Jharkhand

2097. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the irrigation schemes of Jharkhand which have received foreign assistance;

(b) the amount of foreign assistance received during the last two years, scheme-wise;

(c) the extent of works undertaken during the said period;

(d) the irrigation proposals lying pending with the Union Government and the reasons for their pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) No proposal for external assistance for any irrigation scheme has been received from the State-Government of Jharkhand. However, World Bank assistance of US$ 127 Million was provided during 1983-1989 for Subernrekha Irrigation Project of pre-reorganised Bihar State which now falls in newly created State of Jharkhand.

[English]

Aircraft with Air India/Indian Airlines

2098. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircraft with the Air India and Indian Airlines at present;

(b) the details of the aircraft that are in operation and lying idle due to unserviceable with each airlines;

(c) whether there is a proposal to increase the passenger and freight-lifting aircraft of Indian Airlines and Air India;

(d) if so, the details thereof, airlines-wise; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The fleet of Air India and Indian Airlines/Alliance Air consist of 23 aircraft and 55 aircraft (including four on dry lease) respectively at present. All the aircraft in Air India and Indian Airlines fleet are in operation.

(c) to (e) Since Air India is being disinvested shortly, they have decided not to purchase new aircraft at present. Instead, they have taken 4 A310-300 aircraft on drylease with a view to augment its routes and passengers carrying capacity. These aircraft have already joined Air India fleet. Indian Airlines has invited bids for dry lease of four A-320 aircraft to meet its short term capacity requirement. The bids were opened on 29th June, 2001. Four offers were received and the same are being examined by an in-house Committee. Alliance Air has also issued advertisement on 2nd July, 2001 for Global tender inviting bids for lease in of 6 ATR 42-500. Five leasing companies have responded to the tender notice. The offers received are being examined by an in-house Committee.

Telephone Connections

2099. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achievements made in providing new telephone connections by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in Delhi and Mumbai during 2000-2001; and

(b) the number of said connections proposed to be provided in these cities during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The targets and achievements made in providing new telephone connections by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in Delhi and Mumbai during 2000-2001 are as below.

During 2000-2001	MTNL Delhi	MTNL Mumbai
Target	1,60,000	1,70,000
Achievement	1,61,620	1,33,914

(b) The new phone connections proposed to be provided in the cities during 2001-2002 are as below.

	MTNL Delhi	MTNL Mumbai
	1,25,000	1,25,000

[Translation]

Narmada Valley Development Project

2100. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the details of works undertaken by Narmada Cleaning Scheme under the Narmada Valley Development Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): No scheme by the name of Narmada Cleaning Scheme has been undertaken under the Narmada Valley Development Project.

[English]

Night-Landing System at Calicut Airport

2101. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will tne Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the need for the installation of a night landing system at Calicut airport (Kerala); and

(b) if so, the present position of the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already provided night landing facilities at Calicut airport which is likely to be put into operation after providing additional lights by AAI and getting approval of Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Golden Quadrilateral from Kanyakumari to Mumbai

2102. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the proposal of Kerala Government to align one side of golden quadrilateral along the West Coast from Kanyakumari to Mumbai the ambitious programme of highway development titled "National Highways Development Project (NHDP)"; and

(b) if so, the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Introduction of WLL System

2103. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system instead of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) system in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details alongwith instrument cost thereof;

(c) whether WLL system is costlier than the OFC system; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to adopt more effective and less cost by system in the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system and Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) are entirely two different technologies meant for different applications. These technologies can not be substituted with each other. The WLL system is used to provide access network whereas OFC is used to provide transmissions connectivity between two exchanges.

The Government has planned to induct WLL system in rural areas extensively. Procurement of 6 lakh lines of WLL systems has already been ordered for the current financial year. The per line cost of WLL system is around Rs. 32,000/-including cost of wireless terminal at subscriber's premises. WLL is cost effective solution for providing telecommunications services in rural areas *vis-a-vis* other technologies presently available.

Rationalisation of Posts

2104. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for rationalisation of the Posts of Superintendents/SO and Assistants in the Headquarters of Employees Provident Fund Organisations pending for years;

(b) whether the EPF & MP Act, 1952 provides for pay parity to the employees of EPFO at par with the Central Government employees;

(c) whether the mode of recruitment, education qualification and functional responsibilities of superintendents of EPFO are comparable to those of the Section Officers of other Government departments;

(d) if so, whether the employees of EPFO fulfill the conditions of parity under the Act;

(e) whether there is parity in pay amongst the Assistants and Section Officers of the Central Government, ESI and of the Central Secretariat Services;

(f) if so, whether the Government are considering to clear the proposal for parity in favour of the above categories of employees of EPFO on the basis of the principle of equal pay for equal work; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (g) As per Section 5D (7) (a) of Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the method of recruitment, salary and allowances, discipline and other conditions of service of employees of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) shall be as specified by the Central Board of Trustees in accordance with the rules and orders applicable to the staff of the Central Govt. drawing corresponding scales of pay.

The mode of recruitment and salary of the post of Superintendent of the EPFO and the post of Section Officer in the Central Ministries/Departments are not similar. The proposal of the EPFO to redesignate Superintendent as Section Officer so as to bring them at par with the post of Section Officer and the revision of pay scales of Assistants to bring them at par with the Assistants of Central Sectt. is being examined.

Flood Control in Assam

2105. SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Permanent Solutions must to tame Brahmaputra" appearing in the 'Assam Tribune' dated July 1, 2001; and

(b) if so, the steps so far taken to drawn out an action plan to tame the Brahmputra for a permanent solution to the perennial problem of floods in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. The Brahmaputra Board under this Ministry has prepared Master Plans for the main stem of Brahmputra and its tributaries including Majuli island. The long term/permanent solutions have been suggested in the Master Plans in the form of storage reservoirs. These Master Plans have been sent to the concerned State Governments for implementation of recommendations contained therein.

Telecom Facilities in NER

2106. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of telephone exchanges in rural areas of North-Eastern Region including Sikkim are less than their requirements;

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

(c) the number of persons on the waiting list of telephone connections in each State of these region at present; and

(d) the time by which this waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to meet the telephone demand in the rural areas of North Eastern region including Assam and Sikkim, following targets have been set for the year 2001-02;

(i) There is a plan to open 52 telephone exchanges in these areas.

(ii) It is planned to provide 60,000 lines of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems in scattered and remote areas of these States.

(iii) For the inaccessible areas, 120 satellite terminals have also been planned.

(c) and (d) State-wise waiting list of North Eastern Region including Assam and Sikkim as on 30.6.2001, is given below:-

Name of Circle	Name of State	Waiting list as on 30.6.2001
1	2	3
North East-I(NE-I)	Meghalaya	2022
	Mizoram	885
	Tripura	4256
North East-II (NE-II)	Arunachal Pradesh	1898
	Manipur	1704

1	2	3
	Nagaland	612
Assam	Assam	13570
West Bengal	Sikkim	70

The above waiting list is likely to be cleared by March, 2002.

[Translation]

Complaint Against Linemen

2107. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Linemen in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are engaged in works involving fraud and cheating;

(b) whether the Lines of PCO owners/traders are being connected to other private personal lines and thus being misused as a result of which private consumers are receiving huge bills of telephone;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken/being taken against the guilty officials and to provide relief to the affected subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) A few cases of diversion of STD/ISD lines have been detected.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Disciplinary action has been initiated against the officials found guilty:

(i) Stringent action is taken against the erring officials in such cases

(ii) Rebate in bills is given to the affected subscribers

(iii) Dynamic locking is providing to subscribers in most of the exchanges.

[English]

Vacancies in DGFASLI

2108. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of posts are lying vacant in Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institute (DGFASLI);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by DGFASLI regarding working conditions, health status of workers and other matter relating to industrial safety in the last three years; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Posts in Government Departments, including the Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), fall vacant because of various reasons like retirements, promotions, transfer on deputation, deaths, resignation etc. Some posts are vacant in DGFASLI due to some of these reasons. Filling up of the vacant posts is a continuous and time consuming process because such recruitments are done through the Staff Selection Commission for recruitments are done through the Staff Selection Commission and the Union Public Service Commission. Necessary action for recruitment to fill the vacant posts has already been initiated.

(c) and (d) During the last three years, DGFASLI commenced the work relating to six surveys/safety audits/ studies on various aspects of safety, health and work. While the work relating to safety audit in 8 ports and study on assessment of capabilities and management of occupational safety and health in Kerala has been completed, the remaining four studies/surveys are under progress.

The safety audit reports containing specific recommendations relating to operation of some procedural practices, handling of storage and transportation of hazardous chemicals, necessity of maintaining all safety related equipments etc. have been sent to the concerned port authorities for implementation. The study relating to assessment of capabilities and management of occupational safety and health in Kerala revealed that many of the factories do not have proper work procedures and safe systems of work resulting in a number of accidents. The State Government of Kerala has already been requested by this Ministry to take further action on the recommendations contained in the study report.

Road Network in Daman & Diu

2109. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of road network in rural and urban areas of the Union Territory of Daman and Diu added during the last three years separately; and

(b) the details of the funds released and utilised for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways only. Responsibility for development and maintenance of all other roads falls within the purview of the respective State Government/Union Territories. There is no National Highway in Daman and Diu. It has been informed by the Administration of Daman & Diu that total road network in Union Territory as on 1.4.2001 is 231.33 km. 12.45 km of village roads have been added in the road network during the last three years.

(b) Funds for development of road in Daman & Diu are being provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The total allocation of Rs. 1721.46 lacs made during 1998-1999 to 2000-2001 has been fully utilised.

Opening of Office of Protector of Emigrants at Calicut

2110. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open an Office of the Protector of Emigrants at Calicut;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Kerala has agreed to provide Office space and the required staff on deputation basis; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in making the said Office functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) A proposal from the Government of Kerala for opening an office of the Protector of Emigrants at Calicut with an offer to provide office space and the services of one of their officers on deputation basis for manning it, was received. However, keeping in view the reduced out-flow of workers to other countries for work because of various reasons as also the fact that two offices of Protector of Emigrants are already functioning in the State of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram and Cochin, it was not considered feasible to open an office at Calicut.

[Translation]

Foreign aided Irrigation Projects in Jammu & Kashmir

2111. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of irrigation projects which have received foreign aid in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) the amount of aid received during the last two years, project-wise; and

(c) the details of works undertaken on the project during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No irrigation project in Jammu & Kashmir has so far been implemented with foreign assistance.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Damage to Roads/Bridges in Bihar

2112. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether flood causes heavy damage to the roads and bridges in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Some sections of National Highways Nos. 19, 28, 28A, 30, 30A, 31, 57, 80, 81, 82, 83 & 85 were affected by floods during last year. For their repairs 17 estimates amounting to Rs. 9.67 crores have been sanctioned.

[English]

Security Deposit

2113. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4373 dated April 16, 2001 regarding security deposits and state:

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

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per the existing rules and orders, the amount of security deposits required to be maintained by STD/PCO holders, needs to be reviewed every year. During the last five years, the C&AG of India has pointed out shortfall in this direction to the extent of Rs. 3.67 crores. Against this shortfall, additional security to the extent of about Rs. 3.30 crores has since been obtained. The balance shortfall is attributable to Court cases, Arbitration, disconnection and similar factors. Elaborate instructions have also been issued during July 2000 itself to all Heads of Circles to ensure proper review of such security deposits in order to avoid such type of happenings in future.

Telephone Connections

2114. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2342 dated August 7, 2000 regarding telephone connections in Jalandhar and state:

(a) whether the road-cutting permission for underground cable pair in some area of Master Tara Singh Nagar has given by the Municiple Corporation Authorities;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the new telephone connections under non-OYT general category is likely to be provided to all the applicants who had applied during the period January 1999 to June 1999 in Jalandhar city particularly under Master Tara Singh telephone exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir, but the permissions are given with delay as most of the lanes in Master Tara Singh Nagar are concrete.

(b) Not Applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) By March 2002 subject to the availability of stores and funds.

Teesta Barrage Project

2115. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the time since when the construction of Teesta Barrage Project started;

(b) the percentage of work completed and total area being irrigated by this project, till-date;

(c) the funds released by the Union Government year-wise;

(d) whether monitoring cell established to look after the progress of work of the project has monitored the project's work;

(e) if so, the extent to which this call has helped in early completion of the project; and

(f) the time, by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Teesta Barrage Project was taken up in May, 1976.

(b) Physical progress of project components are given in the enclosed statement. Cumulative potential created till 3/2001 as reported is about 104. th. ha.

(c) Planning Commission had released additional Central assistance of Rs. 150 crore during VIII plan as detailed below:-

Year	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
(Rs. in crore)	20.00	27.00	32.00	32.00	39.00

Year-wise Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme provided by Central Government to the State of West Bengal for this Project is as under:-

Year	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Central Loan Assistance (Rs. in crore)	5.00	15.00	10.00	19.00	20.00

(d) to (f) Irrigation being a State-subject, the Teesta Barrage Project is being planned, executed, funded and maintained by the State Government out of its own resources and as per its own priorities. The Teesta Barrage Project and the implementation of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme components are monitored by the Central Water Commission to identify bottlenecks and recommend releases of Central assistance. The completion of the project is linked to many factors like progress of work, acquisition of land and provision of required funds by the State Government.

Statement

Physical progress of project components

Components	% Completion
Teesta Barrage	100%
Mahananda Barrage	100%
Dauk Nagar Barrage	100%
Teesta Mahananda Link Canal	100%
Mahananda Main Canal	100%
Dauk Nagar Main Canal (E/W)	83%
Nagar Tangon Main Canal (E/W)	To be taken up
Teesta Jaldhaka Main Canal (E/W)	75%

Closure of ESI Hospitals

2116. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether patient care is not of high standards at ESI hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any plan to close down some of these hospitals and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to improve patient care at ESI hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Keeping in view the fast technological advancement and the changes required within the existing institutions, the ESI Corporation has approved an Action Plan to bring about improvement in medical services under the ESI Scheme. Accordingly, the Corporation has decided to set up super-speciality services within the existing ESI hospitals so as to provide medical, surgical, diagnostic and rehabilitative facilities along with 24 hour availability of accident, emergency and critical care services. As medical care under the ESI Scheme is being administered by the State Governments/ UT Administrations, the ESIC has requested them to make tie up contractual arrangements with local reputed medical institutions to ensure that the ESI beneficiaries get super speciality treatment. A revolving fund has also been set up with Regional Directors of ESIC in most of the States to grant advance/medical reimbursement to insured persons for super-speciality treatment. At present there are no plans to close down any of the hospitals.

Workshop on Road Sector

2117. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India have recently conducted a two day workshop for foreign construction companies on the investment prospects in the road sector;

(b) if so, the details of the major issues discussed at this workshop;

(c) whether any consensus has been evolved on the conflicting interests and objectives of both the National Highways Authority of India and the Contractors;

(d) if so the details thereof;

(e) whether the National Highways Authority of India has agreed to cancel new projects based on toll-collection; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major issues discussed in the workshop held in February, 2001, were business plans for development of highways in the next 10 years, policy measures related to regulation, taxation and repatriation of money and contract management.

(c) and (d) The aim of the workshop was only to inform and acquaint the contracting industry on business opportunities, working environment, availability of technical manpower and resources, and initiatives taken by Government for working of international contracting industry.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Harvesting of Rain Water

2118. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to involve Non-Governmental and Voluntary Organisations for harvesting of rain water; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) In the Central Scheme of Recharge Studies, there is a provision of involvement of Non-Governmental and Voluntary Organisations for harvesting of rain water. The proposals for this purpose should come through the State Governments.

Postal Life Insurance

2119. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether postal life insurance business in rural areas has come down during the past few years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/ proposed to be taken to improve the business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. In the past few years viz. 1998-99,1999-2000 and 2000-2001 the Postal Life Insurance business in rural areas has increased by 42%, 12% and 20% respectively.

(b) Not applicable.

Private Courier Service

2120. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any business development and marketing technology has been developed/evolved to overcome the challenges of private courier service in the country;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years;

(c) whether the funds have been completely utilised; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The department has set up a Business Development Directorate in 1996 to market premium services as a response to the challenge of the private courier service in the Country.

(b) to (d) The plan fund allotment, expenditure and reasons for variation in respect of Business Development Directorate is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

	Allotment	Expenditure
1998-99	Rs. 5.15	Rs. 3.64
1999-2000	Rs. 7.20	Rs. 6.68
2000-01	Rs. 6.26	Rs. 5.34

The shortfall occurred during 1998-99 & 2000-2001 due to non availability of inserting machines of due

specification and during 1999-2000 due to below-level performance of the publicity agency.

Unauthorised Ground Handling Agencies at IGIA

2121. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has expressed concern over the number of unauthorised ground handling agencies at the domestic and international terminals of IGI Airport;

(b) if so, the details of illegal agencies working at the airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) had expressed concern over the entrusting of the task of security by airlines to private agencies. This also extended to the field of self-handling by these airlines. This issue was examined and it was decided that till the new Ground Handling Regulations were notified, those agencies may be permitted to provide these services, which met the conditions laid down by AAI. Now, the new Airports Authority of India (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2000, have been notified and AAI have initiated the process of selecting private companies for providing ground handling services in a cost efficient and competitive manner, at international airports. Government has also decided to strictly enforce the provision that private security agencies should not be permitted for providing security services to airlines.

Financial Assistance for BSNL

2122. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
DR. V. SAROJA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has approached the Ministry of Finance for financial assistance for the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has accepted the proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is a proposal to exempt BSNL from paying the sales tax; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (g) At the time of corporatisation of the Department of Telecom Services, the Government decided that unviable projects which are socially relevant will be funded by the Government separately. Pursuant to this decision, DOT has approached Ministry of Finance for a suitable capital structure and a package of reliefs which will enable BSNL to discharge its obligations towards rural telephony as well as urban low-calling services. DOT has asked for reimbursement of licence fee, moratorium of payment of loan and waiver of interest and dividend for 5 years as well as reimbursement of additional sales tax. Discussions with the Ministry of Finance are at an advanced stage, after which Cabinet approval will be sought.

Complaint Against Telephone Department

2123. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received against the telephone department in Junagadh and Jamnagar regions received during each of the last two years; and

(b) the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The details of complaints received against the Telephone Department in Junagadh ad Jamnagar regions during each of the last two years are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The details of action taken thereon are as follows:

1. Underground cables are being laid in the non-feasible areas to provide new telephone connections and shift cases.
2. The billing cases have been investigated and rebate granted.

3. *Behavioural training to staff has been given to be more courteous towards public.*

4. The laying of optical fibre cables is being expedited. 90% of exchanges have been provided with reliable media. The work for remaining exchanges is in progress and expected to be completed by end of March 2002.

5. New exchanges have been planned based on pending demands.

6. The fault prone telephone areas are being rehabilitated. The work of opening of 5 pair Distribution Points has already been taken on hand. The subscriber fitting work is also being carried out.

7. (a) *Jamnagar: On Commercial officer was transferred and one minor penalty charge sheet was issued to one officer.*

(b) Junagadh:

(i) In one case recovery was ordered from contractor, who has printed directory.

(ii) Two officials were issued major penalty charge sheets.

(iii) In one case, the contractor who had laid the cable at less depth and without bricks was paid proportionate amount and the amount was deducted for not having carried out work as per specification. Also action is being initiated against the officer involved in passing incorrect bills.

Statement

Details of Complaints received in Junagadh and Jamnagar regions during each of last two years.

Sl. No.	Type of Complaint	Period July 1999 to June 2000		Period July 2000 to 2001	
		Jamnagar	Junagadh	Jamnagar	Junagadh
1.	Delay in provision of new Telephone Connection	50	910	267	830
2.	Delay in shift	17	20	52	10
3.	Billing complaints	25	35	72	21
4.	Behaviour Complaints	01	35	02	28
5.	Request for Optical Fiber system	07	496	09	267
6.	Opening of New Exchanges	08	Nil	05	Nil
7.	Relating to faults duration	195	641	395	643
8.	Corruption and Malpractice	02	37	01	48
	Total	305	2174	803	1847

Telecom Facilities

2124. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of security deposit on waiting list during last three years and as on April 1, 2001, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken to minimise the waiting lists;

(c) the total amount of each security deposits remained unutilized due to non-feasibilities in installation of telephone connections during the said period and compensation offered to such depositors;

(d) whether the Union Government are contemplating to lay cable to all villages with population one thousand or more in rural areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measure taken to mitigate hardship to each telephone seekers by issuing demand notices on feasibility alone instead of demanding advance security deposits in all fairness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Delhi-Lahore Bus Service

2125. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:
SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bus service to Lahore has been a success;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of buses running between Delhi and Lahore;

(d) if so, the number of more buses proposed to be started and by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Two buses of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) almost run with full load.

(c) to (e) There is no formal proposal at this juncture.

Crashing of Trainer Craft

2126. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of trainer aircraft crashed during the last two years and the number of pilots killed therein;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the cause of these accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) There were three accidents to the trainer aircraft during the last two years and four pilots got killed in these accidents.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. All the three accidents have been investigated by Inspector of Accidents appointed under Rule 71 of the Aircraft Rules 1937. The details and cause of these accidents are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Accident to Swati Aircraft VT-STD Near Patna Airport on 15.3.99

Swati aircraft VT-STD of Bihar Flying Institute, Patna was engaged in circuit and landing exercise at Patna Aerodrome with an Instructor pilot and a trainee on board on 15.3.99. Both the occupants on board got severely charred and died in the accident.

The probable cause of the accident as given by the Inspector of Accident is:

"The aircraft stalled and impacted ground during execution of a steep turn towards down wind leg, subsequent to possible loss of engine power during initial climb after take off."

Accident to TB-20 Aircraft VT-EAG at Gazipur on 11.6.99

TB-20 aircraft VT-IGA owned and operated by IGRUA was engaged in training flight from IGRUA, Fursatganj to Patna via Varanasi. The aircraft was under the command of Capt. S.R. Singh along with a trainee pilot and two passengers on board the aircraft. All the four occupants sustained fatal injuries.

The probable cause of the accident as given by Inspector of Accident is:

"Accident resulted when pilot over loaded the aircraft beyond design limits in an attempt to recover from spiral in which aircraft had gone after pilot lost control in CB."

Accident to Super Blanik Glider VT-GLM at Jaipur on 7.6.99

Super Blanik glider VT-GLM of Jaipur Gliding Club was involved in an accident during take-off at Jaipur. The glider was engaged in a training sortie under the supervision of instructor pilot Capt. Murari Lal. Accident resulted in substantial damage to the glider and injuries to the occupants.

The probable cause of the accident as given by Inspector of Accidents:

"The accident was caused due to cable getting entangled into the main landing gear fork and inability of the pilot to effect safe landing and lack of ability of the winch operator to handle the emergency."

Long Distance Call

2127. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of profit of the Government earned from the long distance calls by the private mobile operators has since been discontinued after launching of limited mobile facility;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the present share of Government in the profit viz-a-viz its earlier share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Sir, at present, the private Cellular Mobile Telephone Operators pass on 100% revenue collected from their subscribers on account of call charges towards fixed leg of calls, including long distance calls, to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. However, after introduction of the use of subscriber hand-held set in WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) technology limited in local area, commonly known as Limited Mobility, by existing as well as future Basic Service Operators 5% of the charges collected by the cellular operators for the fixed leg of the call will be retained by them.

[English]

Borewells in Tamil Nadu

2128. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the details of Centrally aided bore-well schemes under operation in Tamil Nadu during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): There is no Centrally aided bore-well scheme under operation by the Central Ground Water Board in Tamil Nadu during 2000-2001.

[Translation]

Unemployed Engineering Graduates

2129. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to accord priority to eradicate the problem of unemployment of engineering graduates during the Tenth Five year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment regarding unemployed engineering graduates at the end of Ninth Five year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the increase in the number of unemployed engineering graduates of the country during ninth five year plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Planning Commission is yet to finalise the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) to (e) The number of engineering graduates, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country at the end of years 1997 & 1998 (latest available) were of the order of 1.86 & 1.81 lakh respectively.

[English]

Sprinkling of Ash by Pakistan

2130. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is carrying on experiments in the Himalayan glaciers feeding the Indian rivers by sprinkling huge quantity of ash to increase water flow into the catchment areas of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the implications involved in so far as the feeding of the Indian rivers by the glaciers is concerned; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Media reports indicate that Pakistan is considering such a proposal to artificially generate snow melts from the Himalayan glaciers and though a firm assessment of its implications may not be feasible from the limited information available, artificially induced melting of snow by sprinkling ash over the glaciers may not generate floods due to usually low melting rate in such cases.

Flood Control in Orissa

2131. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the magnitude of recent floods in Orissa;

(b) if so, the financial assistance provided to State Government for the rehabilitation of affected persons; and

(c) the preventive steps considered by the Government to avoid occurrence of floods in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hon'ble Prime Minister of India announced on 18th July, 2001, an initial amount of Rs. 100.00 crore for relief/rescue operation for the flood affected people of Orissa. During his visit on 29.7.2001, an additional relief of Rs. 435.00 crore by way of additional 3 lakh tonnes of rice (estimated cost of Rs. 210 crore) under Food for Work Programme and one lakh additional Indira Awas Yojana Units (estimated cost Rs. 225 crore) for rebuilding houses for people below poverty line, has been provided to the State Government. The Central Government has also released the entire Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2000-2001 amounting to Rs. 86.21 crore to the State Govt. of Orissa.

(c) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. As per the information received from the State Govt. of Orissa, flood problem could be mitigated in Orissa by construction of another dam at Mahanadi, desilting of Subarnarekha mouth with excavation of drainage channels on upstream of Rajghat for flood control of river Subarnarekha and construction of Kanpur Dam and Bhimkund Dam across river Baitarani to control floods in Baitarani. The process of strengthening and modernization of existing flood forecasting network maintained by Central Water Commission under this Ministry has also been initiated.

Bilateral Agreements on Pricing

2132. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the bilateral agreements on pricing, the fare for the Air India flights has to be fixed according to a mutually agreed formula between the parties concerned;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has proposed amendments to the Aircraft Rules, 1937 to alow freedom to international carriers in fixing the fares;

(c) if so, the extent to which the proposed amendments are likely to violate the bilateral agreements;

(d) the reaction of the international carriers in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which the same is to be beneficial to the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The tariff provision of bilateral Air Services Agreements normally requires approval of tariffs by the respective aeronautical authorities.

(b) to (e) There is a proposal regarding change in pricing mechanism for international flights. No final decision has been taken.

Group Insurance Scheme

2133. SHRI P. KUMARSAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Group Insurance Scheme introduced recently for the benefit of agricultural labourers in the country;

(b) the regions selected for implementing this scheme, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be introduced throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) A statement is annexed.

Statement

The Government has launched 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana - 2001' for agricultural workers from 1st July 2001. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will implement the Scheme. The following provisions of social security have been made under the Scheme:

(g) Life-cum-accident insurance,

(h) Money back, and

(i) Pension and Superannuation benefits.

Agricultural workers in the age group of 18 years to 50 years are eligible under the Scheme. The worker will contribute Re1/- per day, or Rs. 365/- per year, and the Government will pay Rs. 2/- per day, or Rs. 730/- per year, per beneficiary from the Social Security Fund.

Initially, the Scheme will be implemented in 50 districts with at least one district from each State. Keeping in view the performance of the Scheme during the first phase and the availability of funds, the Scheme will be extended to more districts.

Reduction of Pulse Rates

2134. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facility of reduced tariff reflected in the pulse rates for distances between 50 to 200 Kms. Announced by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are not extended to call originating from mobile telephones but terminating at a fixed telephone connected to and provided by BSNL;

(b) if so, whether this is not discriminatory in nature and also violative of licence agreement requiring cellular operators to collect STD charges from their subscribers at BSNL prescribed rates; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to treat similarly all calls, whether originating, on transit or terminating on BSNL circuits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The facility of reduced tariff reflected in the pulse rates for distances between 50 to 200 kms. Announced by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is not extended to call originating form mobile telephones but terminating at a fixed telephone connected to and provided by BSNL.

(b) No, Sir. It is not discriminatory in nature. As per the Telecom Tariff Order 99 issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), each telecom service provider is permitted to offer alternate tariff package to its own customers. The concessional/alternate tariff package in the form of reduced STD charges for distances between 50 to 200 Kms has been extended by BSNL and MTNL to their customers for calls orginating and terminating in the basic services network as is also being done by other service providers including the cellular service providers for their own customers. The calls from one network to another network including the calls from cellular network to the basic network are charged as per an agreed revenue sharing arrangement at the tariffs prescribed by TRAI. This is also in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement.

(c) No action required in view of (b) above.

[Translation]

Imposition of Labour Laws by Developed Countries

2135. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States of America and other developed countries are trying to thrust labour laws through World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have planned any strategy to counter the efforts of developed countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are trying to make the domestic labour law more effective and labour oriented; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The issue of linkage between trade and labour standards was proposed by some developed countries including USA in the First Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in Singapore in 1996. It was opposed by many developing countries including India. The Singapore Ministerial Declaration endorsed the stand of the developing countries and had rejected the use of labour standards for protectionist purposes. Further, it had reaffirmed that ILO is the competent body to set and deal with labour standards.

The issue again came up in the Third Ministerial Conference in Seattle in 1999. Though US and other developed countries in the Seattle Ministerial Conference had proposed for creation of a Working Group to study trade and labour linkage, the developing countries, including India, had succeeded in opposing the inclusion of trade and labour linkage in WTO. Government made it clear that there can be no linkage of trade and labour standards: India has been coordinating its position with other developing countries to ensure that no linkage between trade and observance of labour standards is established in WTO.

(d) and (e) Review/updating of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in conformity with the prevailing situation and emerging needs. Taking into consideration the emerging global economic situation and particularly after the introduction of the new economic policy by the Government, the need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour legislations and to make them in tune with the market oriented economy. The Government of India has set up the 2nd National Labour Commission on 15.10.1999 so that the existing labour laws are reviewed and brought in tune with the emerging economic environment, technological changes, labour market needs and demands.

[English]

Godavari Lift Irrigation Scheme

2136. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have permitted the Government of Andhra Pradesh to take up Godavari lift irrigation scheme in Telangana districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further action proposed to get the remaining part of the Godavari project cleared expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have on 29.5.2001 submitted a pre feasibility report of the Godavari Lift Irrigation Scheme envisaging construction of a lift scheme 16 km below Inchampalli on Godavari to irrigate about 2 lakh ha. by lifting 50 TMC. Since the project being located in lower Godavari sub basin G-10, the Government of Andhra Pradesh can utilise all water of Lower Godavari Sub Basin, as per the award of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been asked by Ministry of Water Resources to submit the detailed project report for techno-economic appraisal in the Central Water Commission and thereafter the investment clearance from the Planning Commission.

Water Projects for Drinking Water

2137. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned 12 water projects in States to provide safe drinking water to habitants affected by the fluoride or brackish water; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) To tackle fluoride & brakish contamination in drinking water, during 1994-98, under Sub-Mission programme of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), 83 projects were sanctioned to different States at a total approved cost of about Rs. 944 crore, out of which Government of India's share is about Rs. 709 crore and State share is Rs. 235 crore. Out of these 83 projects, 20 are reported to be completed and rest are at different stages of implementation. Since 1.4.1998 powers to plan, approve and implement schemes under Sub-Mission have been delegated to the States.

The time of completion of the Drinking Water Supply projects is dependent upon the inter-se allocation of ARWSP funds by the concerned State Government.

Casual Labour in BALCO

2138. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that after the disinvestment of BALCO, regular and casual labour force are facing severe threat for their job and other service conditions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Kosi Dam

2139. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepal Government have submitted their revised survey report recently to the Union Government for starting investigation, survey and studies on Kosi dam to solve the problem of floods in Kosi river permanently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the further action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Nepal had submitted the revised Project Inception Report (December 1999) for Sapta Kosi and Sun Kosi Projects in January 2000. The above Project Inception Report as well as the issue of opening the Joint Project Office to prepare the Joint Detailed Project Report was discussed during the 3rd meeting of the Joint Team of Experts of India and Nepal held in March 2001, in New Delhi.

[English]

Separate Legislation for Development of Highways

2140. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a separate legislation to create a dedicated road fund for the development of Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the response of entrepreneurs to BOT project are poor;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to grant liberal fiscal concessions for highway development; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) For the development of Highways, the Central Road Fund Act 2000 has already been enacted. The Act provides for collection of cess of Re. 1/- per litre on petrol and diesel and crediting of proceeds of cess first to consolidated fund of India and after approval of Parliament to the Central Road Fund. The funds available from CRF will be utilized for the development and maintenance of National Highways, State roads, safety works on rail-road crossings and for rural roads.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. So far 21 road/bridge projects under the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) scheme involving an investment of about Rs. 1832 crore have been undertaken.

(e) and (f) Government has already taken a number of facilitating measures to promote private sector participation in the development and maintenance of national highways which include various incentives in the form of tax concession, duty free import of specified equipment, capital grant, permitting Foreign Direct Investment and external commercial borrowings.

[Translation]

Linking of Major Cities by Air

2141. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the cities which have been connected by air during the last three years; and

(b) the details of expenditure made thereon during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Indian Airlines has linked the following stations from the year 1998 onwards:-

Stations	Date
Domestic	
Shimla	12.3.1999
Kulu	12.3.1999
Dharamsala	16.9.1999
Dehradun	16.9.1999
Jabalpur	11.6.1999
International	
Dubai	08.06.2001

(b) Whenever, a new station is started by Indian Airlines, expenditure is incurred on inauguration and promotion of new station as a normal airline business strategy. The expenditure does not warrant a separate accounting and is absorbed as a part of normal business costs etc. As such, it is not possible for Indian Airlines to furnish the details of expenditure.

[English]

Closing of Zoos

2142. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether due to implementation of new laws of Zoo Authority of India, many private and community zoos are going to be closed in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) According to Section 38(H) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Central Zoo Authority is required to grant recognition to a zoo having regard to the interests of protection and conservation of wildlife, and the standards and norms that have been prescribed for housing, upkeep and healthcare of zoo animals. The zoos which do not meet the objective of conservation and do not provide the animals in their collection, housing, upkeep and healthcare upto the prescribed standards, can not be granted recognition. Such zoos are required by law to be closed down.

(c) A meeting of State Forest Secretaries was convened on 20.11.2000 to review the functioning of the zoos in the country and devise the strategy for implementation of conditions stipulated by Central Zoo Authority for ensuring improved housing, upkeep and health care of zoo animals. Chief Ministers of concerned States are also requested to look into the matter and ensure compliance of the conditions stipulated by Central Zoo Authority at the time of issuing letters of recognition in a time bound manner.

Water Crisis

2143. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "TERI warns against severe water scarcity by 2050" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated July 5, 2001;

(b) if so, the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) has revealed that there may be shortage of water in most of the parts of the country in the next few years;

(c) if so, whether the efforts made by the Government to generate more resources to overcome water scarcity have been proved futile; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the steps the Government propose to take to redeem the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), in their study "Directions, Innovations and Strategies for Harnessing Action (DISHA), has projected that the country will go from the present state of water stress (annual water availability less than 1700 cubic metre per capita) to a state of water scarcity (annual water availability less than 1000 cubic metre per capita), with average annual per capita water availability of 750 cubic metre by 2047. TERI has further projected that seven of the twenty agro-ecological zones of the country will have a situation of water scarcity by 2047.

According to the international criteria, a situation of annual water availability of less than 1000 cubic metre per capita is considered as scarcity condition. However, as per the assessment made by Central Water Commission, it is estimated that due to increasing population the average annual per capita water availability may come down from 1869 cubic metre at present to about 1350 cubic metre by 2025 AD and 1240 by 2050 AD at the national level. Due to the spatial variability of rain in the country and also because of variation in population density, per capita average annual availability of water in different basins presently varies from 14,057 cubic metre in Brahmaputra Barak basin to 307 cubic metre in Sabarmati basin. Out of 20 major basins in the country, eight basins are presently having per capita water availability below 1000 cubic metre per year. By 2050, 12 basins are likely to face water scarcity when the projected perspective population of the country would be at 1.64 billion. Further, the temporal variability in the rainfall creates temporary scarcity of water in certain years.

(c) Development of water resources in the country since independence has resulted in an increase of foodgrain production from less than 50 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes in 1999. This has been made possible with the creation of a live storage capacity of 177 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) by construction of large dams upto 1995. With the help of these storages created and other minor irrigation schemes, an irrigation potential of 90 Million hectare (Mha) has been created upto the end of the Eighth Plan against the ultimate irrigation potential of 139.9 Mha in the country.

(d) In order to meet the growing demand of water in the country, projects, to add an additional storage capacity of about 75 BCM are under construction and for 132 BCM are under planning. Further, the Government of India has been extending financial assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme since 1996-1997 to State Governments to help them complete the ongoing irrigation projects early. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge. Assistance is also extended to State Governments under Command Area Development Programme for bridging the gap between potential created and utilised. As a long term measure, National Water Development Agency established in 1982, under Ministry of Water Resources, have formulated National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages interlinking between various peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins.

Harvesting of Rain Water

2144. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed in the beginning of Ninth Plan for harvesting of rain water State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and disbursed for the purpose State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water". It includes harvesting of rain water. The Government have earmarked funds amounting to Rs. 25.00 crore for the scheme during the IX Five Year Plan. State-wise details of the proposals approved under the scheme are given in enclosed Statement. The approved proposals are expected to implemented within 1-2 years.

Statement

State-wise Details of proposals approved concerning Ground Water Recharge Schemes

Sl. No.	State	Schemes (Nos.)	Approved cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Status
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	54.55	Under implementation
2.	Assam	1	56.69	Under implementation
3.	Bihar	4	18.69	Under implementation
4.	Delhi	14	86.43	Four schemes completed and rest are under implementation
5.	Gujarat	3	18.95	Under implementation
6.	Haryana	8	139.12	Three schemes are completed and rest are under implementation
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6	81.65	Three schemes are completed and rest are under implementation
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	190.19	One scheme completed and rest are under implementation
9.	Jharkhand	6	28.04	Under implementation
10.	Karnataka	1	13.75	Under implementation
11.	Kerala	9	67.62	Five schemes are at final stage of completion and rest are under implementation
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5	53.85	Four schemes completed and rest are under implementation
13.	Maharashtra	3	76.63	Under implementation
14.	Meghalaya	1	28.00	Under implementation
15.	Mizoram	1	28.00	Under implementation
16.	Nagaland	1	70.00	Under implementation
17.	Orissa	2	437.40	Under implementation
18.	Punjab	15	251.49	Six schemes completed and rest are under implementation
19.	Rajasthan	13	84.27	One scheme is completed and rest are under implementation
20.	Tamil Nadu	8	198.98	One scheme completed and rest are under implementation
21.	Uttar Pradesh	5	37.21	Under implementation
22.	Uttaranchal	1	2.00	Under implementation
23.	West Bengal	8	167.82	Under implementation
	Total	136	2191.33	

[Translation]

Request for Changing Name of Airports in H.P.

2145. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Himachal Pradesh to change the nomenclature of Gaggal, Jubbar, Hatti and Bhuntar airports to Kangra, Shimla and Kullu-Manali airports respectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The names of Gaggal, Jubbar Hatti and Bhuntar airports in Himachal Pradesh have already been changed to Kangra, Shimla and Kullu-Manali airports respectively.

Telephone Connections

2146. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Gujarat particularly in Kutch region and Maharashtra as on June 30, 2001 separately, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):

(a)

State/Region	Waitlist
Gujarat	238974
Kutch region	12631
Maharashtra	366894

District wise details are given in the Statement I & II enclosed.

(b)

State	Likely date by which waitlist will be cleared
Gujarat	31 March 2002
Maharashtra (Other than Mumbai)	30 September 2002
Mumbai	31 March 2002

Statement-I

Gujarat

District Wise Details of Waiting List

Sr. No.	District	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	13386
2.	Gandhinagar	7557
3.	Amreli	7857
4.	Bharuch	3951
5.	Narmada	1420
6.	Kutchh	12631
7.	Bhavnagar	11220
8.	Panchmahal	8092
9.	Dahod	3609
10.	Sabarkantha	14400
11.	Jamnagar	10190
12.	Junagarh	9888
13.	Porbandar	2929
14.	Diu (UT)	220
15.	Mehsana	15700
16.	Patan	8237
17.	Kheda	2331
18.	Anand	2902
19.	Banaskantha	16245
20.	Rajkot	14282
21.	Surendranagar	5011

1	2	3
22.	Surat	40017
23.	Vadodara	8085
24.	Valsad	9730
25.	Navsari	5673
26.	Dang	238
27.	Daman (UT)	1644
28.	DNH (UT)	1529
	Total	238974

Statement-II

Maharashtra

District Wise Details of Waiting list

Sr. No.	District	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Ahmadnagar	32823
2.	Akola	3296
3.	Washim	1114
4.	Amravati	4725
5.	Aurangabad	12481
6.	Beed	5652
7.	Bhandara	3193
8.	Gondia	1840
9.	Buldhana	3008
10.	Chandrapur	4375
11.	Dhule	5308
12.	Nandurbar	1892
13.	Gadchiroli	1173
14.	Jalgaon	13938
15.	Jalna	3449
16.	Kalyan	30080
17.	Kolhapur	12663
18.	Latur	13489
19.	Nagpur	12961
20.	Nanded	12425
21.	Nasik	14341
22.	Osmanabad	5413
23.	Parbhani	3153
24.	Hingoli	1957
25.	Pune	37414
26.	Raigad	4858
27.	Ratnagiri	7072
28.	Sangli	10620
29.	Satara	13062
30.	Sindhudurg	6265
31.	Solapur	24840
32.	Wardha	3475
33.	Yeotmal	4370
34.	Mumbai	50169
	Total	366894

[English]

Under Utilisation of Airports

2147. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the airports are under utilisation in the country;

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

(c) the passenger handling capacity and cargo tariff of each airport;

(d) the actual passenger and cargo tariff handled by each airport during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the maximum utilisation of airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The extent of utilization of airport varies from airport to airport depending upon the traffic and time when the capacity was created. Normally, an airport has to cater to the future traffic growth as well after commissioning. Due to long gestation period of airport projects, idle capacity is in-built in the airport system.

(b) to (d) Information regarding the Annual Passenger Handling capacity, actual passenger traffic and cargo handled at each of the 45 major airports is given in the statement enclosed.

(e) Capacity Utilisation of airports depends upon the traffic demand and commercial viability of operations of airlines. Government has taken steps to promote operation of small aircraft which are more suitable for large number of smaller airports. Alliance Air is planning to induct 50-seater aircraft in its fleet. It will enable operation of more flights to smaller airports thereby enhancing the utilization of such airports.

Statement

	Annual Passenger Capacity	Passengers Handled (in lakhs)			Cargo Handled (in tonnes)		
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mumbai	114.50	110.19	115.59	121.78	243.58	276.66	287.61
Delhi	106.00	78.83	83.14	89.34	198.43	219.13	235.04
Chennai	48.50	35.24	36.47	40.66	74.14	99.58	105.96
Kolkata	42.20	25.21	25.99	26.86	49.06	53.66	53.85
Trivandrum	11.60	11.38	10.34	10.11	30.67	28.15	25.59
Bangalore	33.00	19.97	21.56	24.44	44.57	50.47	58.62
Hyderabad	30.00	13.52	14.10	16.10	13.21	16.43	17.09
Ahmedabad	8.02	7.72	8.19	8.47	7.90	8.49	9.49
Goa	10.41	7.09	7.59	8.77	3.35	3.68	3.74
Calicut	8.52	5.06	5.30	4.86	3.10	5.44	6.54
Cochin (Private)	28.95	3.95	6.08	7.72	1.77	2.63	6.36
Guwahati	3.32	3.71	4.09	4.51	4.98	5.79	6.56
Coimbatore	5.00	2.24	2.31	2.63	2.48	3.08	3.14
Varanasi	2.50	2.22	1.97	2.20	1.16	1.41	1.29
Mangalore	3.00	2.18	2.13	2.14	0.26	0.29	0.26
Pune	3.00	3.14	3.44	4.15	0.95	1.21	3.27
Nagpur	7.00	2.21	1.95	1.99	0.73	0.83	1.03
Vadodara	3.59	2.24	1.77	2.12	0.60	0.53	0.77
Jaipur	5.00	2.32	2.67	2.73	0.80	0.80	0.97
Srinagar	4.00	1.95	2.44	2.53	0.74	0.91	1.04
Lucknow	7.50	2.11	2.83	3.02	1.04	1.21	1.37

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jammu	3.00	2.43	2.65	2.30	0.65	1.03	0.58
Agartala	3.00	1.86	1.87	2.07	1.71	1.94	2.99
Udaipur	1.50	1.26	1.59	1.59	0.04	0.02	0.08
Trichy	1.80	0.81	0.80	0.78	0.15	0.29	0.29
Patna	3.76	1.28	1.70	1.77	1.14	2.05	2.21
Indore	2.00	1.46	1.50	1.80	0.72	1.08	1.12
Bhubaneswar	5.00	1.37	1.36	1.49	1.11	0.92	0.56
Imphal	1.50	0.93	1.10	1.21	0.97	0.88	0.89
Aurangabad	2.00	0.93	0.98	1.05	0.16	0.38	0.53
Bagdogra	2.00	1.06	1.23	0.94	0.91	0.80	0.36
Madurai	1.00	0.84	0.83	0.91	0.14	0.12	0.22
Visakhapatnam	2.00	1.09	1.27	1.34	0.45	0.56	0.42
Silchar	2.00	0.74	0.73	0.76	0.54	0.58	0.40
Rajkot	2.25	1.00	1.10	1.11	0.12	0.42	0.33
Dibrugarh	1.50	0.64	0.67	0.78	0.54	0.49	0.45
Bhavnagar	2.00	0.57	0.56	0.63	0.03	0.02	0.01
Khajuraho	3.00	0.66	0.67	0.57	0.13	0.08	0.02
Leh	2.00	0.90	0.97	1.05	0.37	0.35	0.25
Port Blair	2.00	0.73	1.08	1.21	0.50	0.90	1.02
Ranchi	2.50	0.00	0.49	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.43
Bhopal	2.00	0.71	0.69	0.75	0.04	0.07	0.16
Jodhpur	4.00	0.00	0.44	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.12
Bhuj	1.00	0.56	0.59	0.67	0.05	0.05	0.68
Agra	1.20	0.45	0.46	0.36	0.06	0.05	0.03

Regaining of Position by Indian Airlines

2148. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has regained its position as the market leader in domestic air travel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines is likely to make a marginal profit during the year 2001-2002; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) During the period July, August and September, 2000, Indian Airlines' market share registered a sharp decline following the unfortunate accident of Boeing aircraft in Patna. This decline had caused Indian Airlines share to dip below that of its major domestic competitor. However, Indian Airlines carriage as well as market share registered an increasing trend. During the market share registered an increasing trend. During the last three months, market share of Indian Airlines is as under:-

Month & Year	Market Share (%)
April, 2001	49.6
May, 2001	49.7
June, 2001	46.9

(c) and (d) The Budget Estimates of Indian Airlines for the year 2001-02 projected a net loss of Rs. 251.50 crores. The loss reflects steep increase in ATF cost coupled with other input costs mainly Landing and Navigational charges, increase in foreign exchange rate, Insurance Premium, Security expenditure, handling charges etc. These cost escalations added an additional annual financial burden of over Rs. 300 crores on Indian Airlines. While the cost of operations have gone up substantially, no fare increase was assumed in the Budget Estimates. Indian Airlines has adopted Flexi-fare Policy whereby fares on domestic network would be fixed having regard to prevailing market conditions such as seasonality, competition, timing of flights etc. This is likely to improve the revenue earnings of Indian Airlines through better capacity utilisation and higher yield. The other measures include strict budgetary control better fleet utilisation, increase in the productivity of Pilots, Engineers and other personnel, new marketing initiatives, product and service improvement, cost control steps etc. As a result, Indian Airlines is likely to post a better financial performance. In the first two months of the current financial year i.e., April and May, 2001, Indian Airlines, has made a lower net loss of Rs. 32.60 crores as against the budgeted net loss of Rs. 35.09 crores.

Employment Opportunities for Unemployed Youth

2149. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of unemployed youth has increased in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of unemployed youth who could not be provided jobs through employment exchanges during the said period;

(d) the number of youth provided with jobs in the Government and Private sectors during the last years, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase employment opportunities in the country especially in Rajasthan and progress achieved during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on December 31st, 1998, 1999 & 2000 were of the order of 401 lakh, 404 lakh and 413 lakh respectively.

(d) Data in respect of employment obtained by youth through various sources are not maintained. However placement made through employment exchanges is available. Only a fraction of the total job vacancies are filled up through Employment Exchanges. State-wise placement made by Employment Exchanges during 1998, 1999 and 2000 is given in the statement enclosed.

(e) The planning of employment generation is a part of the five-year Plans. The Approach to the Ninth Plan envisaged productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Government is also implementing special programmes for eradication of poverty and generation of employment. The major poverty alleviation programmes, which provide employment in the rural areas, are Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme. In the urban areas, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is in operation since 1.12.97, which also seeks to provide gainful employment to the poor. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is being implemented to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youths in both rural and urban areas. These schemes have also helped in employment generation in Rajasthan.

The total employment in the country which was of the order of 374.45 million during 1993-94 has gone up to 397.00 million during 1999-2000.

Statement

S. No.	State/Union Territory	Placement effected by the Employment Exchanges during (in thousands)		
		1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.6	10.6	4.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	@	@	@
3.	Assam	2.9	1.4	1.3

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	13.0	11.8	7.4
5.	Goa	1.1	0.4	0.3
6.	Gujarat	67.4	65.2	69.4
7.	Haryana	13.4	7.1	4.7
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.4	4.4	2.3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.2	@	2.8
10.	Karnataka	20.0	21.5	8.5
11.	Kerala	16.3	22.4	16.8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5.9	3.8	3.9
13.	Maharashtra	15.2	15.6	17.4
14.	Manipur	0.1	0.1	@
15.	Meghalaya	0.2	0.2	0.2
16.	Mizoram	0.1	0.2	0.3
17.	Nagaland	0.1	@	0.1
18.	Orissa	3.9	4.8	2.3
19.	Punjab	2.0	1.8	2.4
20.	Rajasthan	5.3	4.9	1.6
21.	Sikkim*	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	18.4	19.6	13.2
23.	Tripura	1.3	1.4	0.9
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7.7	4.1	4.0
25.	West Bengal	6.1	13.3	11.7
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.3	0.6	0.3
27.	Chandigarh	0.9	0.4	0.5
28.	D & N Haveli	0.1	@	@
29.	Delhi	16.9	5.3	0.3
30.	Daman & Diu	0.1	@	@
31.	Lakshadweep	0.2	0.1	@
32.	Pondicherry	0.1	0.2	0.2
	All India	233.3	221.3	177.7

Note: * No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.
Total may not tally due to rounding off.
@ Figures less than fifty.

Appointment of Commission to Probe In to Drug Abuse Scandal

2150. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Olympic Association has announced the appointment of a commission to probe in to drug abuse scandal amongst Athletes;

(b) if so, the time by which the commission is likely to submit its report;

(c) whether most of the Indian Athletes are involved in drug abuse and dignity of the country have been lowered in the world; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the information provided by IOA, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has appointed one man Medical Commission under Dr. Manmohan Singh, Member, Medical Commission, Olympic Council of Asia to look into the matter. The Commission was asked to submit its findings by 31st July, 2001.

(c) According to the information provided by IOA, except one weightlifter in 1990 Commonwealth Games, none of the Indian sports persons tested positive in any Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games.

(d) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has ordered the constitution of a Committee consisting of the representatives of the Central Govt., the Indian Olympic Association and Sports Authority of India to meet and work out the modalities for preventing the use of drugs in sports.

Water Projects In Andhra Pradesh

2151. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of water projects in Andhra Pradesh sanctioned by the Union Government to tide over drinking water scarcity in the State;

(b) the amount provided for the projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Schemes for providing drinking water supply facilities are implemented by the States themselves with their own resources. The Union Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) - Rural Drinking Water component. An amount of about Rs. 181.09 crore under ARWSP and about Rs. 36.37 crore under PMGY has been released to Andhra Pradesh during the year 2000-2001 & 2001-2002. The time of completion of the drinking water supply projects is dependent upon the inter-se allocation of ARWSP and PMGY funds by the concerned State Government.

Construction of Houses for PF Members in A.P.

2152. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Regional Provident Fund Commissioner (RPFC), Hyderabad relating to construction of houses for PF members as was agreed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) A research paper has been received from RPFC, Andhra Pradesh for examining the feasibility of formulating a scheme for construction of houses for PF subscribers. However, the existing legislation does not provide for taking up such an activity.

Poaching of Deers

2153. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing incidents of poaching of deers and other wild animals in Satkoshia Sanctuary in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent poaching of animals in the sanctuary?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As per the report of the State Government, 1 tiger, 2 elephants and 3 deers were poached in the Satkosia sanctuary from 1997-98 to 1999-2000.

(b) The steps taken to prevent poaching in the Sanctuary are as follows:

(i) Check gates have been erected at important points to check the vehicle entering and leaving the sanctuary.

(ii) Mobile patrolling is being carried out to detect the poachers.

(iii) Wireless communication facility has been set up at different points to monitor the movement of the suspected poachers.

(iv) Secret funds have been created for rewarding the informers giving information regarding the poacher's plan and movement.

(v) House raids are conducted to unearth the wildlife trophies from suspected poachers.

(vi) Firearms are provided to the field staff for self protection.

(vii) To face mass traditional poaching by tribals, Armed Protection Reserved Force is engaged to assist the Forest Staff.

Strike by MTNL Employees

2154. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than forty thousand employees of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) went on an indefinite strike on May 15, 2001;

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

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in regard to the demands of employees; and

(d) the total loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. Only a notice was served.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Call Centres

2155. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL has failed to look into various grievances of customers promptly;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up call centres for grievances redressal in the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL); and

(c) if so, the extent to which the setting up of these centres are going to settle various grievances of customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. MTNL has always been striving hard to redress the grievances of customers promptly and to their satisfaction.

(b) and (c) MTNL is proposing to set up Call Centres for grievance redressal and providing other customer services. The introduction of Call Centres would largely facilitate prompt and smooth handling of traffic at Directory Enquiry (197), Changed Number Announcement (1951 & 1952), VIP Complaints handling (178), Subscriber Trunk Dialing (STD)/International Subscriber Dialing (ISD) Enquiry (182), National Directory Enquiry (183), Internet Help Desk etc.

[Translation]

Commercial use of Post Office Land

2156. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to make use of post office land for commercial purposes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is still at preliminary stage.

[English]

Fake Kisan Vikas Patras

2157. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket of selling forged or stolen Kisan Vikas Patras has been busted in the capital recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry to probe into the matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken against persons involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 1016 Kisan Vikas Patras of total face value of Rs. 71.90 lakhs have been recovered by Delhi Police in raids conducted by them in the capital. Recovery made by the Police also included some fake seals and stamps of the post offices.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Delhi Police have registered five cases and arrested six outsiders in this regard. Certificates recovered from the culprits are among those lost in transportation by Railways between Indian Security Press Nasik and various Circle Postal Stamp Depots during the years 1994-98.

Cutting Down Mineral Exploration Activities by GSI

2158. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to cut down work relating to mineral exploration, mapping and drilling as being done by the Geological Survey of India (GSI);

(b) if so, whether there is any other organisation except GSI to find out and identify disaster-prone zone and mineral deposits;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have a plan to reduce the Staff Strength in view of shrinking the ambit of work in GSI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the premier national earth science organisation which has contributed immensely to national development activities during the last 150 years. In view of the post liberalization scenario, which has thrown open the mineral sector for foreign direct investment both in exploration as well as exploitation of minerals, it is evident that there has to be a change in the role of GSI in this sector. However, GSI will continue its mapping programmes to update and understand active geological processes affecting man and his environment. GSI remains the nodal agency for conducting micro-seismic studies for all major earth quakes, prepare probablistic natural hazard map and seismo-tectonic evaluation of the country. It will continue to assess and augment mineral and energy sources on-land and offshore by airborne marine and ground surveys.

Other organisations like MECL, State DGMs undertake studies of mineral deposits. IMD and WIHG (DST) also identify disaster prone areas.

(d) and (e) The reduction in staff strength of GSI will be as per the policies of the Government. Expenditure Reforms Commission has made some recommendations in this regard which are being studied.

[Translation]

Construction of New Runways at Airports in Maharashtra

2159. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India proposes to construct new runways at few airports and new terminal buildings in the Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the construction work is likely to be commenced; and

(d) the estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no proposal to construct new runways at any of the airports in the State of Maharashtra. However, there is a proposal to construct a new Terminal Building at Aurangabad Airport with peak hour capacity of 600 passengers and equipped with modern passenger facilities. The project is being executed with financial assistance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) at an estimated cost of Rs. 66 crores. The proposal is at planning stage and subject to funds from JBIC.

[English]

Inchampalli Dam Project

2160. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has threatened to stall the Inchampally project across Godavari river in Andhra Pradesh in view of land to submerged in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers of Co-basin States to resolve the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No Sir.

(b) To resolve the inter-State issues involved in the Inchampalli Multipurpose Project viz submergence of land and displacement of population, the Central Water Commission constituted on 6th July 2000, a High Level Committee under the chairmanship of Member (WP&P) Central Water Commission with representatives from Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. The report submitted by the committee to Ministry of Water Resources on 26.06.2001 has been forwarded to the 3 State Governments for their comments.

Telecom Facility

2161. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to release about 50,000 additional Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) connections in the country;

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

(c) the present pattern of charges for the said connections;

(d) whether the Government propose to modernise and expand the capacity of existing telephone exchanges in Delhi during 2001-2002; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, exchange-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The details of proposed release of additional Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) connections in the urban centres, including Delhi are as per the statement enclosed. In addition 6 lakh lines are proposed for the rural areas.

(c) The present pattern of charges for the WLL telephone line in Delhi is as follows:-

	Charges	Fixed WLL Connection	WLL with limited mobility
1.	Form Fee	Same as Wired Line	Nil
2.	Installation fee	-do-	Nil
3.	Security Deposit at the Time of Registration	-do-	Rs. 10000.00
4.	Rent per month	-do-	Rs. 600.00
5.	Call charges	-do-	Rs. 1.40 per unit call (No free call is allowed)

(d) and (e) All the telephone exchanges in Delhi are modern digital electronic type. The capacity of Delhi Exchange system is being expanded by 1,75,000 lines during 2001-2002, out of which 23,000 lines are through the expansion of existing exchanges as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Lines
1	2	3
1.	Kidwai Bhawan	2000
2.	Lodhi Road	2000
3.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg	1000
4.	Lothian Road	1000
5.	Bhikaji Kama Place	4000
6.	Badli	2000
7.	Alipur	1000
8.	Narela DSIDC	3000
9.	Nangloi-II	6000
10.	Kanjawala	1000

Statement

Details of WLL connections proposed for release in urban centres including Delhi

S.No.	State	City	No. of Lines
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	5000
2.	Bihar	Patna	3000
3.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	5000
4.	J & K	Jammu	3000 (Subject to clearance by the Govt.)
5.	Karnataka	Bangalore	5000
6.	Kerala	Ernakulam	3000
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	3000
8.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	50,000
		Pune	3000
		Sindudurg	1000
9.	NE	Shillong	1000 (Subject to clearance by the Govt.)
10.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	3000
11.	Punjab	Chandigarh	3000
		Ludhiana	3000
12.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	3000
13.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	5000
14.	U.P.	Kanpur	3000
		Lucknow	3000

1	2	3	4
		Noida	3000
15.	West Bengal	Calcutta	5000
16.	Delhi	Delhi	34400

Installation of Tubewells in Madhya Pradesh

2162. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the amount allocated by the Government for the installation of tube-wells and construction of irrigation channels in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): There is no scheme under execution by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) for installation of tubewells. It carries out scientific exploration and for this purpose different categories of boreholes are drilled. A total number of 84 boreholes have been drilled by CGWB in Madhya Pradesh at a total cost of Rs. 1.61 crore under its normal exploration programme. Under the special contingency plan of the CGWB, 12 boreholes have been drilled at a cost of Rs. 14.58 lakh.

In addition to the above, an amount of Rs. 5.36 crore has been released to Madhya Pradesh during the last 3 years for construction of 26.65 thousand hectare Field Irrigation Channels under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme.

Restrictions on Senior Citizens per Flight

2163. SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has restricted to ten passengers per flight from the group of senior citizens, children, students and defence personnel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether inconvenience is being caused to them due to this restriction; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to increase the limit?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) In order to maximise earnings from a flight, Indian Airlines retains 10 seats each on A-320, B-737 flights and 15 seats each on A-300 flights on concessional fares for Senior Citizens, Students and Defence Personnel.

(c) Indian Airlines Reservation System has seat allocations in the economy class for the normal fare passengers and the concessional/discounted fare passengers viz. Senior Citizens, Students and Defence Personnel. If close to the time of departure, seats allocated for normal fare passengers remain unsold, these are offered to the concessional fare passengers. The system is in line with the practice followed by the airlines all over the world.

(d) Depending on the low/high season demand, behaviour and pattern of the flights, these limit values are enhanced in the computerised reservations system upto 30 seats or 40 seats to maximise earnings.

Jayakwadi Project

2164. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some scientists and local people have expressed that the ground level structure of Jayakwadi Project in Maharashtra is not safe; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of new runways and terminal buildings at Airports

2165. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India have decided to construct new runways and terminal buildings at some airports in the country during current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of airports to be covered under the programme with the estimated amount to be spent on each project;

(c) whether any time schedule has been fixed to complete the said works on each project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India have decided to construct new runways and terminal buildings at following airports, with the estimated cost of each project given in brackets;

(i) New runways at Visakhapatnam (Rs. 105 crores) and Mangalore (Rs. 100 crores).

(ii) Construction of new Terminal Buildings at Amritsar (Rs. 22.70 crores), Pathankot (new civil enclave) (Rs. 15 crores), Varanasi (Rs. 44 crores), Kullu Manali (Rs. 4.50 crores), Kangra (Rs. 3.00 crores), Dibrugarh (Rs. 24.50 crores) and Jabalpur (Rs. 7.46 crores).

Construction of new runways at Visakhapatnam and Mangalore is at a preliminary stage. Construction of new terminal building at Amritsar, Pathankot, and Jaipur are likely to be completed by November, 2003, June, 2003 and December, 2002 respectively. Work has been awarded at Kangra and is likely to be completed within 12 months of start of work. Works are being awarded at Varanasi and Kullu Manali and the execution period will be 24 months and 12 months respectively. At Dibrugarh, award of work is help up as the State Government has not handed over the land to AAI.

Constitution of Water Sharing Tribunal

2166. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a New Water Sharing Tribunal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) When a request under Section 3 of the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 is received from any State Government in respect of any water dispute and the Central Government is of opinion that the water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, the Central Government constitutes a Water Disputes Tribunal for the adjudication of the water dispute. At present, no request from any of the State Government for the constitution of a Tribunal is pending with the Central Government.

I.L.O.

2167. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has taken any initiative for promoting multilateral investment in skill formation and skill upgradation in developing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/propose to be taken for labour welfare in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The International Labour Office has an international programme on skills, knowledge and employability, which aims to encourage policies and programmes that increase investments in effective, responsive training and human resource development, including for members of vulnerable groups' (such as disabled persons). The aim is to help workers obtain decent jobs, and thus escape poverty and exclusion, by developing their skills. The programme works with government institutions and employers' and workers' organisations, as well as enterprises, public and private training providers and employment services.

The programme is in part funded from ILO's regular budget and in part from donor country funding for technical cooperation in developing countries.

In the coming period 2002-2003, the ILO technical cooperation activities are expected to reach some $ 11.3 million in donor funding in developing countries, focussing on the testing, development and delivery of new training systems that respond to changing labour market trends and use up-to-date training and management techniques.

(c) The Government have taken several steps for the welfare of workers. A large number of existing labour laws like the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976 and Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RE&CS) Act, 1979, the Building and Other

Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 have been enacted. These Acts look after the interests of the workers in terms of wages, working hours, social security, etc.

The Government have formulated various schemes under existing Welfare Funds viz. (i) Beedi Workers Welfare Fund, (ii) Cine Workers Welfare Fund, (iii) Iron Ore Mines, Maganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Welfare Fund, (iv) Lime Stone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund and (v) Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund to provide social security and welfare measures like group insurance, medical care, education and housing facilities for the workers in these sectors.

The Government are also implementing a number of Plan Schemes like Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) etc. for the welfare and improvement of the conditions of rural unorganized workers in the country.

[Translation]

Threat to Wildlife due to Illegal Mining

2168. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining of sand in various parts of the country causing serious damage to the wildlife including tigers;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to take any steps to check it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) According to section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, only such activities can be carried out in national parks and sanctuaries which are for the betterment of wildlife. Mining is not one of such activities. However, one case of grant of mining lease by Madhya Pradesh Government in National Chambal Sanctuaries has come to the notice of Central Government. Collection of sand from within national parks and sanctuary not only creates undue disturbance to the wild animals, but also affects the hydrology of the area. It has even adverse impact on the underground water. Removal of sand from river accelerates the flow of water, as a result of which rivers are dry during lean months. Such a situation has an adverse impact on wildlife including tiger.

(c) and (d) The Ministry does not approve any proposal for mining of sand from any areas forming parts of national parks and sanctuaries. State Government has been requested to comply with the provisions of the Act.

[English]

Constitution of Organising Committee for Afro-Asian Games

2169. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria is adopted for selection of persons for organising committees;

(b) whether the organising committee for Afro-Asian games has been constituted;

(c) whether there is any controversy in the selection of persons for the said committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to resolve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Eminent persons from different walks of life relevant to the organisation of the Games have been nominated in the organising committee keeping in view their experience and professional expertise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Joint Working Group on Communications

2170. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint working group between India and Iraq on communications have been set up to explore cooperation in the field of communications;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful in communications network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. However, pursuant to the visit of Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications in July, 2001 it is agreed to set up a joint Working Group with participation from India and Iraq.

(b) The nominations of persons on working group is under finalization on both the sides.

(c) Setting up of working group will act as a facilitator and help in removing impediments, if any, and push things forward to speed up the process of cooperation in the field of communications between the two countries.

Assistance for Rural Youth and Sports Clubs

2171. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total amount released under the assistance to Rural Youth and Sports Club during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether many proposal from various organisations are pending for clearance;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHANAN): (a) The Scheme of Financial Assistance to Rural Youth & Sports Clubs is implemented by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan on an agency basis. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports do not release funds, State wise, under the scheme. Details of funds released by NYKS during the three years, year-wise, State wise, under the scheme are given in the statement I, II and III enclosed.

(b) to (d) Yes Sir. Some proposals received last year from the NYKS could not be sanctioned due to paucity of funds. These proposals along with some received during the current financial year are being processed for sanction during the current financial year.

Statement-I

Details of funds released, yearwise, Statewise, by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan under the Scheme of Financial Assistance to Rural Youth & Sports Clubs for Rural Sports Clubs during 1998-99 to 2000-2001

(Amount in Rupees)

		1998-99 &1999-2000	2000-2001	
			Physical	Financial
1	2		3	4
1.	A & N Island	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Andhra Pradesh	—	12	390000
4.	Assam	—	43	1455000
5.	Bihar	—	—	—
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
7.	Delhi	—	—	—
8.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
9.	D & N Haveli	—	—	—
10.	Goa	—	2	60000
11.	Gujarat	—	1	45000
12.	Haryana	—	27	810000
13.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
15.	Karnataka	—	16	495000
16.	Kerala	—	43	1305000
17.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
18.	Madhya Pradesh	—	3	90000
19.	Maharashtra	—	7	210000
20.	Manipur	—	—	—
21.	Meghalaya	—	—	—
22.	Mizoram	—	—	—
23.	Nagaland	—	—	—

1	2		3	4
24.	Orissa	—	—	—
25.	Punjab	—	7	210000
26.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
27.	Rajasthan	—	9	300000
28.	Sikkim	—	2	75000
29.	Tamil Nadu	—	21	630000
30.	Tripura	—	—	—
31.	Uttar Pradesh	—	10	300000
32.	West Bengal	—	17	540000
	Grand Total		220	6915000

Statement-II

Details of funds realased, yearwise, Statewise, by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan under the Scheme of Financial Assistance to Rural Youth & Sports Clubs for the Youth Clubs during 1998-99 to 2000-2001

(Amount in Rupees)

		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	A & N Island	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Andhra Pradesh	81	405000	120	1200000	42	420000
4.	Assam	59	295000	213	2130000	68	710000
5.	Bihar	2	10000	01	10000	2	20000
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Delhi	2	10000	02	20000	1	10000
8.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	D & N Haveli	3	15000	03	30000	—	—
10.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Gujarat	9	45000	15	150000	20	200000
12.	Haryana	70	350000	22	220000	11	110000
13.	Himachal Pradesh	109	545000	18	180000	66	660000
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	40000	07	70000	—	—
15.	Karnataka	291	1455000	97	970000	59	590000
16.	Kerala	140	700000	186	1860000	231	2370000
17.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Madhya Pradesh	51	255000	44	440000	2	20000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Maharashtra	126	630000	213	2130000	—	—
20.	Manipur	31	155000	25	250000	—	—
21.	Meghalaya	14	70000	50	500000	—	—
22.	Mizoram	3	15000	—	—	—	—
23.	Nagaland	1	5000	02	20000	—	—
24.	Orissa	72	360000	08	80000	9	90000
25.	Punjab	9	45000	08	80000	9	90000
26.	Pondicherry	—	—	04	40000	—	—
27.	Rajastahn	39	195000	26	260000	1	10000
28.	Sikkim	4	20000	07	70000	3	30000
29.	Tamil Nadu	63	315000	113	1130000	9	90000
30	Tripura	6	30000	05	50000	11	125000
31.	Uttar Pradesh	134	670000	38	380000	49	260000
32.	West Bengal	42	210000	28	280000	—	—
	Grand Total	1369	6845000	1255	12550000	570	58,05,000

Statement-III

Details of funds released, yearwise, Statewise, by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan under the Scheme of Financial Assistance to Rural Youth & Sports Clubs for Awards to outstanding Youth Clubs during 1998-99 to 2000-2001

(Amount in Rupees)

		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	A & N Island	1	5000	—	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	15000	1	10000	—	—
3.	Andhra Pradesh	19	95000	20	200000	—	—
4.	Assam	18	90000	20	200000	—	—
5.	Bihar	5	25000	—	—	—	—
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Delhi	—	—	1	10000	—	—
8.	Daman & Diu	1	5000	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	D & N Haveli	1	5000	—	—	—	—
10.	Goa	2	10000	—	—	—	—
11.	Gujarat	13	65000	8	80000	—	—
12.	Haryana	12	60000	12	120000	—	—
13.	Himachal Pradesh	7	35000	5	50000	6	60000
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	20000	—	—	—	—
15.	Karnataka	18	90000	17	170000	—	—
16.	Kerala	14	70000	14	140000	—	—
17.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Madhya Pradesh	36	180000	—	—	—	—
19.	Maharashtra	23	115000	3	30000	—	—
20.	Manipur	7	35000	7	70000	—	—
21.	Meghalaya	1	5000	2	20000	—	—
22.	Mizoram	2	10000	1	10000	—	—
23.	Nagaland	5	25000	—	—	—	—
24.	Orissa	9	45000	—	—	—	—
25.	Punjab	11	55000	3	30000	—	—
26.	Pondicherry	—	—	2	20000	—	—
27.	Rajasthan	6	30000	9	90000	13	130000
28.	Sikkim	2	10000	2	20000	—	—
29.	Tamil Nadu	23	115000	28	280000	—	—
30.	Tripura	3	15000	1	10000	—	—
31.	Uttar Pradesh	14	70000	17	170000	—	—
32.	West Bengal	10	50000	7	70000	—	—
	Grand Total	270	1350000	180	1800000	19	190000

Death of Wildlife due to usage of Pesticides

2172. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many wildlife at least 10 leopards and elephants each died in North Bengal in last year due to usage of large volumes of pesticides, which leak through waste water from the tea gardens to rivers flowing through reserve forests and sanctuaries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this matter by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) According to the information

received from the State Government of West Bengal, during last year, 4 panthers have died of suspected poisoning as per post mortem report, in tea garden areas. No such elephant deaths have been reported.

(b) Complaints have been lodged with Police Stations and enquiries by police authorities are in progress. Vigilance has been intensified in the tea estate areas to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

Non-Crediting of EPF Amounts into Accounts

2173. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount has not been credited to the accounts of lakhs of individual subscribers for almost three years by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);

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

(c) the persons held responsible for this lapse and the action taken against them;

(d) whether a system has since been evolved to ensure that the employees contribution and the interest thereon is credited to their accounts every month; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) An international computerised verification with reference to the upgradation of individual member accounts was undertaken by the Organisation. The verification indicated large backlog in bookkeeping function of updation of members' accounts for which the Central Board of Trustees (EPF) have initiated corrective action.

There was no issue of irregularity, lapses or frauds and no financial implication was involved. No loss has been caused to the Fund or to the members.

As a result of the corrective action 40,92,996 individual accounts that were identified under the above computerised verification have been updated and account slips issued to such members.

In order to monitor timely remittance of monthly contribution, a special computer software has been developed and operationalised. This monitors contribution flow, identifies default and generates notices for corrective action. Separate software has also been implemented to ensure that remittances of contributions are promptly posted in members' accounts and the accounts remain updated.

Dredging of Ganga River

2174. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the expert committee recommendations the Farakka Barrage Authority was to take up dredging of the Ganga river in the up stream of Farakka and construction of spurs No. 28 and 29; and

(b) if so, the progress achieved by the Farakka Barrage Authority on these two major works so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Expert Committee were discussed in the subsequent meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Keeping in view the favourable development of the flow channel and the results of the model study done by the Central Water & Power Research Station on the efficacy of providing the two spurs at km 28 & 29 upstream on left bank of Ganga at Manakchak, it was decided to keep a watch on the development of the new channel, rather than taking up dredging work as recommended.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility

2175. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the per capita availability of telephone on an average in rural and urban areas of each State particularly in Nasik District of Maharashtra at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): The details of per capita availability of telephone, as on 30.6.2001, per 100 persons, in urban and rural areas, State-wise are given in the statement enclosed. The same in respect of Nasik district of Maharashtra is 10.54 and 0.76 respectively.

Statement

State wise Teledensity per 100 population

Sl. No.	Circles	Urban Tele-density	Rural Tele-density
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	14.56	5.24
2.	Andhra Pradesh	9.84	1.53
3.	Assam	9.70	0.27
4.	Jharkhand	4.70	0.21
5.	Bihar	3.23	0.19
6.	Gujarat	12.01	1.61
7.	Haryana	11.74	1.59
8.	Himachal Pradesh	25.81	3.51
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.85	0.14
10.	Karnataka	10.46	1.86
11.	Kerala	12.46	5.48
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7.11	0.40
13.	Chhattisgarh	4.60	0.20
14.	Maharashtra	13.29	1.47
15	North East-I	7.30	0.64
16	North East-II	5.86	0.58
17	Orissa	6.70	0.53
18.	Punjab	15.90	2.84
19.	Rajasthan	7.71	0.90
20.	Tamil Nadu	15.35	0.43
21.	Uttaranchal	10.62	0.83
22.	Uttar Pradesh	6.02	0.32
23.	West Bengal	8.28	0.52
24.	Delhi	18.72	—

Note:

1. NE-I includes the State of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.
2. NE-II includes the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur.
3. West Bengal includes Kolkata Telecom District and Sikkim.
4. Tamil Nadu includes Chennai Telecom District and Pondicherry.
5. Maharashtra includes Goa and Mumbai Telecom District.

[English]

Four Laning on NH-58

2176. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 6351, dated 08.05.2000 and state:

(a) whether the work on National Highway-58 has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the same will be completed;

(d) the duties and responsibilities of the Highway authorities and the extent to which those are being achieved;

(e) whether any proposals to create more highways and build more bridges in the States for speedy transportation of agricultural produce with special reference to Bihar; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work for the construction of central verge in a length of 18.50 km on NH 58 at a cost of Rs. 130.78 lakhs stands completed.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The primary responsibility of Highway Authorities is to ensure that development and maintenance works are carried out as per prescribed specifications with proper quality control and completed as per targets. While all out efforts are made to complete the works as per targets, nevertheless there are slippages in terms of time and cost over run in few cases.

(e) and (f) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways. State roads are under the responsibility of the respective State Govts. Development of National Highways is a

continuous process and is being carried out keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds. Annual Plan 2001-2002 for the development of National Highways in Bihar is for Rs. 83.50 crores including Rs. 20.00 crores for bridges.

Funds to Madhya Pradesh

2177. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided to Madhya Pradesh for the irrigation purpose during the last three years and till date;

(b) the details of the funds utilised and unutilized separately, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for not utilising the allocated amount during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The details of release and utilization of the (CLA) under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme to Madhya Pradesh for irrigation during the last three years and till date are given below.

(Rs. in Crores)

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	CLA Unutilized out of the release made during 2000-01
81.250	95.325	151.328	35.00	39.671

(c) As per AIBP norms, the releases in a particular year are made only after the releases in the previous year are fully utilized. The unutilized amount as on 1.4.2001 is being utilized by the State Government in the working season till July, 2001.

WLL Equipment

2178. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to remove the countervailing duty on imported Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There is no proposal under consideration at present to remove the countervailing duty on imported Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment.

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

Domestic Air Services by Non-Scheduled Operators

2179. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have granted 'No Objection Certificate' to a large number of non-scheduled operators to start domestic air services in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the sectors on which they are operating; and

(c) the fares and tariffs being charged by them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A list of non-scheduled operators having valid operating permits is given in the statement enclosed. The non-scheduled (charter) operators are free to operate their services on any routes/places in the country based on their best commercial judgement.

(c) Non-scheduled operators keep adjusting their fares as they perceive the market from time to time.

Statement

List of Non Scheduled Operators

1. ACE Airways Pvt. Ltd.
2. Aerial Services Pvt. Ltd.
3. Agni-Aerosports Adventure Academy Pvt. Ltd.
4. Ahmedabad Aviation Academy Ltd.
5. Airworks India Engg. Pvt. Ltd.
6. Asia Aviation Ltd.
7. Azal India Pvt. Ltd.
8. Blue Dart Aviation Ltd. (Cargo)
9. Century Textiles & Industries Ltd.
10. Deccan Aviation Pvt. Ltd.
11. Dwarka Air Taxi

12. Escorts Ltd.
13. East India Hotels, the Oberoi
14. Government of Rajasthan
15. Great Eastern Shipping Company
16. Hindustan Institute of Engg. Technology
17. India International Airways
18. Indo-Pacific Aviation
19. Jagson Airlines
20. J K Corp Ltd.
21. Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.
22. Malhotra Helicopters
23. Megapode Airlines
24. Mesco Airlines Ltd.
25. Orient Flying School
26. Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.
27. Rajputana Aviation Academy Pvt. Ltd.
28. Raymonds Ltd.
29. Reliance Transport & Travels Ltd.
30. Sahara India Airlines
31. Saraya Aviation Pvt. Ltd.
32. Span Air Pvt. Ltd.
33. Taneja Aerospace & Aviation Ltd.
34. Tata Tea Ltd.
35. Trans Bharat Aviation
36. U.B. Air
37. Uttar Pradesh Airways
38. Vidyut Travel Services

[Translation]

Uniform Scandal

2180. DR. BALIRAM:
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 'Uniform Scandal' worth crores of rupees has taken place in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), Delhi;

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

(c) the name of the Government department which purchased the same cloth Rs. 70/- less than purchased by MTNL;

(d) the laid down norms/standards for purchase/issue of uniform items;

(e) the reasons for not issuing uniforms to MTNL's staff for the last three years; and

(f) the time by which the uniforms are likely to be provided to the staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, CBI has conducted a surprise check on 10.7.2001 at Circle store Depot, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi and taken some samples of the cloth for uniforms and Photocopies of the tender files.

(c) Not known.

(d) Summar Uniforms

3 Sets in the First year i.e. 1999

2 Sets for every succeeding year

Winter Uniform

2 Sets in the First year i.e. 1999

1 Set for every succeeding year

Leather Shoes

2 pair of shoes in first year i.e. 1999

1 pair for every succeeding year

The purchase is made through Open Tender and as per approved specifications.

(e) and (f) After absorption of Group 'C' & 'D' staff in MTNL, these uniforms are being issued for the first time. The procurement of uniforms for the year 1999 & 2000 is under process and the uniforms will be provided to the staff shortly.

[English]

Expansion of Indore Airport

2181. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether land has been acquired for the development and expansion of airport at Indore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount earmarked and spent thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) State Governments of Madhya Pradesh has been requested to acquire 150 acres of land for development and expansion of Indore Airport and hand it over to Airports Authority of India free of cost and free from all encumbrances. Land is yet to be acquired by the State Government.

[Translation]

Migrants in Foreign Countries

2182. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of migrants are engaged in the non-formal sectors and domestic works in the foreign countries;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware of the illegal movement of the migrants;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases came to light during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the illegal movement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) During the last three years the following number of workers were granted emigration clearance for employment abroad:-

1998	3.55 lakh
1999	1.99 lakh
2000	2.43 lakh

(c) to (e) Sporadic complaints relating to the movement of migrants through unscrupulous agents/ persons have been received. The details of the complaints against unregistered recruiting agents/individuals received during the last three years are indicated in the Statement enclosed. As and when such complaints are received the unregistered agent/individual is issued a show cause notice under the Emigration Act, 1983 and in case the reply given is found to be not convincing, the concerned police authorities are asked to launch prosecution proceedings against such person for violation of the provisions of the Act. With a view to curbing the activities of such agencies, detailed guidelines have also been issued to the State Governments for issue of necessary instructions right down to the level of the police stations for keeping a strict vigil on the activities of such agencies.

Statement

Number of complaints against unregistered agents/ individuals during 1998-2000, Year-wise-State-wise.

Name of the States	1998 No. of Complaints	1999 No. of Complaints	2000 No. of Complaints
1. Andhra Pradesh	03	02	02
2. Assam	—	01	—
3. Bihar	—	—	01
4. Delhi	15	21	17
5. Goa	01	—	01
6. Haryana	—	01	02
7. Gujarat	—	—	02
8. Karnataka	01	01	—
9. Kerala	09	18	11
10. Maharashtra	18	32	29
11. Punjab	04	04	07
12. Rajasthan	03	07	03
13. Tamil Nadu	03	11	07
14. U.P.	01	—	02
15. West Bengal	—	03	—
Total	58	101	84

[English]

Construction of By Pass Around Keonjhar

2183. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two National Highways passing through the Keonjhar District of Orissa has adequate link roads for smooth passage of the traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct by-pass roads around Keonjhar town; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Link roads to National Highways is a State subject. Development of link roads to the National Highways is not the responsibility of this Ministry.

(c) There is no proposal to construct bypass around Keonjhar town.

(d) Does not arise.

Graphite Reserves Areas

2184. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total graphite reserves areas in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether some of the existing graphite mines are being leased out to private sector companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of graphite mines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a Subordinate Office of Ministry of Mines, the total recoverable reserves of Graphite in the Country as on 1.4.1995 was 4579476 tonnes. The State-wise reserves of Graphite as on 1.4.1995 are as follows:-

State	Reserves (in tonnes)
Andhra Pradesh	219128
Bihar	389678
Gujarat	16644
Karnataka	262500
Kerala	533262
Madhya Pradesh	10128
Maharashtra	870000
Orissa	1353444
Rajasthan	501776
Tamil Nadu	422916

(b) and (c) There were 40 graphite mines who had reported production in 1999-2000, and 82% of production was accounted for by the mines in the private sector, including production from mining leases held by M/s T.P. Minerals Limited, Diamond Graphite Industries, Pramod Kumar Agrawal, Prabhas Chandra Agrawal, K.K. Poddar, Natwar Lal Agrawal, Mohd. Zafarulla etc.

(d) For conservation and systematic development of minerals including graphite and also for environmental protection, Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 1988 have been framed under Section 18 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. MCDR is monitored by the Central Government through IBM. Mining operations are carried out according to the mining plan approved by IBM. Compliance of the mining plan stipulation is being checked from to time to time through inspections by IBM officers. In case of irregularities, the same are pointed out by IBM under the appropriate provisions of MCDR for compliance/ rectification.

Paging Industry

2185. CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide similar relief to the paging industry as has been given to cellular industry by reducing the licence fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of relief given to them;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) As envisaged for resolution of problems of existing operators in New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) and in pursuance to the recommendations of Group on Telecom and IT Convergence (GOT-IT) for issues like migration from fixed licence fee regime to revenue sharing regime, Government has decided to undertake an independent study of Radio Paging Industry. The Tariff Commission is at present conducting the study for the health of this industry.

The custom duty on pagers has been brought at par with the cellular mobile phones from 15% to 5% w.e.f. August 31, 2000. Further, the WPC charge of Rs. 100/- per subscriber per annum has been waived off w.e.f. August 1, 1999.

[Translation]

Sharda River Project

2186. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints of destruction of crops due to seepage in Sharda river project in Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) One representation addressed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh and others including Central Water Commission was received from "Seepage and Dam Construction Kisan Samity" Lakhimpur-Kheri (UP) demanding compensation due to damage of crops and other losses as a result of seepage on both sides of the Link Channel connecting Girija Barrage and Sarda Barrage and the Feeder Channel off taking from Sarda Barrage.

(b) Irrigation being a State subject, planning, funding, execution and maintenance of the irrigation projects including dam/barrages and the canal systems is the primary responsibility of the State Government and is being done out of their own resources as per their own priorities. According to the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, 17,929 ha. are affected due to seepage in Sharda River Project. The Govt. of Uttar Pradesh have provided lining in the feeder channel from chainage 7.1 km to 99.00 km. and in high reaches and have also improved the drainage system in the canal command to tackle the problem.

[English]

Traffic Control Building at Lilabari

2187. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Traffic Control Building at Lilabari Airport in District Lakhimpur has been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that have been taken by the Government to complete the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The construction work of air traffic control building at Lilabari Airport is likely to be completed by end of October this year. The progress suffered at the initial stage due to ban on quarry of stone by the State Government and disturbed conditions in the area. Airports Authority of India has taken effective steps by tight monitoring of contractor's performance and liaising with local administration to constantly deal with bottlenecks to speed up the construction work.

Chrome Ore Mines in Orissa

2188. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Chrome Ore Mines in Orissa along with the estimated reserves in those mines;

(b) the private sector companies to whom these mines have been leased out and the royalty received by the Government therefrom annually; and

(c) the employment opportunities generated in the area by the private sector companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to

(c) As per information maintained by Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, 16 chrome ore mines had reported production in 2000-01 in Orissa out of which 10 are in private sector. The private sector Companies to which these mines have been leased out are B.C. Mohanty & Sons (P) Ltd., Ferro Alloys Corpn Ltd. (three mining leases), Indian Charge Chrome Ltd., Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd. (three mining leases), Misrilal Mines (P) Ltd. and Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. The total recoverable reserves of chrome in Orissa is around 83.6 million tonnes.

As per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder, Mineral Concessions including mining leases are granted by the respective State Governments to an Indian National or to a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956. The State Governments collect royalty in respect of the mining leases granted for the minerals including for chromite. The details of royalty received by the State Governments from these mines or the employment opportunities generated by the private sector companies are not maintained centrally.

Telegraph Facility in Gram Panchayats

2189. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in the country where telegraph facility is available;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide the said facility to each Gram Panchayat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are 32009 Gram Panchayats in the country where telegraph facilities are available.

(b) and (c) There is no policy of the Department to provide Telegraph facility in each Gram Panchayat. The Telegraph facility is provided as per demand and justification.

Singapore Airlines Flights to Hyderabad

2190. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from Singapore Airlines to grant it permission to start air services to Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) After declaration of Hyderabad Airport as an international airport, Singapore Airlines has expressed interest to operate air services to/from Hyderabad. Such requests are discussed at Government level as and when bilateral air services consultations are held.

Special Awards to Medals Winners

2191. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have ever rewarded any benefit/grant/promotion under the scheme of "Special Awards to Winners of Medals in International Sports Events" on provided any plot, land, other benefits etc. under its various other schemes after the person was already caught using dope;

(b) if so, the names of the sports persons; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Under the scheme of "Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and Their Coaches" awards are given to the sportspersons to recognize their performance in important international sports events like Olympic, Asian and Commonwealth Games and official World, Asian and Commonwealth Championships and to compensate for the expenses incurred on diet and training as well as for the deprivations suffered by them due to their devotion and service to sports.

The sportspersons, awarded already, have never tested positive in doping by any IOC accredited Laboratory during or after international competitions.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Release of Commemorative Postal Stamp

2192. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to release Commemorative Postal Stamp in memory of Dr. C.R. Reddy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Proposal to issue commemorative postage stamp on Dr. C.R. Reddy was received and carefully considered keeping in view the guidelines for the purpose. The proposal was not approved.

Allocation of Spectrum

2193. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought legal advice on the issue of allocation of spectrum for Fixed Service Providers (FSPs) on first cum first serve basis before such legal implications of such an allocation procedure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these matters have been discussed by a Group of Ministers; and

(d) if so, the present status of this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The allocation of frequency spectrum, even in the past has been based on processing of applications, as and when received. In the case of Fixed Service Providers the actual allocation of spectrum will be made in stages specifically linked to performance and subject to payment of prescribed fees. Therefore, the question of seeking legal advice did not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The report of Group on Telecom and Information Technology Convergence (GOT-IT) on these mattes has been accepted.

Erosion by Ganga River

2194. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been severe erosion by Ganga River in Chandipur Sarkanda of district Sahibganj in Jharkhand and its adjoining areas;

(b) if so, the number of villages affected by the erosion;

(c) whether the Government propose to protect the affected areas in the region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. Central Government renders assistance that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. In the report (January 2000) of the Central Team led by Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission for assessment of critical erosion problem in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, the erosion problem at Sarkanda — Shobhapur reach on the right bank of river Ganga has been indentified. The Union Government has not received any proposal from the Jharkhand Government for protecting the area reported to be subjected to severe erosion by Ganga river in Chandipur Sarkanda of district Sahibganj in Jharkhand.

Polluted Factories and Refineries

2195. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environment is being polluted by the Cement factories and Refineries in the public and private sector;

(b) if so, the names of the factories where pollution checking plants have been installed during the last three years and the amount spent thereon;

(c) the names of Cement factories and Refineries where pollution control plants are to be installed; and

(d) the time by which the pollution checking plants are likely to be installed there?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There are 113 large cement plants and 15 oil refineries in the country. Out of 113 cement plants, 109 plants have adequate pollution control equipment, one plant is in the process of installing the pollution control equipment and three plants are closed All the refineries have set up pollution control devices.

According to an estimate, for a one million tonne per annum capacity cement plant, the cost of pollution control equipment is approximately Rupees 15 crores. Thus, the amount spent on pollution control facilities by the cement sector having capacity of 110 million tonnes per annum would be approximately Rupees 1650 crores.

The names and amount spent in case of oil refineries for pollution control measures are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Refineries	Amount spent during last three years
1.	Hindustan Petrochemicals Ltd., Visakhapatnam	Rs. 601.25 crores
2.	Bharat Petrochemicals Ltd., Mumbai	Rs. 629.81 crores
3.	Chennai Petrochemicals Ltd., Chennai	Rs. 569.50 crores
4.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Barauni	Rs. 53.00 lacs

(c) and (d) One cement plant viz. M/s Jammu & Kashmir Cement Ltd., is in the process of installing the necessary pollution control equipment. All new cement plants and refineries are required to install and operate necessary pollution control devices, before commencing their production.

Asian Labour Ministers' Conference

2196. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Labour Ministers' Conference held in May, 2001 in Kualalampur has inter alia urged the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to review its supervisory mechanism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other issues discussed in the said Conference indicating the decisions arrived at; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The 15th ASEAN (not Asian) Labour Ministers' Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on 10-11 May, 2001 supported the call by the Asia and Pacific Group (of which India is a member) for a review of the ILO supervisory mechanisms, particularly regarding transparency and objectivity of the criteria for selection of members of supervisory bodies, selection of individual cases in Committee of Experts on Application of Standards, and the Interpretation of Compliance with ratified conventions. The other issues discussed by the meeting included impact of the global economic slowdown in ASEAN countries, East Asia Cooperation, the proposed Philippines initiatives on common recognition of Professions in ASEAN etc.

TCIL Services In Bangladesh

2197. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecommunication Consultants India Limited (TCIL) proposes to start the basic services in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the turnover of the project; and

(c) the name of the countries where TCIL is likely to provide telecom services during he current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Worldtel participated in a tender for provision of basic services in Bangladesh and took bid from consortium of TCIL & MTNL after signing Memorandum of Understanding with TCIL & MTNL. However, Worldtel is handling the work and have not come back to TCIL for this project.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) GSM Services already being provided in Rajasthan, India through a JV in which TCIL is a 30% equity partner. Efforts are under way to sign Licence Agreement in Kenya & Nepal.

[Translation]

STD/ISD/PCO Facility

2198. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether STD/ISD/PCO facilities have been made available in all rural areas of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Hardoi district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these facilities are likely to be made available in the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, STD/ISD/PCO facility is offered in rural areas from an exchange located in the same or nearby area. If any eligible franchisee seeks to set up a PCO and if it is technically feasible, it is set up. For coverage of villages mostly Villages Public Telephones (VPT) are provided and whenever a request is received for STD/ISD facility on these VPTs and if they are technically feasible, the same is provided. 79292 villages of Uttar Pradesh have been provided with VPTs. The remaining 20010 villages are yet to be covered. In Hardoi district, out of 1883 villages 1578 villages have been provided with VPTs.

(c) All the villages have been targeted to be provided with VPTs by the year 2002.

Development of Sports for Children

2199. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated by the Government for the development of sports for children in rural areas of Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to construct Stadium for Children in rural areas; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) "Sports" is a State subject. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to create various sports facilities including stadium in urban and rural areas. However, Central Government does supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this direction by providing admissible Central assistance, under its schemes.

[English]

Assistance for Construction of Indoor Sports Complex in Karnataka

2200. SHRI G.MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal for financial assistance for construction of Indoor Sports Complex at B.M.S. Educational Trust at Bangalore in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the whether the Union Government have considered the proposal;

(c) if not, the main reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be considered and funds released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal of Trust is for construction of Indoor Hall Cat. I at their BMS College of Engineering, Bangalore.

(b) to (d) The proposal was considered but found deficient. The College has been informed on 31.7.2001 to rectify the defects and re-submit it for consideration of this Ministry.

[Translation]

Telecom Development Council

2201. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Telecom Development Council for the development of telecom sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the gazette notification containing the composition of the Council and its details is enclosed as statement.

Statement

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, AND INDUSTRY

(Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion)

ORDER

New Delhi, the 13th February, 2001

S.O. 126(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, (65 of 1951), read with rules 3, 4 and 5 of the Development Councils (Procedural) Rules, 1952 the Central Government hereby establishes the Development Council for Telecom Sector for a period of two years from the date of publication of this Order in the Official Gazette and appoints the following persons as Chairman, Members and Secretary of the said Council. The Development Council will recommend measures for the growth of telecom manufacturing sector and the service sector.

1. Secretary to the Government of India and Chairman, Telecom Commission, Department of Telecommunications, 20-Ashok Road, Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi-110 001. — Chairman

2. Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Information Technology, Electronics Niketan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. — Member

3. Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi. — Member

4. Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Space, Bangalore. — Member

5. Member (Finance), Telecom Commission, Department of Telecommunications, 20-Ashok Raod, Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi-110 001. — Member

6. Member (Production), Telecom Commission, Department of Telecommunications, 20-Ashok Road, Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi-110 001. — Member

7. Member (Technology, Telecom Commission, Department of Telecommunications, 20-Ashok Road, Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi-110 001. — Member

8. Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, 4th Floor Sanchar Bhavan, 20-Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001. — Member

9. Director (Research & Development), Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi. — Member

10. Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Bhavan, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Fort, Mumbai-400 001 — Member

11. Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., Jeevan Bharti Building, 12th Floor, 124, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110 001. — Member

12. Chairman-cum-Managing Director, ITI Ltd., 45/1, Magrath Road, Bangalore-560 025. — Member

13. Executive Director, Centre for Development of Telematics, 9th Floor, Akbar Bhavan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110 021. — Member

14. President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi-110 001. — Member

15. President, Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), 23-26, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003. — Member

16. President, ASSOCHAM, 11, Community Centre, Zamrudpur, New Delhi-110 048. — Member

17. President, — Member
Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association of India,
PHD House, 4th Floor,
Ramakrishna Dalmia Wing,
Opp. Asian Games Village,
New Delhi-110 016.

18. President, — Member
Association of Basic Telecom Operators (ABTO),
B-601, Gauri Sadan,
5, Hailey Road,
New Delhi-110 001.

19. President, — Member
Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI),
F-301, Gauri Sadan,
5, Hailey Road,
New Delhi-110 001.

20. President, — Member
Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI),
B-12, 2nd Floor, Kalindi Colony,
New Delhi-110 065.

21. President, — Member
National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM),
Nehru Yuva Kendra, Chanakya Puri,
New Delhi.

22. Prof. P.V. Indiresan, — Member
Ex-Director (IIT, New Delhi),
B-57, Hillview Appartments,
Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi-110 057.

23. Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, — Member
Professsor & Head,
Telematics and optical Communications Lab,
Department of Electrical Engineering,
I.I.T. Madras,
Chennai-600 086.

24. Shri N.R. Narayanamurthy, — Member
Chairman-cum-Managing Director,
Infosys Technologies Ltd.,
Electronic City, Hosur Road,
Bangalore-561 229.

25. Additional Secretary (T), — Member Secretary
Telecom Commission,
Department of Telecommunications
20-Ashok Road, Sanchar Bhavan,
New Delhi-110 001.

[F.No.1(1)/2000-IP]
M.S. SRINIVASAN, Jt. Secy.

[English]

Plan to Tap Godavari Water

2202. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has prepared a plan to tap Godavari water;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to extend all possible help if the State Government concentrates on the problem;

(c) if so, whether funds flow from various global organisations for Godavari water utilization has been coming forth; and

(d) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) A plan for utilization of water resources in Godavari river has been prepared by Government of Andhra Pradesh in June, 1999.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The question of funding from various global organizations for development of Godavari waters and completion of the projects depends, *inter alia*, upon the time taken by the State Government on certain actions like submission of detailed project reports for individual projects, obtaining of the investment clearance of the Planning Commission etc. in addition to the acceptability of such projects by the external funding agencies.

Leasing out of Hangers and Land by AAI

2203. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) has allotted land/hanger on lease to various companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether requests from some of the companies for allotment of land and hanger are also pending with AAI;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has allotted land/hanger space to 9 companies at Kolkata, 5 companies at Mumbai, 15 companies at Delhi, 2 companies at Chennai and one company at Thiruvananthapuram international airports. As far as domestic airports are concerned land/hanger space have been allotted to 14 companies at airports in Northern Region, 3 companies at airports in Eastern Region, 32 companies in Western Region 11 companies in the Southern Region and 2 companies in North-Eastern Region.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the requirement of airline/operator for allotment of land/hanger space, the requests are processed and allotment made after approval of Competent Authority. The pending requests are being processed and allotment will be done subject to availability of suitable land and hanger space. Decision regarding allotment of hanger space and allotment of land for hanger is likely to be taken within three months and six months respectively.

Labour Standards

2204. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government to meet the WTO norms set for labour standards in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are under pressure from the MNCs in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to protect the interests of Indian labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) There are no WTO norms set for labour standards. However, the linkage between trade and labour standards was proposed by some developed countries in the First Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in Singapore in 1996 as well as in the Third Ministerial Conference in Seattle in 1999. The developing countries, including India, had been successful in opposing the inclusion of linkages between trade and labour standards in WTO in both the Conferences. However, some of the foreign importers including some MNCs in some developed countries, aparently due to the pressure from the consumers, have started demanding proof from their exporters that the goods to be exported to them have been produced by adhering to labour standards. While resisting the linkage between trade & labour standards India is fully committed to the implementation of labour laws for the welfare of workers.

[Translation]

Amendment In ESI Act, 1948

2205. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948;

(b) if so, the main objectives of revamping the Act;

(c) the details of benefit and the number of employees are likely to be benefited by such revamping; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The Govt. does not intend to revamp the Employees' State Insurance Act. However, a few amendments to remove functional difficulties and infirmities as well as to liberalise certain conditions in administration of some benefits are being processed.

Iron Ore and Manganese Reserves In MP

2206. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas in Madhya Pradesh where reserves of iron ore and Manganese have been found; and

(b) the regions where the minerals are being extracted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) In Madhya Pradesh, proved reserves of Iron ore of 21.136 million tonnes occur mainly in Jabalpur, Betul and Gwalior districts. Minor occurrences are also known from Khargone, Mandsaur, Narsinghpur, Raisen, Rajgarh,

Sagar, Shivpuri, Sidhi and Tikamgarh areas. Proved reserves of 11.56 million tonnes of Manganese ore are found in Balaghat district with minor occurrences reported from parts of Chhindwara, Dewas, Jabalpur, Jhabua, Khargone, Seoni and Sidhi districts.

(b) As per IBM Indian Mineral Year Book 2001, Iron ore is mined at five locations in Jabalpur district and two locations in Gwalior district. For Manganese there are eleven mines in Balaghat district and one in Chhindwara district.

[English]

Committee for Study for Air Traffic

2207. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a committee to study market demand and growth of domestic air traffic growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of applications that are pending with the government for permission to start new private airlines in the country; and

(d) the time by which permission is likely to be granted under the Open Sky Policy of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to assess the traffic growth in the sector vis-a-vis capacity requirement for the next five years, a committee was set up under the Chairmanship of DGCA on 30.04.2001. The committee has since submitted its report, which is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) Consideration of proposals to commence airline operation is an on-going process. At present, the applications of M/s Ahmedabad Aviation & Aeronautics and M/s Southern Air for schedule operations, and M/s Thomas Cook Ltd., Futura Travels Ltd. and SRC Aviation Pvt. Ltd. for non-scheduled air transport services are under scruitiny.

Small Saving Schemes

2208. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts operates some small savings schemes on behalf of the Ministry of Finance on 'No profit no loss' basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance is providing any reimbursement to the department for operating these services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Posts operates the small savings schemes such as National Savings Certificates, Kisan Vikas Patra, Monthly Income Accounts Scheme, Recurring Deposit Scheme, Time Deposit Scheme, National Savings Scheme, Savings Account and Public Provident Fund Scheme, as an agency function on behalf of the Ministry of Finance.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Ministry of Finance provides a remuneration on per account/transaction basis to the Department of Posts. During the year 2000-2001, the Department of Posts received remuneration of Rs. 1302.35 crores on this account.

[Translation]

Theft of Telephone Cables

2209. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft of telephone cables occurred in the country during the last one year and till-date, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of losses suffered so far as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check such thefts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Widening of National Highway in Kochi-Salem Corridor

2210. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to give some approval to all major proposals submitted by Kerala Government including widening of the National Highway in Kochi-Salem Corridor; and

(b) if so, the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and proposals are approved depending upon the availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. Four laning of the portion of NH-47 from Cochin to Kerala-Tamil Nadu border forming part of Cochin-Salem spur of North-South Corridor is included under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) and Port Connectivity Programme. The work of widening of four laning from Km 332.60 (Aluva) to Km 316.00 (Angamaly) costing Rs. 78.00 Crore has been awarded. The balance reach from Angamaly to Kerala-Tamil Nadu border will be widened to four lane in phases and targetted for completion by 2007.

[Translation]

Improvement of Air Services in UP and Bihar

2211. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to inadequate civil aviation facilities the growth and promotion of tourism is getting obstracted by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve civil aviation facilities in the States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Adequate facilities have been provided at the airports in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In Uttar Pradesh, the airports at Lucknow, Varanasi and Agra have been developed and upgraded with modern passenger facilities. Lucknow Airport has been developed as a Model Airport and it is planned for further upgradation to suit operation of wide-bodies Jet aircraft. Similarly, Varanasi Airport is being upgraded with the construction of a new terminal complex to handle domestic and international passengers. The runway at Varanasi is planned for extension to suit AB-300 class of aircraft operations. The passengers terminal building with modern facilities at Agra has already been commissioned. In the State of Bihar, Patna Airport has been developed as a Model airport. Gaya Airport is being upgraded for AB-320 class of aircraft operations to promote Buddhist Tourism. In UP, Indian Airlines/Alliance Air currently operate flights to Agra, Lucknow and Varanasi, Jet Airways operates flights to Varanasi and Sahara Airlines operates flights to Lucknow and Varanasi.

In Bihar Indian Airlines/Alliance Air and Sahara Airlines operate flights to Patna.

Annual Plan for National Highways in Bihar

2212. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether annual plan regarding National Highways in Bihar is being formulated for the year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received in this regard and the amount proposed to be spent on it; and

(c) names of the National Highways on which work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Annual Plan for National Highways in Bihar for the year 2001-2002 has already been formulated.

(b) and (c) 18 out of 20 proposals received, have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 34.59 crores for development works on National Highways—19, 28, 30, 31, 57, 77, 80 and 107.

[English]

Exploitation of Workers

2213. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 809 dated February 26, 2001 regarding exploitation of workers and state:

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

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor and time by which the same is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, the State Government of West Bengal is the Appropriate Government and it has been informed that no complaints against the trade union leaders have been received by the State Government;

It has also been informed by the appropriate Government that an unprecedented incident of disturbance took place at Baranagar Jute Mill on 13.01.01 in which one workman and two executives of the Mill were killed. Following this incident, the State Government had already constituted a One Man committee headed by the Principal Secretary, Home Department of the State Government to ascertain, *inter-alia*, the cause of the incident that led to the death of these three persons.

(c) Question does not arise.

List of Sports Persons Using Drugs

2214. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has prepared a list of sports persons who had found tested positive for banned drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of tests conducted by SAI over a nine year period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government against those sports persons who had found tested positive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the direction of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, a list of sports persons who showed indication being positive has been submitted by the Sports Authority of India to the Hon'ble Court under sealed cover with the request that Dope Control Laboratory of Sports Authority of India is neither accredited with the International Olympic Committee nor fully equipped, hence the results can only be taken as indicative.

(c) Approximately 3500 tests were conducted by Sports Authority of India over the period of 9 years, out of which 257 are reported positive cases. However, since the Sports Authority of India's Dope Control Laboratory is not accredited, the result of such tests could be at best taken as only indicative.

(d) The results of the test so conducted, are forwarded to the concerned National Federations for further necessary action in accordance with the laid down norms of their respective International Federation.

Prevention of Flood

2215. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to prevent flood in the flood prone areas during monsoon; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. Central Government renders assistance that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The Government of India has set up Ganga Flood Control Commission to tackle the flood problem in Ganga basin, which has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin. Similarly, the Brahmaputra Board set up by the Government of India under an Act of Parliament has prepared Master plan for main Brahmaputra & Barak valley *inter-alia* to control floods in North Eastern region. These plans have been forwarded to respective State Governments for preparing detailed schemes based on ground surveys and for implementation. The Central Government has also set up 159 Flood forecasting Stations on major interstate rivers which give timely warning to all flood affected regions in various States.

The Governments of India constituted several expert committees to study the problem of floods in the country.

The Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) set up in 1976 examined the problem in detail and submitted its report in 1980. The recommendations of R.B.A. which form the frame work for flood management strategy in the country, were forwarded to all the State Governments for implementation.

Further, a number of other Expert Committees/Task Forces were constituted from time to time to examine the area/region specific problems relating to floods, whose recommendations were also sent to the respective State Governments for implementation.

In December, 1999 the Government of India had set up a Central team led by the Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) for assessment of critical anti erosion problems in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The team identified critical sites/reaches and recommended anti-erosion measures to be taken up immediately by State Governments. With a view to provide financial assistance to the States to carry out these measures, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled "Critical anti-erosion works in Ganga Basin States and raising and strengthening of embarkments along Kosi and Gandak rivers" at an estimated cost of Rs. 159.33 crore has been formulated by the Ministry of Water Resources, which is in operation.

Conferring of Awards

2216. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of sports persons who have been decorated with national honour like Padmashri but were not conferred with Arjuna award;

(b) whether the Government are considering them for belated conferment of Arjuna award; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The names of sports persons who have been decorated with national honour like Padmabhushan/Padmashri but were not conferred with Arjuna Award are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) For the Arjuna Awards, nominations are called by the Government from all the National Sports Federations, State Governments, Indian Olympic Association & Sports Authority of India. Nominations so received, are scrutinized by the Sports Authority of India and are placed before the Selection Committee headed by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports.

To be eligible for the Arjuna Award, a person should have had not only good performance consistently for the pervious three years at the National/International level with excellence for the year for which the Award is recommended but also should have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and sense of discipline. Government of India also considers giving Awards to such sports persons who have contributed their lifetime to sports and sport promotion.

Statement

Names of Sports Persons as on Date who have been decorated with National Honour Like Padma Bhushan/ Padmashri but were not conferred with Arjuna Award.

Sl. No.	Name of Recipients	Discipline	Award	Year
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Amarnath, Lala	Cricket	PB	1991
2.	Ananda, Maharajkumar Vijaya	Cricket	PB	1958
3.	Chand, Dhyan	Hockey	PB	1956
4.	Deodhar, Dinkar Balwant (Prof.)	Cricket	PB	1991
5.	Mankad, Vinoo Himatlal	Cricket	PB	1973

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Naorgay, Tenjing	Mountaineering	PB	1959
7.	Nayudu, Cottari Kanakaiyah	Cricket	PB	1956
8.	Sen, Mihir Kumar	Swimming	Pb	1967
9.	Singh, Bhalendra (Raja)	Soc (IX Asian Games)	PB	1983
10.	Adajania, Aspy Darabshaw	Boxing (Official)	PS	1992
11.	Ali, Mushtaq (Syed)	Cricket	PS	1963
12.	Anand Roshan Lal Anand	Director (NIS)	PS	1976
13.	Claudius, Leslie Walter	Hockey	PS	1971
14.	Contractor, Nari J.	Cricket	PS	1962
15.	D'Silva, Selma Juliet-Christina (Kum.)	Hockey	PS	1991
16.	Dang, Hari Kant	Mountaineering	PS	1976
17.	Deodhar, Dinkar Balwant (Prof.)	Cricket	PS	1965
18.	Dorji, Phu	Martial Art	PS	1965
19.	Gopalan, Morapakam Josiam	Cricket & Hockey	PS	1964
20.	Haq, Syed Mohammed Moinul	Organiser (I.O.A.)	PS	1970
21.	Hazare, Vijay S.	Cricket	PS	1960
22.	Khan, Ghous Mohammed	Tennis	PS	1971
23.	Lal, Kishan	Hockey	PS	1966
24.	Paljor, Sonam	Mountaineering	PS	1991
25.	Patel, Jasubhai Motibhai	Cricket	PS	1960
26.	Patil, Ujwala (SMT.)	Yachting & Shooting	PS	1991
27.	Paul, Gostha Behari	Football	PS	1962
28.	Ram, Lila (Hon. Captain)	Wrestling	PS	1998
29.	Reu, Swarup Krishan	Cricket	PS	1986
30.	Roy, Pankaj Lall	Cricket	PS	1975
31.	Saha, Arati (Kum.)	Swimming	PS	1960

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Sandhu, Kamaljit (Kum.)	Atheletics	PS	1971
33.	Sen, Mihir Kumar	Swimming	PS	1959
34.	Sharma, Jaman Lal	Hockey	PS	1990
35.	Singh, Digvijay (Kunwar)	Hockey	PS	1958
36.	Singh, Gyan (Brigadier)	Mountaineering	PS	1961
37.	Singh, Hukum	Mountaineering	PS	1962
38.	Singh, Kaur	Boxing	PS	1983
39.	Singh, Lairenmayum-Damu (Guru)	Martial Art (Manipuri)	PS	1983
40.	Singh, Milkha	Athletics	PS	1959
41.	Umrigar, P.R.	Cricket	PS	1962
42.	Yadav, Santosh (Smt.)	Mountaineering	PS	2000

[Translation]

Construction of PF Building

2217. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central P.F. offices in Delhi at present;

(b) the number out of them functioning in the rented buildings indicating the monthly rent thereof, location-wise;

(c) whether due to non-completion of construction work of Central P.F. building at Wazirpur Industrial area so far a large sum of amount is being paid as rent;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in constructing the said building;

(e) whether the Government have ordered any probe to ascertain any nexus between owners of the rented buildings and the officers of the P.F. Organisation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof indicating the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) At present there are seven EPF offices in Delhi of which five are in rented buildings. The monthly rent and location of these are as follows:—

1.	Regional Office Mayur Bhavan, New Delhi	Rs. 4,26,976/-
2.	Sub Accounts Office Inderlok, Delhi	Rs. 1,50,000/-
3.	Sub Accounts Office Janakpuri, New Delhi	Rs. 1,05,000/-
4.	Sub Accounts Office Laxmi Nagar, Delhi	Rs. 85,650/-
5.	Sub Accounts Office Nehru Place, New Delhi	Rs. 3,04,317/-

(c) There is no delay in construction of new Regional Office building. The lease agreement was signed with DDA on 24.4.2000 and registered on 2.8.2000. The site was handed over to M/s. HPL, the Construction Agency on 18.8.2000. The building of Regional Office is owned by NDMC and rent is paid as per approved norms.

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Involvement of NGOs Students in Tree Plantation Activity

2218. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government to utilise the services of Non-Governmental Organisations and students to launch a movement for tree plantation in the various States of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests operates a Grants-in-Aid Scheme to Voluntary Agencies under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) only for taking up afforestation activities. Funds are provided under the scheme for raising saplings, plantation work etc. as per the approved cost norms and guidelines of the scheme. Allocations under this scheme are not made state-wise, but on case-by-case basis. Details of funds provided to NGOs, state-wise, so far in the Ninth Plan are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

The financial assistance provided to NGOs, state-wise, so far in Ninth Plan under the Grants-in-aid Scheme to Voluntary Agencies of the Ministry of Environment and forests.

State	No. of NGOs to whom projects were sanctioned under the Scheme so far during the Ninth Plan	Total funds provided (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	64	208.06
Arunachal Pradesh	7	41.47
Assam	—	—
Bihar	22	62.97
Chhattisgarh	—	—
Goa	—	—
Gujarat	2	8.20
Haryana	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	12.56
Jammu & Kashmir	4	19.51
Jharkhand	1	2.50
Karnataka	37	128.65
Kerala	3	12.60
Madhya Pradesh	4	12.76
Maharashtra	—	—
Manipur	24	94.65
Meghalaya	1	1.09
Mizoram	—	—
Nagaland	34	130.75
Orissa	4	14.45
Punjab	—	—
Rajasthan	1	2.50
Sikkim	1	1.00
Tamil Nadu	20	46.06
Tripura	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	23	89.76
Uttaranchal	2	6.25
West Bengal	20	42.37
Total	278	938.16

Introduction of Bill for Harvesting of Rain Water

2219. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce a Bill for making rain water harvesting as a compulsory method in preserving water in urban areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

2220. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several exchanges connected by Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) are functioning poorly in Orissa;

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

(c) whether a large number of sanctioned telephone connections are pending due to lack of planning and poor administrative management and scarcity of material in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which said connections are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Pending sanctioned telephone connections are not large. A few sanctioned telephone connections are pending due to technical non-feasibility in rural areas where the demand for connections are scattered and far off from existing exchanges.

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

(e) Connections to wait listed applicants are likely to be provided by March, 2002.

[Translation]

Digging Operations in Himalayan Region by Pakistan

2221. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that large scale digging operations are being carried out by Pakistan in the Batura hills of the Himalayan Region;

(b) if so, the losses suffered as a result thereof and the names of rivers likely to be affected;

(c) whether the Government have drawn the attention of Pakistan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As of now, there is no input of extensive digging operations by Pakistan in Batura hills of Himalayan region.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

[English]

Amendments in Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

2222. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make some amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to instil confidence in the investors and creating more employment opportunities in the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the Social Security Scheme for landless agricultural labour (in collaboration with LIC) is going to help the working class; and

(d) the steps being taken to care of those to be rendered jobless in the process of massive disinvestment in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Various amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are proposed based on the requirements of social partners and in consonance with economic reforms.

(c) Government has launched the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001 for agricultural workers from Ist July, 2001, under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will implement the Scheme in a phased manner. The following provisions of social security have been made under the scheme:

(a) Life-cum-accident insurance

(b) Money back; and

(c) Pension-cum-superannuation benefits.

Agricultural workers in the age group of 18 years to 50 years will be eligible under the Scheme. The worker

will contribute Re.1/- per day or Rs. 365/- per year and the Government will pay Rs. 2/- per day or Rs. 730/- per year per beneficiary from the Social Security Fund under the Scheme.

(d) All decisions of the Government relating to disinvestment do not automatically have a direct impact on the jobs of the employees of the concerned public sector undertakings. When the decision involves the transfer of management control of the company, the issues related to the employees assume importance. In such cases, these concerns are appropriately addressed in the terms and conditions of sale and adequate provisions are made in the transaction documents, signed with the strategic partner. The policy of disinvestment includes protection of the interests of employees.

Road Safety Along National Highways

2223. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposal to increase the road safety along the National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the works assigned and taken up in Tamil Nadu at present;

(d) the details of the funds allocated and released to the State; and

(e) the details of the total number of projects taken up and the approximate timeframe within which the proposed projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Increasing road safety is a continuous process which involves engineering and managerial efforts like ensuring proper road engineering aspects, road widening, improvement of road geometrics, road markings and signages, training, awareness campaign, enforcement, publicity campaigns on Road Safety, Road Safety equipments, refresher training to heavy vehicle drivers in un-organised sector.

(c) 75 road improvement works costing Rs. 144.60 crores were in progress as on 31st March, 2001 and another 25 works costing Rs. 46.66 crores have been sanctioned from 1st April, 2001 till date in Tamil Nadu. In addition, 8 ambulances were given to 7 State Transport Undertakings, 2 ambulances to an NGO and 5 portable weigh bridges ere provided in Tamil Nadu.

(d) An amount of Rs. 135.28 crores have been allocated to Tamil Nadu for development and maintenance of National Highways during 2001-2002. The allocated amount is released on receipt of bills.

(e) All these works are targeted to be completed by March, 2002.

[Translation]

Wild Animals under Private Captivity

2224. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines issued by the Government regarding prevention of wild animals from being held in private captivity;

(b) the number of cases detected for violation of these guidelines during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty of keeping the wild animals under their captivity during the aforesaid period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) According to Section 39 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, no person can acquire or keep in his possession, custody or control any wild animal without prior permission of Chief Wildlife Warden. Such permissions are usually not granted.

(b) and (c) Since implementation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is mainly the responsibility of the State Government such information about the cases of keeping animals in captivity in violation of the Act, Rules or guidelines made there under is not compiled at Central Government level. Only one case of keeping a Cheetal in captivity in violation of the Act was brought to the notice of Central Government. In exercise of power under section 54 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, officers of the State Government compounded the case for Rs. 2000/- and the animal was given to Van-Vihar National Park.

[English]

Growth Rate of Domestic Air Traffic

2225. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news captioned "Domestic airlines headed for hard days" as appearing in the Hindustan Times dated July 11, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the project growth rate of domestic air traffic for the full year;

(d) the growth rate of domestic air traffic during the first five months of the current financial year; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the projected growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main thurst of the news item is low domestic traffic growth as compared to projections.

(c) The most likely growth rate has been projected at between 5 to 7% for the period 2001 to 2005.

(d) The traffic data for the first five months of 2001 (January to May) has shown a growth rate of 1% as compared to similar period last year.

(e) The overall growth rate is likely to improve in the tourist season.

Telephone User's Committee

2226. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Telephone User's Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration.

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

Train Indian Athletes for Next Olympics

2227. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have brought out a well planned policy to train Indian athletes for the next Olympics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to make better preparations for the Next Olympics;

(d) whether any particular event or events are likely to be focussed upon; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Long Term Development Programmes are being prepared in consultation with National Sport Federations, Indian Olympic Association and Sports Authority of India for scouting talent and training Indian athletes for Olympics, 2004.

(c) Selected players are being trained in camps at National Institute of Sports, Patiala and other Regional Centres of the SAI. Government would focus on those sports disciplines in which our sports persons have a chance to do reasonably well such as athletics, boxing, weight lifting, shooting and hockey.

(d) and (e) India would be participating in a Asian Games, 2002 and Commonwealth Games, 2002. Based on performance of Indian sports persons in these two major multi-disciplinary events, the disciplines would be identified for specialised and focussed training.

Investment in Road Development Project

2228. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by the Government for Monitoring Indian Economy has revealed that road highway projects are attracting more money than investments in telecom-related infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the States are not able to invest sufficient money on development of roads;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to attract more investment in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member has private investment in mind. It may be stated that in National Highway sector, an investment of Rs. 1831 crore is committed upto June, 2001. This is much less than the investment made in the telecom sector.

(c) to (e) Development of roads other than National Highways is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. However, after the establishment of the Central Road Fund, the Central Government is providing assistance to State Governments of the order of Rs. 2,500 crore for rural roads and about Rs. 1,000 crore for State roads.

Shortage of Cables

2229. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to acute shortage of cables, expansion work of the Telephone Exchanges has come to still in Rajasthan, especially in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the requirement and the quantity of cables provided during 2000-02;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the requirement of cable for the current financial year to scheduled target of new telephone exchanges; and

(d) if so, steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the requirement of cables in the especially Barmer and Jaisalmer districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, the details of cable requirement and cable laid during 2000-2001 in Rajasthan given below:—

	Rajasthan	Barmer SSA (SSA-Secondary Switching Area)	Jaisalmer SSA
Cable requirements (as per justification)	24.3749 LCKM	0.5075 LCKM	0.2688 LCKM
Cable available in Stock As on 1.4.2000 & cable Allotted during 2000-01	29.8390 LCKM	0.5501 LCKM	0.4397 LCKM
Cable laid	23.9071 LCKM	0.4497 LCKM	0.3753 LCKM

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Rajasthan Telecom Circle was already having 5.375 LCKM (Lakh Conductor Kilo Meter) of (Polythene Insulated Jelly Filled) cable as on 1.4.2001 and 1.862 LCKM was in pipe line. The tender procurement of additional PIJF cable is already in process of finalisation and additional cable shall be all Rajasthan circle based on their targets for the year 2001-2002. The subsequent allotment to Barmer and Jaisalmer districts shall be made by circle as per their requirements.

National Sports Development Fund

2230. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up 'National Sports Development Fund';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the sports/games identified/selected for financing under the said fund;

(d) the financial assistance provided to each State for the development of sport activities during the last three years;

(e) whether indigenous sports like Kabaddi and Martial Arts are promoted under the fund; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Considering the promotion of Sports and Games as an important aspect of human resource development and in view of the fact that the constraint of resources is the main bottleneck in this direction, the Government has set up a National Sports Development Fund (NSDF). This Fund was set up with a view to mobilize resources from various Government/Semi-Government Organizations, Public/ Private Sector units and individuals including Non-Resident Indians. The accumulations of the Fund are to be utilized for promotion of sports and games, in general and for specific sports disciplines and individual sports persons, in particular for achieving excellence in the field of sports and games at National and International level.

(c) to (f) The Scheme of NSDF does not specify sports/games for financial assistance from the Fund. However, as per provisions of the Scheme, the National Sports Federation, State Sports Associations, State Sports Council, non-Government Organizations with a known record of promotion of sports and registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 (21 of 1860) or registered as public trust, functioning at least for three years or individual sports persons of outstanding talent are eligible for financial assistance from the fund for creation/ maintenance of infrastructure, equipment, coaching/training, study/research, publications, periodicals and documentation, conference/meeting or seminar, consultancy service, loans, travel subsidy etc.

During the last three years no request for financial assistance from the Fund has been received from any state.

Production and Cultivation of Bamboo

2231. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government have any plans to encourage bamboo production and cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any targets have been set up to enhance bamboo cultivation for the next three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any financial assistance is proposed to be provided to State Governments for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bamboo plantation has already been declared as one of the Thrust Areas since 1999-2000 and projects solely for Bamboo Plantations are sanctioned under the centrally sponsored scheme of Non-Timber Forest produce including Medicinal Plants. So far, 21 such projects have been sanctioned with an outlay of Rs. 20.85 crores for treating an area of 30163 hectares during the 9th Plan.

(c) to (f) The 10th Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

Death of Peacocks

2232. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Peacocks dying of mysterious ailment in Rajasthan" as reported in the Statesman dated May 3, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government have sent any team to Rajasthan to find out the exact cause of ailment of peacocks and provided any kind of help; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item captioned "Peacocks dying of mysterious ailment in Rajasthan" published in the 'Stateman' dated on 3.5.2001 mentions the death of 129 peacocks under mysterious circumstances during the past four months, particularly in Sikar and Jaipur districts of Rajasthan.

As per the report of the State Government 91 peacocks have died in Sikar in the month of February, 20 peacocks died in Ajmer during January, and 19 died in Jaipur during May, 2001. The post mortem reports indicated that the deaths occurred due to pneumonitis and gastroenteritis microbes and severe heat stroke.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Norms of Royalty to Mine Owners

2233. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for granting royalty to the mine owners;

(b) whether the Government have granted royalty to the mine owners of various States; and

(c) if so, the details there of including the amount of royalty given to mine owners during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Royalty on minerals is payable by the mining lease holders to the State Governments.

(b) and (c) In view of 'a' above, do not arise.

[Translation]

Death of Deers

2234. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of birds and animals like deers falling under the category of protected species found dead inside and forest areas last year, forest-wise;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this connection and the action being taken against them;

(c) whether the Government propose to take stringent steps to check the killing of animals and birds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As the responsibility of implementation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 lies with the State Government, the data regarding death of birds and other animals like deer are not collated and compiled at the level of the Union Government. However, as per the reports available in the Ministry 141 deaths of peacocks and 12 deaths of Saras cranes have been reported from different parts of the country during the last one year.

(c) and (d) The steps taken by the Government to check the illegal hunting of animals and birds as follows:

(1) Steps taken at the State level:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in Wildlife.

(2) Steps taken at National level

(i) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(ii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti-poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

(iii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-Development around Protected Areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising 'Strike Forces' and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the

informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.

(iv) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.

(vi) A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching and to create enforcement infrastructure both within and outside protected areas.

(vii) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(3) Steps taken at International level

(i) Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.

(ii) To control transboundary trade a protocol has been signed with Peoples' Republic of China and a MOU has been signed with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

(iii) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

[English]

Security Set-up at Delhi Airports

2235. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp security set-up at the Delhi Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a survey was conducted in this regard by the Bureau of Civil Aviation;

(d) if so, whether this is on account of shortage of staff and their overworking; and

(e) the steps taken to create additional basis facilities to relieve them from pressure and overworking and to revamp the system?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security had surveyed the Delhi airport and recommended additional staff for performance of security duty in 3 shirts instead of the 2 shifts as was done earlier. Accordingly, 638 additional posts for Delhi Police have recently been sanctioned for augmenting their strength at Delhi airport. With the new augmentation, efficiency of staff would improve and consequently there will be no overworking. Additional vehicles and other required facilities have also been made available by the Airports Authority of India.

[Translation]

Telephone Bills

2236. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of banks depositing telephone bills for the convenience of the telephone subscribers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) For the convenience of the telephone subscribers over 3457 branches of various nationalised/scheduled banks and the State Bank of India have already been authorised throughout the country for collection of bills for the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited. The no. of branches doing collections are increasing continuously.

Valuation Report of BALCO

2237. SHRI JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether valuation report in regard to BALCO has been prepared;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present market value of its assets;

(c) whether the Government are considering to forward the valuation report to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the above report is likely to be forwarded to C&AG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Advisor undertook a detailed valuation exercise. For 100% of equity, they placed the valuation through Discounted Cash Flow method at Rs. 651.2-994.7 crore (for 51% - Rs. 332 - 507 crore); through the Comparable Valuation method at Rs. 587-909 crore (for 51% - Rs. 299-464 crore); and through Balance Sheet method at Rs. 597.2-681.9 crore (for 51% - Rs. 305-348 crore). The value of assets was placed around Rs. 1072 crore, 51% of which works out at Rs. 547 crore approximately.

(c) and (d) A copy of the reports of the advisors and assets valuation report was handed over to the office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India on 28th March, 2001.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Coastal Regulation Zones Rules

2238. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States and the Territories benefited with amendments made in the Coastal Regulation Zones Rules;

(b) whether some objectives are to be achieved from such amendments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 was issued under Sections 3(1) and 3(2) (v) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rule 5(3)(d) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 with the overall objective of protection and improvement of environment. The Government has amended the CRZ notification from time to time. These amendments have benefited the coastal states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and Union Territories of Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry.

ATMs in Post Offices

2239. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to install ATMs in post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been sketched out about the number of ATMs along with places where these are likely to be installed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Some banks have approached the Department of Posts for installation of ATMs in post offices. The proposal of the concerned banks will be decided subject to operational, technical and financial feasibility.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of "c" above.

User's Fee at Calicut Airport

2240. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not stopped the collection of User's Fee at Calicut Airport although the runway of airport has been extended;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have permitted the airlines of other countries to start International Flights from Calicut Airport since the runway has been extended to 9000 feet;

(d) if so, whether flights for Haj are likely to start from Calicut Airport; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) User's Development Additional Fee (UDAF) is being collected from International embarking passengers at the rate of Rs. 375 at Calicut airport. The UDAF will be in force till the interest required to be paid on the loan raised from HUDCO is fully recovered.

(c) Calicut airport has not been granted as a point of call to any foreign airlines.

(d) and (e) Haj flights are likely to be operated from Calicut airport during Haj-2002 movement.

Beedi Workers

2241. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Beedi workers with particular reference to child and women workers separately, State-wise;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to assess the ill effects of tobacco on the workers in general and child and woman workers in particular;

(c) if so, the incidence of chest, bronchial and other ailments among Beedi workers with particular reference to child and women workers; and

(d) the steps taken to cure the ailments among the workers and the preventive measures taken to avoid ailments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As per latest estimates there are about 44.11 lakh beedi workers in the country. A statement-I showing the State-wise number of beedi workers is enclosed. The Labour Bureau (Ministry of Labour) has conducted a sample survey on the working and living conditions of the workers in the beedi industry in 1995. As per conclusions of this survey, 65.9 percent women workers and one percent children are engaged in beedi making.

(b) to (d) The opinion of various organizations such as DGFASLI, Ministry of Health and National Institute of Occupational Health is that TB is not an occupational disease. However, the findings of a study conducted by the Labour Bureau showing prevalence of chronic diseases including chest ailments amongst the Beedi workers is enclosed as statement-II.

The Labour Welfare Organisation is running 4 Hospitals and 210 dispensaries under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund to cater to the needs of the beedi workers and their dependants.

Statement-I

S. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of Beedi Workers Estimated at present
1.	Andhra Pradesh	625050
2.	Assam	7725
3.	Bihar	391500
4.	Gujarat	50000
5.	Karnataka	360876
6.	Kerala	136416
7.	Madhya Pradesh	750000
8.	Maharashtra	256000
9.	Orissa	160000
10.	Rajasthan	100000
11.	Tripura	5000
12.	Tamil Nadu	620950
13.	Uttar Pradesh	450000
14.	West Bengal	497758
	Total	4411275

Statement-II

Percentage Distribution of Workers Reporting Chronic Diseases

Sl.No.	State	Number of families covered	Per centage of reporting workers	Percentage of workers suffering from								
				Gastro entric disorder	High Blood Pressure	Heart Disease	Disbetes	Asthma	Ner-vous disease	Shoulder arm neck synd-rome	Others	Does not have chronic disease
1.	Andhdra Pradesh	79	8.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	8.9	—	91.1
2.	Gujarat	76	6.6	—	—	—	—	1.3	—	—	4.0	93.4
3.	Bihar	117	32.5	4.3	4.3	0.9	3.4	6.8	6.8	4.3	0.9	67.5
4.	Kerala	59	15.3	1.7	5.1	1.7	5.1	—	—	—	1.7	84.7
5.	Karnataka	78	5.1	1.3	1.3	—	—	1.2	—	—	—	94.9
6.	Madhya Pradesh	120	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.8	99.2
7.	Maharashtra	87	2.3	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	97.7
8.	Orissa	72	1.4	—	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	98.6
9.	Rajasthan	66	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.5	98.5
10.	Tamil Nadu	61	9.8	—	3.3	—	1.6	1.6	—	—	3.3	90.2
11.	Uttar Pradesh	74	12.2	1.4	—	—	—	5.4	1.4	4.0	—	87.8
12.	West Bengal	134	7.5	1.5	2.2	—	—	1.5	—	1.5	—	92.5
	Total	1023	9.1	1.2	1.5	0.2	0.8	1.7	0.9	1.7	0.9	90.9

Note: Insignificant number of workers were suffering from Rheumatism, Kidney trouble, Liver trouble and Gout.

Evaluation of Financial Problems

2242. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has handed over evaluation of the financial problems being faced by the private cellular operators to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices;

(b) if so, whether the Bureau has expressed its inability to give its recommendations without carrying out complete study of the Telecom Sector;

(c) if so, whether the DoT now decided to hand over the evaluation of the said problems to the ICICI; and

(d) if so, the time by which the study report is likely to be submitted by ICICI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Sir, as Study of Cellular Service Industry was entrusted to Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices and its Report was received on 9.11.1998. ICICI had also conducted a quick appraisal of the Cellular Industry and had submitted its report in June 1998. These Reports were, inter-alia, taken into consideration by the Government, while taking a policy decision in July, 1999 in favour of offer of Migration Package to existing Cellular Operators for shift to revenue sharing regime of National Telecom Policy-1999.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance for Project Tiger

2243. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign assistance received for Project Tiger during 2000-2001, State-wise; and

(b) the details of areas and heads under which the said amount has been spent indicating the amount spent so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Project Tiger Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which has no externally aided component. However, 5 Tiger Reserves do receive financial assistance under the externally aided scheme "India Eco Development Project" since 1996. Assistance provided under this scheme during 2000-01 is as follows:

No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	Rs. in lakhs
1.	Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh	322.94
2.	Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan	531.28
3.	Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal	459.39
4.	Palamau Tiger Reserve, Jharkhand	125.00
5.	Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala	561.81
	Total	2000.42

[English]

Cartelisation in Procurement

2244. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "It's cartel-games time again at telecom ministry" appearing in the Indian Express dated August 8, 2000;

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

(c) whether as per the decision of the Central Vigilance Commission, negotiations can be held only with the lowest bidder in tenders but in his ministry, telecom commission takes decisions which are reversed later on;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to enquire into the cartelisation and to bring to book the guilty officials; and

(f) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to nab the kickbackers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) News Item on the subject appeared on August 3, 2000. The facts of the matter are enclosed as statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. The negotiation in accordance with CVC guidelines are held only with L-I bidder.

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

(e) and (f) In view of reply of (a) & (b) above, the question does not arise.

Statement

Facts of the Matter

(I) Telecom Switching Equipment:

The 20.45 lakh lines tender for New Technology Exchanges was opened on 18.8.2000. As per terms and conditions of the tenders, the orders were to be placed on to 1st four eligible bidders out of six for the tendered quantity as per the general practice of awarding the contract to 2/3rd bidders to avoid cartelisation.

The case was reviewed in the Telecom Commission on 31st May, 2000 prior to the opening of the tender whereby it was decided to award the contract to five bidders instead of four due to the difficulty in expansion of existing exchanges and handling multiple technologies in the same place.

The case was again reviewed on 16.8.2000 whereby it was decided to restrict the eligible bidders to only four out of six to avoid even the remotest chances of cartelisation.

(II) Jelly Filled Cable

Department of Telecommunications had floated a tender for procurement of 403 LCKM of PIJF U/G Cable against the requirement of the year 2000-01 which was opened on 30.3.2000. There were total 36 sizes of Cables.

M/S Sterlite Industries (I) Ltd. had quoted a price of Rs. 1,64,127.33 /KM for 200/0.5 mm (A) size of cable that was significantly lower than that of the next lower quotation (Rs. 281514.04/KM) and then wanted to modify its bid with a plea that it is a typographical error.

However, the request of the firm was rejected by the Department, as it is against the tender terms and conditions.

Department has approved the same quoted price of M/S Sterlite and offered to all the eligible venders. All the vendors including M/S Sterlite have not accepted the offered price for 200/0.5 mm (A) cable size. As M/S Sterlite has not honoured its own quoted price, the Earnest Money Bank Guarantee (EMBG) of Rs. 1 crore was encashed by the Department.

Smuggling of Birds

2245. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of the first members of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora pledging support to check smuggling of wild life products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more than 1200 red Munia birds and 38 Alexandrine parakeets, being illegally exported have been seized at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi on May 13, 2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken against the persons involved in this illegal smuggling of birds; and

(f) the strict measures the Government propose to take to check such illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) India was the 25th country to become the member of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on 20.7.1976. Since it becoming a member of the convention the provisions relating to the convention is meticulously being implemented. Alexandrine parakeets are included in Appendix II of the Convention. However, munia is not amongst the species listed in the Appendices of CITES.

(c) to (e) On 13.5.2001 the Customs authorities seized 1,200 red Munias and 33 Alexandrine parakeets at the Indira Gandhi International Airport which were being smuggled to Sharjah via, Lucknow. One accused has been arrested. A case has been filed in the Court of law.

(f) The Steps by the Government of India to check the illegal activities are as follows:

(1) Steps taken at the State level:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in Wildlife.

(iii) State Wildlife authorities carry out regular checking of the stocks of dealers in birds.

(2) Steps taken at National level

(i) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(ii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

(iii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the State under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-Development around Protected Areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising 'Strike Forces' and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.

(iv) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.

(vi) A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching and to create enforcement infrastructure both within and outside protected areas.

(vii) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(3) Steps taken at International level

(i) Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.

(ii) To control transboundary trade a protocol has been signed with Peoples' Republic of China and a MOU has been signed with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

(iii) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

Bagdogra Airport

2246. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the runway of the Bagdogra Airport has been expanded and the modernization work at the airport has also been completed;

(b) if so, whether daily flights of Indian Airlines from Kolkata to Bagdogra and back are likely to be restored soon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Airports Authority of India maintains a Civil Enclave at Bagdogra airport. A new terminal building with all modern passenger facilities to cater to 500 passengers at a time, at a cost of Rs. 11.43 crores has been commissioned on 8th September, 2000. Customs and Immigration facilities are also available to handle limited international flights. The runway at Bagdogra Airport has been strengthened and re-carpeted by the Indian Air Force.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines is currently operating three flights a week between Kolkata and Bagdogra. At present, there is no plan to increase the frequency to daily service due to shortage of aircraft with Indian Airlines.

[Translation]

Reduction in Pulse Rate

2247. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to increase in telephone rent and decrease in the number of local free calls the telephone subscribers in urban and rural areas have got their telephones disconnected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the pulse rate again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No case of telephone surrender has been reported due to these reasons.

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

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

Functioning of Telecom District

2248. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All the Telecom districts set up in Orissa during 2000-2001 have started operation; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Degradation of Land in Chambal Valley

2249. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether degradation of land into ravines in Chambal Valley has been increasing for the last few years;

(b) if so, the whether the Government have any plan to check the degradation of land; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. As per State of Forest Report 1999, published by Forest Survey of India, forest cover has increased by 175 sq.km in the period 1996-98 in the districts of Bhind, Morena, Agra and Etawah containing ravines of Chambal Valley.

(b) and (c) The important steps undertaken by the Government to prevent deforestation in the country are:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments/UT Administrations from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to all States/UTs to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes.

(v) A network of protected areas has been established.

(vi) Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Programme to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through increased investments in conservation and development of forest resources.

Opening of Nehru Yuva Kendras

2250. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nehru Yuva Kendras opened in the country as on March 31, 2001;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up additional number of such Kendras during 2001-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) 500

(b) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Completion of Pending Works at Airports in UP

2251. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new/incomplete airports and helipads in Uttar Pradesh at present, location-wise;

(b) whether the work on incomplete airports is likely to be completed within a timeframe;

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

(d) the number of airports out of them are likely to be completed during the year 2002?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) At present, Airports Authority of India has no plans to construct a new airport/helipad in the State of Uttar Pradesh, nor is any new airport/helipad currently under construction.

[English]

Multi-Purpose Irrigation Projects

2252. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing multipurpose irrigation projects at present in each State;

(b) the years of commencement of work in the said projects and progress achieved thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost and allocation made to each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) 64 multipurpose irrigation projects are at present under construction at various stages in the country. Details of these projects indicating plan of start, latest estimated cost and financial & physical progress (as reported by the State Governments) are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

(Amount in Rs. Crores)

(Potential in Th. ha.)

S.No.	Project Name	Started in Plan	Latest Estimated Cost	(IX Plan outlay)	Cumulative Expen. upto 3/2000 (Anticipated)	Ultimate Potential	Pot. created upto end of VIII Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh							
1.	Nagarjuna Sagar	II	1025.00	115.00	977.65	895.28	808.91
2.	Sriram Sagar Stage-I	III	2425.00	1061.00	1422.26	414.00	255.04
3.	Singur	V	180.00	25.47	161.35	Water supply scheme	
4.	Srisailam Right Branch Canal	VI	1600.00	539.61	793.14	76.89	
	Srisailam Left Br. Canal	VI	1260.00	400.00	304.27	121.41	
5.	Yeleru Res.	VI	335.34	50.00	308.51		
6.	Telugu Ganga	VI	2347.00	560.00	1304.07	233.00	12.54
Bihar							
7.	Gandak Ph.II	VII	578.27	32.00	97.02	236.00	7.50
8.	North Koel	V	814.74	62.00	484.41	104.72	35.00
Jharkhand							
9.	Subernarekha	V	2376.15	90.00	917.73	236.85	0.00
10.	Tilaiya	V	301.79	20.00	42.72	46.60	0.00
Goa							
11.	Salauli	IV	153.00	50.00	136.40	21.24	6.27
Gujarat							
12.	Sardar Sarovar (IS)	VI	22176.85	14000.00	5531.07	1792.00	14.99
Karnataka							
13.	Bhadra	I	155.23	17.00	165.27	105.57	105.57
14.	Tungabhadra Dam & LBC	I	310.00	27.00	244.52	244.38	244.20
15.	Tungabhadra HLC (IS)	II	79.48	10.00	51.83	80.91	70.44
16.	Varahi	VII	122.50	50.00	20.00	15.70	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Kerala							
17.	Kallada	III	698.00	160.00	600.48	92.80	44.00
18.	Idamalayar	VI	107.00	90.00	103.62	43.19	5.00
Madhya Pradesh							
19.	Kolar	IV	195.00	19.90	178.89	60.90	33.00
20.	Sindh Ph.I	IV	56.43	4.65	48.67	53.00	36.20
21.	Bansagar (IS) Unit-I	V	936.00	105.00	496.40	0.00	0.00
	Bansagar (IS) Unit-II	V	344.66	20.00	158.18	249.00	0.00
22.	Bargi Dam (NVDA)	V	759.00	120.50	494.01	219.80	24.00
23.	Indira Sagar (NVDA)	VI	1574.00	501.00	400.78	169.00	0.00
24.	Mahi	VI	192.85	—	50.15	26.40	0.00
25.	Sindh Ph.II	VI	607.67	—	134.83	162.00	887.70
26.	Pench Diversion	VIII	184.04	0.00	8.17	96.52	0.00
27.	Omkareshwar	VIII	755.00	10.29	11.87	283.32	0.00
Chhattisgarh							
28.	Hasdeo Bango	AP78-80	858.31	125.00	637.86	327.84	166.40
29.	Mahanandi Res.	IV	1223.45	430.20	440.76	304.20	110.40
Maharashtra							
30.	Khadakwasla	II	343.86	63.86	241.20	62.15	57.36
31.	Bhima	III	918.56	27.07	699.70	259.54	184.44
32.	Warna	AP 66-69	992.82	385.70	309.00	113.92	53.60
33.	Kukadi	AP 66-60	1044.93	394.77	827.00	156.28	74.34
34.	Upper Tapi	IV	172.12	17.21	129.73	55.14	50.50
35.	Bhatsa	V	322.49	151.50	190.17	42.55	8.88
36.	Dudhganga (IS)	V	798.65	391.94	243.70	46.95	0.60
37.	Upper Wardha	V	661.86	91.14	484.61	80.25	37.82
38.	Upper Godavari	V	133.23	40.84	94.41	67.29	61.26
39.	Upper Penganga	V	1050.00	250.00	429.72	111.53	61.79
40	Waghur	V	189.32	74.59	61.35	26.32	0.00
41.	Surya	AP78-80	175.14	8.49	192.69	27.19	22.55
42.	Tikwari (IS)	AP 78-80	167.70	200.07	179.77	9.66	0.29
43.	Lower Wunna	VI	261.33	64.86	296.68	20.78	6.87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Orissa							
44.	Potteru	IV	148.07	—	141.03	109.88	54.17
45.	Rengali Dam	IV	40.77	—	41.51	—	—
46.	Rengali Irrigation	IV	2316.77	980.12	622.98	423.63	—
47.	Upper Kalab Dam	V	48.81	—	53.71	—	—
	Upper Kolab Irrigation	V	304.00	78.00	249.90	88.70	74.06
48.	Upper Indravati Dam	V	176.16	—	127.04		
49.	Upper Indravati Irrigation	AP 78-80	718.70	272.00	422.90	218.60	41.31
Punjab							
50.	Ranjit Sagar Dam	VI	2625.99	—	2187.84	348.00	
51.	SYL Canal	VI	753.54	18.00	525.84	130.00	
Rajasthan							
52.	IGNP St.II	V	2267.44	1075.00	1564.24	964	
53.	Bisalpur Irr.	VII	228.30	100.37	206.31	49.90	
54.	Narmada (SSP)		548.00	103.800	208.93	73.16	
55.	Sidhmikh Nahar	VII	308.77	175.240	217.96	67.36	
56.	Jakham	III	104.00	7.23	105.20	23.50	23.50
57.	Mahi Bajaj Sagar (IS)	IV	1016.98	210.00	626.81	123.50	
Tripura							
58.	Gumti	V	50.00	23.63	37.80	9.80	2.00
Uttar Pradesh							
59.	Rajghat Dam (UP Share) (IS)	V	150.30	0.00	133.08	138.67	—
	Rajghat Canal (UP)	V	230.95	77.85	191.40		32.57
60.	Pathrai Dam	VII	48.33	12.60	38.33	3.77	0.00
Uttranchal							
61.	Lakhwar Vyasi	V	578.40	200.00	191.50	40.00	0.00
62.	Tehri Dam (UP Share)	79-80	711.14	300.00	374.29	270.00	0.00
West Bengal							
63.	Barrage Irrigation DVC	I	60.00	4.03	75.08	510.11	485.00
64.	Teesta Barrage St.I Ph.I	V	1177.00	500.00	831.78	527.00	91.31

Replacement of Old Auto-Dialing Instruments

2253. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) proposes to replace five year old auto-dialing instruments without any charges during the year 2001-2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MTNL Delhi has planned to replace all telephone instruments which are older than five years. In the first phase, instruments older than 8 years are being replaced during the year 2001-2002.

In MTNL, Mumbai, all auto-dialing instruments have already been replaced by Push button instruments. Further, it has now been decided to replace Electronic Push Button Telephone (EPBT's) of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) working in 1995-96, as detailed below:

55% of EPBT's will be replaced during 2001-2002

45% of EPBT's will be replaced during 2002-2003

Perishable Cargo Complex at Hyderabad

2254. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to hand over the New Perishable Cargo Complex at Hyderabad Airport to Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation (APSTC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) On the basis of tenders, the Centre for perishable cargo at Hyderabad has been handed over to Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation on 7.6.2001.

Dope Circular for Testing

2255. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have passed circulars/ orders that no national records shall be recognized and no one shall be allowed to proceed as part of National teams to represent India for international competitions without being dope tested;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of those sports persons who have not been tested for dope after the Government have passed these orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Concession in Telephone Bill

2256. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to give concession in telephone bills in the Villages connected with Urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of the villages to be covered under the said scheme; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) At present there is no proposal to give concession in telephone bills in the villages connected with Urban Areas.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

CDMA System

2257. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Set Connection has been programmed for new C.D.M.A. system of wide coverage but changes have not been incorporated in new C.D.M.A. system even after 3 months;

(b) whether the subscribers of C.D.M.A. system of WLL hand sets have not been given wide coverage even after converting their 10 digit numbers into 7 digit numbers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any time limit has been fixed to widen coverage of WLL hand set connection; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The handsets of existing WLL subscribers have been called for by MTNL for programming as per new CDMA system under installation. However, these handsets are still working on the existing CDMAA system and they will work as per new programming only when the new CDMA system will be commissioned. The date of change over of these subscribers to new CDMA system will be intimated to the subscribers individually as well as through advertisement in leading newspapers.

(b) and (c) The change over the CDMA WLL subscribers from 10 digit numbers into 7 digit numbers has been done as per guidelines of Department of Telecommunications (DOT). However, the CDMA system remaining the same, the coverage available to the subscribers is the same as provided earlier. MTNL is in a process to commission new CDMA network which will provide better coverage.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Within this financial year.

[English]

Misuse of Funds by Air India

2258. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any complaints regarding misuse of funds for legal opinion in Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Persons Tested Positive from Banned Drugs

2259. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India has apprised the Delhi High Court about 140 sports persons having been tested positive for banned drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether SAI's dope control laboratory is not accredited by the International Olympic Committee;

(d) if so, whether there is any policy to conduct dope test before and after any State or National Level sports meet; and

(e) if so, the policy being followed and the number of sports persons were tested positive before and after last five State or National level sports event alongwith results and action thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

On the direction of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, a list of sports persons who showed indication of being positive has been submitted by the Sports Authority of India to the Hon'ble Court under sealed cover with the request that Dope Control Laboratory of Sports Authority of India is neither accredited with the International Olympic Committee nor fully equipped, hence the results can only be taken as indicative and not authentic.

(d) and (e) Recently, the Government has amended its scheme for assistance to National Sports Federations to the effect that in order to be eligible for assistance, Federations will ensure that Dope Test for all its players is conducted regularly as per the norms/standards laid down by the International Federation of the concerned discipline. It has also been decided that while submitting proposals to this Ministry for financial assistance, all National Sports Federations should given an undertaking that dope test will be conducted as per the norms laid

down by the International Federations of the concerned disciplines.

Demands of Extra-Departmental Agents

2260. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various demands of Extra-Departmental Agents are still under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action the Government have taken so far in considering their demands;

(d) whether specific rules have been formulated for regularisation of their services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) In respect of demands relating to recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee, orders were issued on 17.12.1998 after due consideration allowing the following benefits:

(i) Increased monthly allowance of Gramin Dak Sevaks by a factor of 3.25 for the period 1.1.1996 to 28.2.1998.

(ii) Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA), in lieu of monthly allowance related to workload, from 1.3.98.

(iii) Increased amount of admissible ex-gratia gratuity from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 18,000/-

(iv) Paid leave at the rate of 10 days for every half year without the provision of carry forward or encashment.

(v) Increased office maintenance allowance admissible to Branch Postmaster from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/- per month.

(vi) Lump sum Severance Amount of Rs. 20,000/- or Rs. 30,000/- depending on period of employment, on discharge from employment at the age of 65 years or death in harness or on absorption against departmental post.

Demand for change of nomenclature is also granted and ED Agents are now called Gramin Dak Sevaks, as per revised Gramin Dak Sevaks (Conduct and Employment) Rules, 2001.

(d) Gramin Dak Sevaks (Conduct and Employment) Rules, 2001 provide for regular engagement of Gramin Dak Sevaks. Provisions also exist in the recruitment rules for cadres of Group 'D', Postmen/Mail Guards and Postal Assistants/Sorting Assistants giving specific preference to Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS), who satisfy eligibility criteria.

(e) All Group 'D' Posts are filled up from GDSs, on the basis of seniority subject to satisfactory employment. 50% of vacancies in the cadre of Postmen/Mail Guards are filled by promotion of Group 'D' officials who qualify in the test. Remaining 50% of vacancies are filled by GDSs partly by seniority in employment and partly by merit through departmental test. In Postal Assistants/ Sorting Assistants cadre, unfilled vacancies of departmental quota are first offered to Gramin Dak Sevaks. In respect of outsider quota also, Gramin Dak Sevaks enjoy advantage by being considered with lower marks than marks of open market candidates.

Maintenance of Elephant Sanctuary in Orissa

2261. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for protecting and proper maintenance of the Elephant Sanctuary situated at Chandakha near Nandankanan in Orissa;

(b) whether the Elephants have gone on rampage thereby killing many people living in nearby villages; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in protecting the lives of innocent villagers?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Steps taken for protection and proper maintenance of the Chandakha Elephant Sanctuary include:

(i) Five anti poaching camps have been established and regular patrolling is being organised in and around the sanctuary.

(ii) Arrangements have been made to collect intelligence regarding forest offences and movement of elephants with the help of wireless network.

(iii) To enrich the degraded habitat sites, plantations are being taken up. Plants, which form food of elephant, are being planted.

(iv) In order to reduce the dependence of people on the sanctuary, eco-development activities are proposed in peripheral villages.

(v) Rennovation of the existing elephant proof trench and laying of new elephant proof trenches have been taken up.

(b) House schemes have come up very close to the reverse forests resulting in bringing the elephants to accidental encounters with human population. Because of such accidental encounters two persons have died during the year 2000 and 4 persons died during 2001. They were women and old persons who fell in the movement path of elephants.

(c) The steps taken by the Government in protecting the life of villagers include:

(i) Fencing and renovation of the trenches have been taken up to localise the elephants to assigned habitat.

(ii) Hamlets lying in the core area of the sanctuary have been proposed for relocation, which will reduce man-elephant conflict. 84 families have already been relocated.

(iii) Enrichment of plantations are done to provide sufficient food for the elephant.

(iv) Training of staff to handle elephant depredation has been organised.

Construction of Dams

2262. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposals to construct dams to tame the rivers emanating from Nepal to check devastation and to harness, the water for better and useful purposes:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): Yes, Sir. Presently proposals of following River Valley Projects on the rivers emanating from Nepal are under discussion with the Government of Nepal:

(i) Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on river Mahakali (Sarda in India)

(ii) Saptakosi High Dam & Sunkosi Projects on river Kosi.

(iii) Kamla Multipurpose Projects on river Kamla.

(iv) Bagmati Multipurpose Project on river Bagmati.

As regards Pancheswar Multipurpose Project the preparation of Joint Detailed Project Report is in progress. For Saptakosi and Sunkosi Projects, the third meeting of Joint Team of Experts of India & Nepal was held in March, 2001 in New Delhi to discuss the Project Inception Report as well as the issue of opening the Joint Project Office to prepare the Joint Detailed Project Report. Regarding Bagmati and Kamla Multipurpose Projects, the Joint efforts of the Government of India and Nepal to sort out certain technical issues are under progress between the two Governments.

Earnings of Air India

2263. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has earned substantial amount during 2000-2001 through the unutilised bilateral sources;

(b) if so, the total amount generated as a result thereof, country-wise;

(c) the extent to which this has helped in improving its financial position and wiping out the losses; and

(d) the financial accruals to Air India through such means during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) During 2000-2001, the total revenue of Air India from different types of commercial arrangements was Rs. 240.41 crores. Out of this Rs. 29.81 crores were earned from six airlines, who are utilising the unused entitlement of Air India.

(c) the losses of Air India have been reduced by the above mentioned amount.

(d) The total revenue of Air India from different types of commercial arrangements during 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 162.47 crores and Rs. 219.12 crores respectively.

Assistance for Play Field in Karnataka

2264. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government received a proposal for financial assistance for development of play field of Anjuman-E-Islam Polytechnic, Gadag in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the proposal;

(c) if not, the main reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be considered and funds released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The proposal, received on 16.11.2000, was under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure. Since financial assistance to Polytechnic are not admissible under the above Scheme, the State Government/Polytechnic were advised on 5.12.2000 to reformulate the proposal under the Scheme for Promotion of Sports in Universities & Colleges. The revised proposal has not yet been received.

Cash Card by M.T.N.L.

2265. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) propose to introduce cash card in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be introduced;

(c) whether the said facility is being extended in other parts of the country also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) MTNL is already providing cash card service by the name of MTNL VCC Cards.

Virtual calling cards (VCC) are available in the denomination of Rs. 100, 200, 500, 1000 and 2000 respectively. This allows a user to make a call from any telephone to any destination (Local, National or International depending on the type of the Card) through Intelligent Network using a Virtual Credit Card Number. The calls are charged and debted to user account and no charges are levied to the calling telephone number. In this facility, subscriber need not be a telephone subscriber and need not carry cash for making calls.

(c) and (d) BSNL has also introduced these cash cards by the name of India Telecom Card (ITC).

As on 30.6.2001, the facility is available in 145 cities.

Performance of Zoning Atlas Project

2266. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the success of its "Zoning Atlas Project" in controlling pollution across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures adopted by the Central Pollution Control Board to strengthen zoning atlas project?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has been reviewing from time to time the progress of implementation of the Zoning Atlas Project. The emphasis in such review meetings had been to review the achievement of the main targets of the project, viz. Capacity building and achieving of physical targets and utility of results generated from the Zoning Atlas activity.

(c) The measures adopted by the Central Pollution Control Board for strengthening the Zoning Atlas project are:

(i) A Centre of Excellence was established in the year 2000 in the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) as a Centre for Spatial Environmental Planning. The Centre has the requisite trained manpower, equipment, and GIS software.

(ii) Similar Centres of Excellence have been approved at Environment Protection Training Research Institute (EPTRI), Hyderabad, Kerala

State Pollution Control Board, Thiruvananthapuram, Tripura State Pollution Control Board, Agartala and West Bengal State Council for Science and Technology, Kolkata. Also manpower has been sanctioned to different State Pollution Control Boards to strengthen the Zoning Atlas Project.

(iii) Some requisite equipments viz. GIS software, LCD Projector, Personal Computers, Internet connection etc. have been provided in different State Pollution Control Boards/Executing Agencies for capacity building in the area of spatial environmental planning.

(iv) Teams from the participating State Pollution Control Boards/Executing Agencies have been trained on spatial environmental planning tasks viz. Zoning atlas for siting of industrial estate planning etc. Also, overseas training programmes were conducted to enhance capabilities in spatial environmental planning for the State Pollution Control Boards/Executing Agencies. Central Pollution Control Board and Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(v) A comprehensive Human Resources Development in the Field of Spatial Environmental Planning has been prepared to enhancing technical and managerial skills of the persons involved in various planning activities in different organisations such as Pollution Control Boards, development authorities, district administrations, municipalities and educational institutions.

Improvement in Enforcement Machinery

2267. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of economic globalization, the industrial activity and the volume of trade and business has increased manifold in the country;

(b) if so, whether the enforcement machinery is not keeping pace with the increase volume of trade and business;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for making the enforcement machinery more effective;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) As a result of economic globalisation many new trade and business opportunities have been generated in the areas of information technology, tourism, financial and other services sectors. The enforcement machinery to cope with the norms of enforcement and administration of Labour Laws needs to be strengthened as in approximately 2 lakh establishments under central sphere, labour legislation is required to be administered and enforced through 260 officers of different grades.

(d) and (e) After taking into account financial constraints, the proposal has been submitted to Planning Commission for creation of additional 48 posts of officers in different grades and 234 posts of supporting staff for strengthening the enforcement machinery under Plan Scheme of Augmenting and Strengthening of Enforcement Machinery.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra in Rajasthan

2268. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of activities of Nehru Yuva Kendras in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether the Nehru Yuva Kendra in Jodhpur district is not carrying any activities; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The details pertaining to regular programmes and schemes of the Ministry implemented by the NYKS in the State of Rajasthan and achievements thereof for the last three years are given in the statement-I and II respectively.

(b) No Sir. Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), Jodhpur, is carrying programmes and activities like other kendras in the State. The details pertaining to individual regular programmes organized by NYK Jodhpur during the financial year 2000-2001 are given in the enclosed statement-III.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Achievements of Regular Programmes organized by NYKs in the State of Rajasthan during the last three years i.e. 1998-99 to 2000-01

S.No.	Name of programme	Achievements		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Youth Club Development Programme	92	102	151
2.	Vocational Training Programme	123	96	160
3.	Awareness Campaign/Social Campaign	168	89	128
4.	Work Camp	92	51	106
5.	Sports Promotion	194	133	139
6.	Cultural Programme	—	72	90
7.	Celebrations of Days and Weeks	809	399	862
8.	Workshop and Seminar	52	46	53
9.	Adventure Promotion Programme	—	10	90

Statement-II

Details of the Schemes of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports implemented by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in Rajasthan during last three years i.e.

1998-99 to 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	National Service Volunteers (Number of Volunteers)	342	172	205
2.	Financial Assistance to Youth Clubs (Number of Clubs)	39	26	2
3.	Awards to outstanding youth clubs (Number of Clubs)	6	9	13
4.	Youth Development Centre (Numbr of Centres)	1	3	2

Statement-III

Programmes organized by NYK Jodhpur during the last Financial Year i.e. 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the Regular Programmes	No. of Programmes organized
1	2	3
1.	Youth Club Development Programme	6
2.	Vocational Training Programmes	2
3.	Awareness Campaigns	4
4.	Celebration of National/International Days/Week	32
5.	Sports Promotion	4
6.	Work Camp	4

1	2	3
7.	Cultural Programme	3
8.	Workshop and Seminar	2
9.	Adventure Promotion Programme	3
	Total	60

[English]

Setting up of Electronic Telephone Exchanges

2269. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing electronic telephone exchanges in the country at present, State-wise; and

(b) the number of such exchanges proposed to be set up during 2001-2002, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The details of existing electronic telephone exchanges as on 30.6.2001 and proposed to set up during 2001-02, State-wise, are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.	Name of State	No. of Electronic telephone exchanges existing	No. of electronic telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during 2001-02
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	94	11
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2768	200
3.	Assam	483	42
4.	Bihar	912	110
5.	Chhattisgarh	550	41
6.	Gujarat	2869	127
7.	Goa	108	5
8.	Haryana	916	30
9.	Himachal Pradesh	781	60
10.	Jharkhand	352	90
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	300	20
12.	Karnataka	2511	125
13.	Kerala	978	150
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2532	23
15.	Maharashtra	4536	222
16.	Meghalaya	74	2
17.	Mizoram	62	2
18.	Tripura	63	3
19.	Manipur	35	8
20.	Nagaland	49	8
21.	Orissa	992	50
22.	Punjab	1267	68
23.	ajasthan	2061	100
24.	Tamilnadu	1920	79
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2892	103
26.	Uttranchal	386	25
27.	West Bengal	1301	186
28.	Sikkim	42	4
29.	Delhi	201	25

Opening of Post Offices

2270. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target to open post offices in the country during 2001-2002;

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

(c) the extent to which the target has been achieved during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Circle-wise targets fixed for opening of Post Offices for the year 2001-2002 are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) No Post Offices have been opened during the last three months.

Statement

Physical Targets for opening of Post Offices for the Plan Year 2001-2002

S.No.	Circle	EDBOs	DSOs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	1
2.	Assam	35	2
3.	Bihar	60	5
4.	Chhattisgarh	25	1
5.	Delhi	2	2
6.	Gujarat	20	3
7.	Haryana	2	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	1
9.	J & K	13	1
10.	Jharkhand	30	2
11.	Karnataka	20	2
12.	Kerala	2	1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	21	3
14.	Maharashtra	70	7
15.	North East	35	2
16.	Orissa	14	2
17.	Punjab	6	2
18.	Rajasthan	20	2
19.	Tamil Nadu	5	2
20.	Uttar Pradesh	45	2
21.	Uttranchal	25	1
22.	West Bengal	30	5
	Total	500	50

EDBOs–Extra Departmental Branch Offices
DSOs–Departmental Sub-Offices

Increase in Market Share of Indian Airlines

2271. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has increased its market share from 44.3% in August 2000 to more than 50% in March 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Airlines has suffered a loss of Rs. 177.00 crores for the year 2000-2001 despite the increase in its market share;

(c) if so, whether Indian Airlines has not revised its fare for a year whereas its rival Jet Airways has effected a 10% revision in the fare during 2000-2001;

(d) if so, whether Indian Airlines is burdened with a workforce of 400 persons per aircraft in comparison to 140 persons per aircraft for Jet Airways; and

(e) if so, the measures being taken to revive the working morale of Indian Airlines and to ensure a better price tag also during disinvestment process?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) During the period from August, 2000 to March 2001, market share of Indian Airlines was as follows:—

Month & Year	Market Share (%)
August, 2000	42.3
September, 2000	43.3
October, 2000	45.5
November, 2000	49.6
December, 2000	50.1
January, 2001	50.5
February, 2001	49.9
March, 2001	48.3

(b) The Revenue and Expenditure Budget of the Company for the year 2000-2001 prepared and approved in December, 1999, projected a net profit of Rs. 28.75 crores at the then prevailing input prices. Subsequent to the Budget approval in December, 1999, there was steep rise in ATF prices by about 50% and other input costs such as Landing and Navigational charges, increase in foreign exchange rate, insurance premium, security expenditure etc. which brought an additional financial

burden of over Rs. 300 crores on the Company. As a result, the Revised Estimates (RE) for the year 2000-2001 reflect a loss of Rs. 177.25 crores. The Annual Accounts for the year are presently under audit. Had the above cost escalation not taken place, the Company would have ended the financial year 2000-2001 with a profit higher than the budgeted profit of Rs. 28.75 crores.

(c) Indian Airlines has not revised fares on domestic network during the year 2000-2001. It, however, implemented a limited increase in fare on select routes w.e.f. 25th May, 2001.

(d) Indian Airlines including Alliance Air has a staff strength of 21,168 making the employees aircraft ratio as 1:385.

(e) The Company continuously aims and direct its resources to achieve improved productivity and financial performance. The various measures taken by the Company in this regard are given below:—

- Introduction of flexible fares
- Strict Budgetary Control
- Better Fleet Utilisation
- Improvement in the Quality of Product
- Marketing initiatives
- Cost Control Measures
- Constant dialogue with employees and unions/ associations
- Human Resource initiatives for better service delivery and attitudinal changes.

Four Laning of National Highway-7

2272. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have speed up the process of laying four laning of NH-7;

(b) if so, the details of the works assigned and taken up in Tamil Nadu;

(c) the details of the funds allocated and disbursed so far; and

(d) the details of the total length of road already laid in and the approximate timeframe within which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Four laning of National Highway 7 from Lakhanadon in Madhya Pradesh to Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu have been included in National Highways Development Project and is targetted to be completed by December, 2007.

(b) Works covering a length of 88.18 km at a cost of Rs. 295.85 crore have been taken up in Tamil Nadu.

(c) An allocation of Rs. 115 crore has been made for four laning works on National Highway 7 in Tamil Nadu in the year 2001-2002. An expenditure of Rs. 64.23 crore has already been made on these works up to June, 2001.

(d) The works already taken up in Tamil Nadu are in various stages of progress and are likely to be completed during the period from December, 2001 to June, 2004. Four laning of the entire National Highway 7 in Tamil Nadu is targetted to be completed by December, 2007.

[Translation]

Environment Conservation Scheme

2273. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

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

(a) whether there has been no satisfactory improvement in the environment condition despite the environment conservation schemes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the schemes being implemented for environment conservation are reviewed from time to time; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests is implementing various schemes for environmental conservation. These schemes inter alia include abatement of pollution; afforestation and eco-restoration; survey and identification of floral and faunal species; in situ conservation through protected area network consisting of National Parks, Wildlife sanctuaries and Biosphere reserves; conservation and management

of Wetlands, Mangroves and Coral reefs. These programmes are contributing to conservation of environment.

(c) and (d) All environment conservation schemes are reviewed periodically while preparing the Performance Budget, Annual Plan, and the Five Year Plan for effective implementation and appropriate mid course corrections are made.

[English]

Study to Assess Air Traffic

2274. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made to study the increase in air traffic and capacity of important airports in the coming decade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India has made an effort to assess the forecast of passenger traffic at major airports in the country upto 2011-2012. Keeping the base year as 2000-2001 for passenger traffic forecast, Airports Authority of India has projected a growth rate of about 5.8% per annum in 11 international airports, 5.2% per annum in domestic airports and overall growth rate of 5.7% per annum for all major airports. The annual passenger handling capacity at major airports during 2000-2001 is 392.8 lakhs as against the traffic demand of 274.2 lakh passengers in domestic airports and 146.82 lakhs as against the demand of 139.08 lakh passengers at international airports.

Long Distance Charges

2275. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to pass on the benefits of reduced long distance charges to private basic and cellular operators;

(b) if so, the reaction of the BSNL thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Implementation of the said decision of TRAI would result in huge revenue loss to BSNL. The benefits of concessional STD charges to the customers of private basic and cellular operators will be even beyond the prescribed distances for BSNL's own customers and will, thus, result in discrimination. BSNL, therefore, filed an appeal against the said decision of the TRAI before Hon'ble Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) who has stayed the implementation of the decision of TRAI till further orders.

(c) No action required in view of (b) above.

New Telephone Exchanges

2276. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for opening of new telephone exchanges in Punjab Particularly in Bhatinda during the Ninth Five Year Plan alongwith increasing the capacities of existing telephone exchanges;

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose;

(c) whether some delays took place due to non-availability of basic infrastructural equipments; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The target for opening of new telephone exchanges is 368 numbers in Punjab Telecom Circle for the Ninth Five Year Plan. It include 45 numbers of new telephone exchanges in Bhatinda SSA. The capacity target of the new telephone exchanges including expansion of existing exchanges during the ninth five year plan was fixed as 1689000 lines which includes 98000 lines in Bhatinda SSA.

(b) The cumulative funds allocation for Punjab Circle during 9th Five Year Plan is Rs. 2923.36 crores and for Bhatinda SSA Rs. 198.12 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

Environmental Review Committee

2277. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted an environmental review committee of all mining operations that are under its control;

(b) if so, the objectives and terms of reference of the committee;

(c) whether the Government have an objective of ensuring sustainable mining activities in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) Review of environmental aspects of mining is an on going process in the Government. A Committee was also set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) and co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests to monitor and review the environmental aspects of mining activities. Further representatives of Ministry of Environment & Forests are regularly invited in the meetings of the Mineral Advisory Council and Conference of Mining Ministers for ensuring sustainable mining activities in the country.

(c) and (d) The objective of National Mineral Policy, 1993 inter-alia is to develop mineral resources taking into account the national and strategic considerations and to ensure their adequate supply and best use keeping in view the present needs and future requirements. The strategy of mineral development envisage among other things working out an optimal depletion rate in respect of each mineral, keeping in view the domestic and global resource position, the international market situation and the needs for stable and sustained economic development.

Agreement Between India and France

2278. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have agreed to launch joint marketing of their expertise in the telecommunications sector in third countries;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) In the third Indo-French Joint Committee Meeting on Telecommunications, held on June 14-15, 2001 in Paris, ITI Limited from Indian side and ALCATEL from French side have expressed their wish to expand their cooperation to undertake turnkey projects in other countries by drawing upon their mutual strengths in industrial and the service sectors. No separate Agreement has been signed for this.

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

Manufacturing of Polythene Bags

2279. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of use of Polythene Carry Bags in Delhi to carry vegetables, fruits, cereals etc., despite ban imposed by the Delhi Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued necessary directives to the plastic industry to impose self regulation on the manufacturing of polythene carry bags in Delhi;

(c) if so, response of the plastic industry thereto;

(d) whether the Government have nominated any nodal agency to monitor the manufacturing process of polythene bags as per minimum prescribed standards;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Government of Delhi has enacted "The Delhi Plastic Bag (Manufacture, Sales and Usage) and Non-biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act, 2000 prohibiting, inter-alia, manufacture, sale and use of re-cycled non-biodegradable plastic bags and containers for storing, carrying or packing of any food. The Act will

come into force with effect from the date to be notified in the Gazette by the Delhi Government.

(b) and (c) The Government of Delhi has, brought to the attention of concerned manufacturers and traders, inter-alia, the need to adopt self-regulatory measures as mandated by the Recycled Plastics Management and Usage Rules, 1999. No response has been received so far.

(d) to (f) As per the Act, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee is the authorized agency to monitor the manufacturing of plastic bags.

Hughes Telecom

2280. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone subscribers in Hughes Telecom at present;

(b) whether the Department of Telecommunications has received any complaint/representation from public representatives against Hughes Telecom operation in Mumbai;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any investigation into the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) M/s Hughes Telecom India Ltd. has reported their subscriber base as 77896 on 30.6.2001.

(b) to (f) Yes, Sir. It was reported that the said company was neither giving any publicity to public at large nor was registering demand from the small/resident customers. The company was reportedly concentrating on lucrative customers/major business clients, to whom also it was asking to use its phones for outgoing calls only and MTNL's phones for incoming calls. Keeping in view the conditions stipulated in the Licence Agreement of the company, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was requested to take appropriate action as required under the provisions of TRAI Act for resolving these issues. TRAI issued a directive on 8th January 2001 relating to 'transparency in registration process. Subsequent enquiries made by TRAI in this connection revealed that the company has established consumer service centres for registration in Navi Mumbai, Pune and Panaji. Further the customer service Centre at Navi Mumbai was inspected by TRAI team on 31st May, 2001.

Utilisation of Degraded Forest Land

2281. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to encourage village communities to grow firewood on degraded forest land;

(b) if so, details thereof and the assistance provided for the village communities; State-wise;

(c) whether any assessment has been made of the utility of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details of such assessment, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme by name Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme is under implementation in the country with focus on peoples participation for raising fuelwood and fodder in degraded forest areas.

(b) The scheme is operated on a 50:50 sharing ratio with the State governments. Funds are provided to the State Governments for implementation. The scheme includes Joint Forest Management; Entry Point Activities; Micro-Planning and Improved technology.

(c) and (d) The State-wise evaluation of the Scheme is underway.

[Translation]

Use of Steroids and Cartisone Drugs

2282. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cricketers are using Steroids and Cartisone drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the International Cricket Council (ICC) is contemplating to introduce drug test system in cricket;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Environment Awareness Campaign

2283. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme under National Environment Awareness Campaign for the year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated by the Government, State-wise; and

(d) the extent of improvement is likely to be brought about in environment through such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government has invited proposals from interested organisations including non-governmental organisations to conduct awareness activities like camps, padyatras, rallies, public meetings, exhibitions, essay/debate/painting/poster competitions, folk dances and songs, street theater, puppet shows etc. under National Environment Awareness Campaign for the year 2001-2002. These activities would also include an action-oriented component for enhancement of environment quality. The purposals are required to be submitted to the Regional Resource Agencies (RRAs) by 20th August, 2001.

(c) The proposals would be considered by the Regional Committees and the financial assistance would be allocated on the basis of recommendations of these Committees.

(d) The activities to be conducted under this Campaign are likely to create environmental awareness amongst general public and to motivate them to take up programmes for improvement of environmental quality.

[English]

Child Labour Projects

2284. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of National Child Labour Projects providing rehabilitation of children rescued from work which have been launched in some States and Territories during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the allocation made for each project State/ Territory-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some other steps to eliminate Child Labour in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The details of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) sanctioned during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 alongwith their year-wise budget allocation are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. A National Policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987 which envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws, convergence of ongoing development programmes for the benefit of child labour and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour. National Child Labour projects have been set up in 100 districts in the country. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in 13 occupations and 57 processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act.

Statement

New NCLPs Sanctioned During last 3 years with Budget Allocation

Sl. No.	Year of sanction	State	Name of The (NCLP) District	Budget Allocation (Rupees in Lacs)
1.	1998-99	Karnataka	Dharwad	67,01,000
		Andhra Pradesh	Mahaboobnagar	67,01,000
			Adilabad	67,31,000
		Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior	67,01,000
		Orissa	Balasore	67,19,000
			Cuttack	67,19,000
	1999-2000	Rajasthan	Tonk	31,85,400
			Jodhpur	35,35,000
			Ajmer	35,35,000
		Uttar Pradesh	Bulandshahar	66,59,000
			Allahabad	67,31,000
			Sharanpur	67,01,000
			Azmgarh	67,01,000
			Kanpur Nagar	67,01,000
		Tamil Nadu	Tirunelveli	83,29,000
		West Bengal	Murshidabad	67,01,000
		Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	67,19,000
3.	2000-2001	Punjab	Jalandhar	46,53,600
			Amritsar	67,31,000
			Ludhiana	67,31,000
		Karnataka	Bangalore Urban	67,01,000
			Bangalore Rural	67,19,000
		Rajasthan	Alwar	67,31,000
		West Bengal	Calcutta	67,21,000

Construction of Calicut By-Pass

2285. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated sufficient funds for the construction of Calicut By-Pass for National Highways-17;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action for the completion of the bridge at Azhinhilam during the current years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN.

(RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Work of construction of Calicut bypass on NH-17 having total length of 28.124 Km has been planned in four phases i.e. from Km 20/870 to 28/124, Km 0/00 to 11/760, Km 14/500 to 20/870 and Km 11/760 to 14/500 respectively. Land acquisition for all the four Phases have already been completed. The work for Phase-I only has been sanctioned and the same has been completed except for Arapuzha bridge at Km. 23/800 which is targetted for completion by December, 2001. A feasibility study for taking up remaining three Phases under Build-Operate and Transfer (B.O.T.) basis is in progress.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The bridge at Azhinhilam also known as Arapuzha bridge is under construction. The work is being monitored closely and is targetted to be completed by December, 2001.

Exploitation of Ground Water

2286. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present exploitable potential of ground water for irrigation, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of exploitation of ground water for irrigation so far, State-wise;

(c) the details of resource of low exploitation of ground water in various States; and

(d) the additional area of irrigation by ground water exploitation during each of the years of Ninth Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The ultimate irrigation potential from ground water is 64.05 million hectare. A Statement-I indicating State-wise position of irrigation potential from ground water and potential utilized is enclosed.

(c) There is low stage of exploitation in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kamataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland & Tripura.

(d) Statement-II is enclosed.

Statement-I

Irrigation Potential from Ground Water
(As on 1996-97)

Sl. No.	States	Utilisable Irrigation Potential m.ha.	Potential Utilised m.ha.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.96008	1.73910
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.01800	0.00240
3.	Assam	0.90000	0.15180
4.	Bihar	4.94763	3.81590
5.	Goa	0.02928	0.00170
6.	Gujarat	2.75590	1.69370
7.	Haryana	1.46170	1.49930
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.06850	0.01150
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.70795	0.01100
10.	Karnataka	2.57281	0.76410
11.	Kerala	0.87925	0.12420
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9.73249	1.50630
13.	Maharashtra	3.65197	1.58840
14.	Manipur	0.36900	0.00050
15.	Meghalaya	0.06351	0.01000
16.	Mizoram	Not assessed	
17.	Nagaland	Negligible	
18.	Orissa	4.20258	0.60070
19.	Punjab	2.91715	3.35300
20.	Rajasthan	1.77783	2.01250
21.	Sikkim	Not assessed	
22.	Tamilnadu	2.83205	1.31190
23.	Tripura	0.08056	0.02120
24.	Uttar Pradesh	16.79896	20.35800
25.	West Bengal	3.31794	1.41310
	Total States	64.04514	41.99030
	Total UTs	0.00504*	0.06180
	Grand Total	64.05018	42.05210

Note: * Relates to Dadra & Nagar Haveli only.

Statement-II

Additional Area Irrigated by Ground Water During 1997-2000

(In Thousand Hectare)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Year		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38.8	49.2	48.3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.1	0.1	0.1
3.	Assam	9.6	11.3	109.4
4.	Bihar	11.7	11.7	0.9
5.	Goa	0	0	0.1
6.	Gujarat	3.4	3.7	9.2
7.	Haryana	12.1	11.3	11.2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.2	0.5	0.3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.1	0.5	0.4
10.	Karnataka	6.1	3.4	3.6
11.	Kerala	7.9	17.4	15.5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	118.8	73.5	22.7
13.	Maharashtra	46.2	58.5	52.1
14.	Manipur	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	0.1	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	66.1	0.4	23.9
19.	Punjab	14.0	13.4	13.2
20.	Rajasthan	62.2	106.0	80.7
21.	Sikkim	0	0	0
22.	Tamilnadu	10.7	0.1	18.1
23.	Tripura	0	0.1	2.6
24.	Uttar Pradesh	300.2	339.4	323.9
25.	West Bengal	38.7	14.0	26.6
	Total States	746.9	714.6	762.8
	Union Territories			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.1	*	*
2.	Chandigarh	0.1	—	—
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.1	0.1	0.1
4.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
5.	NCT Delhi	—	—	1.00
6.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
7.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
	Total UTs	0.3	0.1	1.1
	All India Total	747.2	714.7	763.9

Note: Figures for 2000-2001 yet to be received from the States.
*Negligible

EPF-ESI Dues Against Companies

2287. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of companies continue to be defaulters in the payment of Provident Fund and ESI contribution;

(b) if so, the details of the defaulted companies and the amount defaulted indicating the number of subscribers who suffered loss, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to realise the arrears and the number of cases in which prosecutions have been made, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes Sir. Some of the establishments have defaulted in payment of Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance dues.

(b) State-wise details of amount in default and the number of defaulters in default exceeding Rs. 50,000/- in respect of CPFC are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

A number of companies have defaulted in payment of ESI contributions. The region-wise figures are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 is taken to recover the dues.

The details of prosecution cases launched Under Section 14 of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 are given in the statement-III enclosed and under section 85 of the ESI Act, 1948 and under section 406/409 of the Indian Penal Code are given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement-I

EPF & MP Act

Default Position (State-wise) as on 31.3.2001

Sl.No.	Region	No. of Establishments in Default Exceeding Rs. 50,000/-	Total Amount in Default (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	366	6,238.61
2.	Bihar	28	6,960.71
3.	Delhi	133	1,361.66
4.	Gujarat	176	4,317.67
5.	Haryana	408	7,012.48
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3	304.60
7.	Karnataka	371	6,632.21
8.	Kerala	300	3,778.18
9.	Madhya Pradesh	617	11,210.04
10.	Maharashtra	821	10,669.71
11.	North Eastern Region	88	3,632.58
12.	Orissa	71	5,275,11
13.	Punjab	162	2,290.89
14.	Rajasthan	142	3,801.18
15.	Tamil Nadu	3,272	7,066.82
16.	Uttar Pradesh	262	6,934.73
17.	West Bengal	192	30,922.80
	Total	7,412	1,18,409.98

Statement-II

ESIC

State-wise Arrears of ESI Dues As on 31.3.2001

Rs. in Crore

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	67.84
2.	Assam	5.03
3.	Bihar	13.27
4.	Delhi	18.70
5.	Gujarat	30.97
6.	Haryana	11.54
7.	Karnataka	
	(a) Bangalore	28.68
	(b) Hubli	6.64
8.	Kerala	19.51
9.	Madhya Pradesh	24.78
10.	Maharashtra	
	(a) Mumbai	53.67
	(b) Marol	11.74
	(c) Thane	8.65
	(d) Nagpur	6.98
	(e) Pune	29.35
11.	Goa	3.66
12.	Orissa	13.77
13.	Punjab	18.72
14.	Rajasthan	7.71
15.	Tamil Nadu	
	(a) Chennai	44.26
	(b) Coimbatore	7.15

1	2	3
	(c) Madurai	14.97
	(d) Pondicherry	0.94
16.	Uttar Pradesh	58.51
17.	West Bengal	142.76
	Total	649.80

Statement-III

EPF & MP Act

Details of Prosecution Cases Launched as on 31.3.2001

Sl. No.	Region	Prosecution cases launched U/s 14 which are pending in various courts as on 31.3.2001
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6,056
2.	Bihar	9,041
3.	Delhi	1,153
4.	Gujarat	3,586
5.	Haryana	1,785
6.	Himachal Pradesh	27
7.	Karnataka	3,586
8.	Kerala	1,887
9.	Madhya Pradesh	5,645
10.	Maharashtra	7,004
11.	North Eastern Region	421
12.	Orissa	2,000
13.	Punjab	1,621
14.	Rajasthan	454
15.	Tamil Nadu	2,694
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2,724
17.	West Bengal	25,531
	Total	75,215

Statement-IV

The position of prosecution cases under section 85 of ESI Act and under Section 406/409 of IPC pending against the Defaulting Employers as on 31.3.2001

Sl.	Region	U/S850F ESI Act	U/S406/409 of IPC
1.	Andhra Pradesh	122	—
2.	Assam	99	02
3.	Bihar	363	31
4.	Delhi	106	01
5.	Gujarat	3152	652
6.	Coimbatore	145	13
7.	Goa	321	19
8.	Haryana	1139	325
9.	Hubli	—	—
10.	Karnataka	418	51
11.	Kerala	235	68
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1018	54
13.	Madurai	266	38
14.	Maharashtra	996	215
15.	Nagpur	395	28
16.	Orissa	270	31
17.	Pune	779	61
18.	Punjab	1736	82
19.	Rajasthan	159	62
20.	Chennai	406	137
21.	Uttar Pradesh	910	14
22.	West Bengal	1029	220
	Total	14064	2104

UNEP's Project for Avertion of Chemical Mishap

2288. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the National Safety Council have

launched and pilot project to train the people of Chemical Industries and also the residents of the Trombay-Chembur area of Mumbai as precautionary measures to avert any chemical mishap in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the project; and

(d) the amount allocated under UNEP in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, to strengthen safety, emergency response and public awareness in Trombay — Chembur area, a pilot project has been recommended in a workshop organised by National Safety Council and UNEP in Mumbai from 28th-30th June, 2000. UNEP has not allocated any fund for this project so far.

Flights from Kolkata to Entire Eastern Region

2289. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and its subsidiary airlines proposes to restore their flights to and from Kolkata to Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Due to low traffic demand during the lean season Indian Airlines/Alliance Air have reduced the frequency of operations of the flights from Kolkata to Eastern Region. However, subject to availability of aircraft capacity and traffic demand, Indian Airlines will commence normal operations on these routes.

Ground Handling Services at major Airports

2290. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new companies have been allowed by the Government of India for airport ground handling services at major international airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this move is likely to hit the revenues of Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to keep up the revenue of Air-India and Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Subsequent to the notification of the new Airports Authority of India (General Management Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2000, Airports Authority of India have initiated the process of selection of companies for providing ground handling services in a competitive and efficient manner at international airports located at Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Trivandrum, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Goa. The contracts for ground handling services at airports will be finalized keeping in view all the requirements/conditionalities, and awarded to the selected parties after obtaining due clearances. According to the new Regulations, Air India and Indian Airlines are permitted to undertake ground handling services as is the situation now. However they will have to compete with other agencies and boost their revenues by providing competitive services to the airlines.

Allotment of an Hanger to State Governments

2291. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to allot a hanger to each State Government on free of cost or on payment of nominal rent for State Government owned helicopters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The allotment of Hanger at the airports by Airports Authority of India is made on the basis of licence fee laid down from time to time for such use.

Rules/Regulations/Laws/Policy in Sports

2292. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rules, regulations, laws, policy of sports at the National level has been at par or better than the international levels/competitions/games where India has been officially competing or sending its "Official Indian Teams"; and

(b) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Government of India has not enacted any legislation on sports as "Sports" is a State

subject. However, the existing National Sports Policy, which sought to raise the standard of sports in the country, was formulated in 1984. By and large and particularly during the initial years, it has worked well.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

India's Participation in Cricket Tournaments

2293. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is likely to participate in the cricket tournaments to be held in the countries which do not play cricket;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India is not likely to participate in the cricket tournaments to be organised in Singapore, Toronto and Sharjah etc; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) After taking all relevant aspects into consideration, the Government has taken a decision that Indian Cricket team should not participate in cricket tournaments at non-regular venues such as Singapore. Toronto and Sharjah etc. for at least next three years.

[English]

Four Laning of NH-5

2294. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the progress of four laning of different portions of National Highway No. 5 in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fund released therefor till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Eight contracts on National Highway-5 are presently in progress.

(c) A sum of Rs. 112.91 crore has been spent on these projects upto June 2001.

Cauvery Water Dispute

2295. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting on sharing of Cauvery water was held recently amongst the water sharing States;

(b) if so, the decisions taken by the Central Water Commission and Cauvery tribunal on sharing and storage of water; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to implement them?

THE MINISTOR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Central Government has framed a scheme under Section 6A of the Inter State Water Disputes Act for giving effect to the interim order of 25.6.91 and all related subsequent orders of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The scheme consists of the Cauvery River Authority headed by the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers of the basin States as its members. The Authority is assisted by a Monitoring Committee headed by the Secretary (Water Resources) with the Chief Secretaries as its members. The 8th Meeting of the Cauvery Monitoring Committee headed by Secretary (Water Resources), was held on 7.6.2001 at New Delhi. Chief Secretaries of Government of Karnataka and UT of Pondicherry, Secretary of Government of Tamil Nadu, Chief Engineer of Government of Kerala and Chairman, Central Water Commission attended the meeting.

Four Laning from Bhubaneshwar to Berhampur

2296. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Four Lane's work on Bhubaneswar to Berhampur has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the work of Four Laning on National Highway is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The projects are targetted for completion by December, 2003.

Tariff for Limited Mobile and WLL Service

2297. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have fixed the tariff for telecom service providers for limited mobile services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rental for wireless-in-local-loop (WLL) has also been finalised; and

(d) if so, how far the same compare with the tariff for limited mobile service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. TRAI has specified that the WLL based limited mobility call charge will be Rs. 1.20 per metered call unit applicable to Basic Service. There will not be any free calls provided with WLL limited mobility. As regards monthly rentals for the WLL limited mobility facility, TRAI has specified a floor rental of Rs. 450 and a ceiling rental of Rs. 550 per month. TRAI will conduct yearly reviews of the cost based rentals for the next three years.

Telephone Facility in Uttranchal

2298. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages/Gram Panchayats having/not having telephone facility in Uttranchal particularly Rudraprayag district at present, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in the remaining villages/Gram Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) At present, 7690 villages and 4847 Gram Panchayats in Uttranchal State and 174 villages and 88 Gram Panchayats in Rudraprayag district are having telephone facility. Remaining 8205 villages and 2015 Gram Panchayats in the State and 190 villages and 268 Gram Panchayats in Rudraprayag district are not having telephone facility. District-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Telephone facility is planned to be provided in the remaining villages/Gram Panchayats of Uttranchal by 31st March, 2002 subject to availability of equipments.

Statement

Sl. No	Name of District	Villages covered with telephone facility	Villages without telephone facility	Gram Panchayats covered with telephone facility	Gram Panchayats without telephone facility
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Dehradun	427	316	218	116
2.	Hardwar	486	0	299	0
3.	Pauri	795	2681	643	410
4.	Rudraprayag	174	190	88	268
5.	Chamoli	439	858	264	229
6.	Uttarkashi	381	866	132	455
7.	Tehri	657	685	205	440

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Nainital	825	242	374	69
9.	U.S. Nagar	663	17	318	2
10.	Almora	976	1211	813	7
11.	Pithoragarh	1099	453	889	11
12.	Champawat	436	179	438	5
13.	Bageshwar	332	507	166	3
	Total	7690	8205	4847	2015

Computerisation of CGIT-Cum-Labour Courts

2299. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Central Government Industrial Tribunals-cum-labour courts functioning in the country at present;

(b) the number out of them computerised so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to computerise the rest of the CGITs-cum-labour courts during the remaining period of Ninth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which all the CGITs-cum-labour courts are likely to be computerized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) At present 17 CGIT-cum-Labour Courts are functioning in the country.

(b) So far 13 CGIT-cum-Labour Courts have been computerised.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Necessary procedural formalities are being completed to computerised the remaining CGIT-cum-Labour Courts.

[Translation]

Employees of Jodhpur Airport under Suspension

2300. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some complaints against the officers working at Jodhpur airport;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the details of employees of the Jodhpur Airport who have been suspended alongwith time of suspension?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India received complaints against two officers working at Jodhpur Airport. On investigation, complaint against one officer was not substantiated and the second officer has been transferred out of Jodhpur airport.

[English]

Multi-Model International Passenger and Cargo Hub in Nagpur

2301. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the final report from the consultants appointed to study viability of multi-model international passenger and cargo hub project in Nagpur;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Compensation to Earthquake Victims

2302. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 649 on February 26, 2001 and state;

(a) whether the information asked for has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the said information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of Gujarat has informed that 14 employees of Public Sector Industries and their four family members were found killed in Kutch district in earthquake that struck Gujarat on 26.01.2001. No casualties were reported from other districts of the Saurashtra, Kutch regions. Most of the houses of employees of said industries were severely affected in Kutch district and in other districts their houses were more or less damaged. The details of casualties, compensation and assistance provided are given in the statement-I enclosed.

As per the information made available by the Deptt. of Public Enterprises in respect of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), only one labourer of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has been killed in earthquake that struck Gujarat on January 26, 2001. Around 320 houses of Hindustan Salt Ltd. and one house belonging to Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals have been damaged. Airport Authority of India Ltd. and MMTC Ltd. have informed that the loss of damage to houses are been assessed. Bharat Earth Movers has informed that one apartment has been damaged in earthquake.

The Central Public Sector Undertakings have initiated different schemes for the affected employees and their family members. The details of the compensation and assistance provided/proposed to be provided in statement-II enclosed.

The Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has initiated a comprehensive plan entailing rapid assessment of damages to houses and buildings, financial assistance, dissemination of appropriate technology, establishment of building and community centres to demonstrate house of disaster resistance, adoption of villages and basties for comprehensive development. The details are given in the statement-III enclosed.

The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC) has also announced schemes for building up small and tiny industries to the existing as well as new entrepreneurs in earthquake affected areas. The features of these schemes are given in the Statement-IV enclosed.

Statement-I

Details of Casualties and Compensation/Assistance Provided

Sl. No.	Name of the Employees and the public sector undertakings	Name of the employee killed	Details of the family members killed	Compensation paid	
				By State Govt.	By Public sector company
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Mr. Statish M. Sharma, Employee of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Kandla.	Mr. Satish M. Sharma	Mr. Satish Sharma's wife & daughter	—	Compensation amount is not fixed as per departmental policy, the amount will be given to department.
2.	Mr. G. Vinod, Employee of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Kandla	Mr. G. Vinod	Mr. Vidnod's wife & his son	Rs. 62,000 paid to its dependent as compensation	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Late Annamma George, Employee of Kandla Port	Annamma George	—	Rs. 1,00,000/-	Rs. 1,00,000/-
4.	Late Naulamel M. Daury	Naulamel Daury	—	-do-	-do-
5.	Sunita Bhambhani	Sunita Bhambhani	—	-do-	-do-
6.	Kanchanben T.	Kanchanben T.	—	-do-	-do-
7	J.R. Chauhan	J.R. Chauhan	—	-do-	-do-
8.	Late Saritabai Yakub	Late Saritabai Yakub	—	-do-	-do-
9.	Late K.D. Padiyar	Late K.D. Padiyar	—	-do-	-do-
10.	Late Yakub Isbu	Late Yakub Isbu	—	-do-	-do-
11.	H.M. Bhatt	H.M. Bhatt	—	Assistance not paid due to non-compliance of the formalities.	—
12.	Rajesh Pandya	Rajesh Pandya	—	Assistance not paid due to non-compliance of the formalities.	—
13.	Narayan Daftri Employee of Kandla Dock Labour Board	Narayan Daftri	—	Rs. 1,00,000/-	Rs. 1,00,000/-
14.	D.K. Rao	D.K. Rao	—	Rs. 1,00,000/-	Rs. 1,00,000/-

Statement-II

Details of Compensation Provided by Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs)

1. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

The Company has declared Accident Compensation of 100 times the salary (Basic + DA) of the deceased employee. A scheme is also being worked out to support surviving children.

2. Engineers India Ltd.

Necessary assistance has been/is being extended to the affected employee.

3. Dredging Corporation India Ltd.

Action is on hand to provide compensation/assistance under various schemes; such as Personal Accident Policy Group Saving Link Insurance Scheme, Employees Gratuity Fund and Employees Deposit Link Insurance Scheme.

4. Central Warehousing Corporation

CWC has paid interest free loan of Rs. 10,000/- to all its employees posted in Kandla Complex and Rs. 5,000/- as interest free loan to employees in other earthquake areas of Gujarat.

5. Indian Oil Corporation

Affected families have been provided ex-gratia of Rs. 10,000/- and benefits under Self-generating Superannuation Benefits Fund Scheme/Rehabilitation Scheme. Affected employees have been granted advance of Rs. 15,000/- reimbursement of relief in case of damage to furniture, conveyance advance, house building advance and additional LTC for employees and their families posted in the State of Gujarat.

6. Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

The Management of HPFM Ltd. has given recoverable advance of Rs. 20,000/- to the affected employee to mitigate his immediate hardship.

Statement-III

Hudco's Assistance for Rehabilitation of Earthquake Affected Regions of Gujarat

1. A major comprehensive Action Plan entailing rapid assessment of the extent of damages to houses and buildings, financial assistance, dissemination of appropriate technology, establishment of building and community centers to demonstrate the use of disaster resistant housing including earthquake resistant technologies, adoption of villages and bastis for comprehensive development and setting up to HUDCO offices in Bhuj and Anjar was drawn up to provide techno-financial assistance for a massive rehabilitation and reconstruction programme for the earthquake revaged areas of Gujarat.

2. As part of the Action Plan, HUDCO and BMTPC in collaboration with the State Governments would carry out, in the shortest possible time, a rapid assessment of the extent of damages both qualitatively and quantitatively for reconstruction of fully damaged houses, repairs and renewal of partially damaged houses, and retrofitting of existing vulnerable stock.

3. Based on the overall assessment, the programme for reconstruction house for various income categories in rural, semi-urban and urban areas as well as for redevelopment of infrastructural such as damaged roads and water supply, toilets and other civic amenities, would be decided by the State Government and financial assistance will be provided by HUDCO. The total extent of financial assistance upto Rs 1500 crore has been offered to the State Government depending upon the extent of support needed by the State Government and its various agencies. Keeping in view the request made by the Government of Gujarat for access for low cost funds and the loans made available by HUDCO. Government of India also has approved the issue of Tax Free Bond for Rs. 1500 crore to HUDCO for earthquake rehabilitation programmes of Gujarat.

4. The financial assistance from HUDCO would be backed up with an appropriate technology package needed for re-building earthquake resistant houses, using local building materials like mud, stone, bricks, concrete etc. and this will be widely disseminated through use of instructive guidelines in the form of simple and user friendly Do s and Don ts, being brought out by HUDCO and BMTPC.

5. Further, with a view to propagate earthquake resistant technologies in the cities and towns and villages. HUDCO and BMTPC would extent support for the establishments of 30 Building Centres, construct demonstration houses and community buildings in all the disaster affected districts for technology transfer training of local artisans, production of building materials and components, construction assistance and for guidance and information of the people.

6. HUDCO would also adopt a few model villages and basties for comprehensive development of fully damaged villages and basties. In addition, HUDCO will immediately set up its Field Project Management offices in Bhuj and Rahpar, the worst affected areas. It was also decided that assistance from HUDCO would be made available for the construction of temporary shelters.

7. In respect of the villagers or towns which are extensively damaged, it is also proposed that the entire village or town is rebuilding in a nearby new locality not only in respect of housing and other community facilities but also with a view to provide wider roads instead of existing narrow alleys and incorporating other disaster resistant safety features. Appropriate planning and design assistance is officer by HUDCO.

8. HUDCO would also be extending assistance for putting up temporary shelters with various technology options for both houses and community buildings covering school, health centres, rations shops, kerosene depots etc. which could be replicated on a large scale subsequently which HUDCO is contributing and amount of Rs. 2 crore as corporate contribution to the construction of temporary/ permanent houses/community asset buildings. HUDCO employees are contributing from their salaries to Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Statement-IV

National Small Industries Corporation's Special Scheme for Gujarat

In view of the devastation caused in various parts of Gujarat due to severe earthquake, it is proposed that NSIC can assist the existing as well as new entrepreneurs in quake affected areas for building up of small and tiny industries with the intention of revival of economy and generation of employment opportunities.

Recently, NSIC has launched a COMPOSITE TERM LOAN SCHEME for SSI tiny units for providing finances to the entrepreneurs for acquisition of land & building, machinery & equipment and working capital. Under the Scheme total assistance upto Rs. 25 lakh is available.

Similarly, KVIC also has a scheme under Rural Employment Generation Programme (RPGP) named as scheme of Margin Money.

Under the Scheme, 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10.00 lakh will be provided by KVIC as Margin Money byway of backend subsidy. For projects above Rs. 10.00 lakh and upto Rs. 25.00 lakh rate of Margin Money will be 25% of Rs. 10.00 lakh plus 10% of the remaining cost of the Project.

Under the Margin Money Scheme, the borrower is required to invest his own contribution of 10% of the project cost. In case of SC/ST and other weaker section borrowers, the contribution will be 5% of the project cost.

In case of special category like SC/ST etc. the margin money grant will be 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakh.

Further, under the KVIC Scheme interest rate is charged @ 4.5% and difference between 4.5% and bank prime Lending Rate is paid by Government as interest subsidy.

In case NSIC Composite Term Loan Scheme and KVIC Margin Money Scheme are clubbed together, the entrepreneurs will get loans on soft terms as given below:—

Rate of Interest

The rate of interest for the loan will be @ 14% p.a. (effective rate will be lesser because KVIC interest subsidy).

Margin Money

Margin money will be collected @ 15% of the assistance sanctioned from the entrepreneur.

Repayment Period

The loan in respect of land & building, machinery & equipment and working capital shall be paid by the entrepreneur during a period of 5 years in quarterly equal instalments alongwith interest and service charges after the expiry of gestation period.

Gestation Period

The gestation period of 12 months shall be available to tiny units including Information Technology units except service industries for which the period will be for six months only.

Insurance

2 % of the Credit facility sanctioned (other than land) shall be recovered in advance from borrower and the actual insurance charges incurred by the Corporation shall be adjusted from Any short fall against the actual amount spent by the Corporation for insurance shall be paid by the borrower.

Land and Building

The Land and Building should be situated in the industrial conforming areas or the same be developed by the State Industrial Corporation etc. In case the building is to be occupied on lease or rent basis, the lease rent agreement should be for the minimum period of 7 years.

Pollution

That the unit shall obtain NOC from appropriate Pollution Control Board well before disbursement & commencement of project.

Processing Fee

The Processing Fee of Rs. 200/- shall be charged.

S.S.I. Certificate

The unit is required to submit SSI registration certificate with the proposal.

Electricity & Power

The unit shall obtain the requisite power load sanctioned before the first disbursement against the machinery & equipment. However, in case if the Unit wants to have stand-by arrangement with Generation set, the reflection of the same should be in the project report.

Policy on Gem Stone Mining

2303. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy regarding gem stone mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether illegal mining of gem stone has been reported in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to stop the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) From time to time instances of illegal mining of various minerals are brought to the notice of Central Government. The responsibility for taking action for checking illegal mining rest with the State Government concerned. The State Governments are empowered to take action under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Ac, 1957 (MMDR Act) for preventing illegal mining. Recently the MMDR Act has been amended and the State Governments have been empowered under Section 23 C of the MMDR Act to frame rules for preventing illegal mining.

Comprehensive Policy on Sports

2304. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive policy on sports is on the anvil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India is in the process of formulating a New National Sports Policy with a view to lay stress upon broad-basing of sports and achieve excellence in performance. The salient features of the New Draft Sports Policy are as under:

(i) Broadcasting of Sports and achievement of excellence;

(ii) Up-gradation and development of infrastructure;

(iii) Support to the National Sports Federations and other appropriate bodies;

(iv) Strengthening of scientific and coaching support to sports;

(v) Incentives to sports persons;

(vi) Enhanced participation of women, tribals and rural youth;

(vii) Involvement of the Corporate sector in sports promotion; and

(viii) Creation of greater awareness in promotion of sports.

(c) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Amritsar Airport

2305. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds have been allocated for the upgradation of Amritsar Airport for making it international one during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress of the project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India has taken up the project of upgradation of Amritsar Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 79.27 crores. The tender has been awarded in April, 2001 for resurfacing of existing runway, taxi track and extension and construction of main runway, etc. amounting to Rs. 19.99 crores. The probable date of completion of runway work project is May, 2003.

Alleviation of Child Poverty

2306. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Asian countries are pressing the credible and internationally acceptable programme to alleviate child poverty;

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

(c) whether as many as 3.7 million children under the age of five are continue to die every year in the region;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the main idea is to rope in the corporate sector to supplement the Governmental efforts that have fallen far too short of the requirements;

(f) if so, the extent to which the report has been considered by the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unemployed Persons

2307. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed youths in the country as on March 31, 1998, State-wise;

(b) the number of employment generated in organised and unorganised sector during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of yearly increase in number of unemployed youths in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) the number of persons given employment during the above period and number of unemployed as on March, 2001 in the country, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government have drawn up/ formulated any concrete plan/scheme to generate employment opportunities to provide jobs to the unemployed, youths during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) State-wise number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31st Dec., 1998 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Estimates of employment for the economy as a whole (both organized and unorganized sector) are obtained through Labour Force Surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization on a quinquennial basis. Estimates of Employment in the organized sector are obtained from Employment Market Information Programme of Directorate General of Employment & Training. Considering both, the estimates of employment in organized and unorganized sector during 1993-94 and 1999-2000 were as follows:

Year	Employment (in million)		
	Organized Sector	Unorganized Sector	Total
1993-94	27.37	347.08	374.45
1999-2000	28.11	368.89	397.00

(c) and (d) State-wise, the number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges as on 31st Dec. 1999, 2000 and 31st March 2000 are given in the statement enclosed.

Data in respect of employment obtained by youth through various sources are not maintained. However, placement made through employment exchanges is available. Only a fraction of the total job vacancies are filled up through Employment Exchanges. A total number of 2.33, 2.21 and 1.77 lakh job-seekers were provided with jobs through the Employment Exchanges during 1998, 1999 and 2000 respectively.

(e) and (f) Planning Commission is yet to finalise Tenth Five Year Plan.

Statement

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Job-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on (in thousands)			
		31.12.1998	31.12.1999	31.12.2000	31.3.2001
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3206.5	3225.7	3225.0	3185.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.7	15.9	21.0	21.7

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	1489.3	1490.3	1442.3	1442.0
4.	Bihar	3310.0	3179.9	3297.3	1845.8
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	793.7
6.	Delhi	1128.2	955.3	991.0	996.3
7.	Goa	111.8	106.5	103.0	102.7
8.	Gujarat	943.3	936.4	1068.3	1072.3
9.	Haryana	820.1	810.5	789.4	759.5
10.	Himachal Pradesh	795.4	860.2	885.1	899.2
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	164.8	162.5	167.3	166.3
12.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	1488.7
13.	Karnataka	1812.7	1891.4	1965.0	1964.1
14.	Kerala	3672.1	3883.8	4193.7	4215.2
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2547.1	2617.6	2549.7	1736.8
16.	Maharashtra	4103.1	4181.5	4347.4	4321.9
17.	Manipur	334.7	385.6	391.9	395.7
18.	Meghalaya	33.4	36.1	35.4	35.8
19.	Mizoram	74.2	93.6	88.7	87.8
20.	Nagaland	27.7	35.5	37.2	37.1
21.	Orissa	970.9	990.3	968.4	934.5
22.	Punjab	578.8	550.1	527.7	522.9
23.	Rajasthan	891.2	840.0	791.0	786.3
24.	Sikkim*	—	—	—	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	4175.8	4367.8	4659.7	4649.2
26.	Tripura	246.3	285.8	303.9	306.5
27.	Uttranchal	—	—	—	290.2
28.	Uttar Pradesh	2638.5	2585.1	2316.9	1955.5
29.	West Bengal	5724.7	5601.2	5899.4	5940.4
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	27.0	27.8	30.8	31.0
31.	Chandigarh	110.4	105.4	92.9	91.8
32.	D & N Haveli	6.0	4.1	4.7	4.9
33.	Daman & Diu	6.0	6.7	7.3	7.5

1	2	3	4	5	6
34.	Lakshadweep	9.3	9.7	10.2	10.6
35.	Pondicherry	116.6	129.0	132.3	132.2
	Total	40089.6	40371.4	41343.6	41231.5

Note: *No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State. Total may not tally due to rounding off.
@Figures less than fifty.

Disinvestment and Profitability of Air India

2308. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Air India has strongly objected to disinvestment process;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the disinvestment of Air India has started; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The reaction of the Air India staff to the disinvestment appears to be generally favourable. The interests of the Airlines employees would be safeguarded in the process of disinvestment.

(c) and (d) The Government has approved in principle, bringing down the equity of the Government of India in Air India to 40% through a process of disinvestment by sale of 40% of equity to a strategic partner, upto 10% to employees and the balance by sale to financial institutions and/or on the share market. In the event of the strategic partner being a joint venture with an element of foreign holding, the arrangement should be such as would limit foreign holding in Air India to a maximum of 26% of the total equity. Pursuant to above decision, Department of Disinvestment has taken necessary steps to implement the same.

Harvesting of Rain Water

2309. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has sought financial assistance for harvesting of rain water, completion of irrigation tanks and major irrigation projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources has sanctioned Rs. 427.00 lakh for the scheme of "Arresting Salinity Ingress through Ground Water Recharge for Creeks in Bhadrak District, Orissa" and Rs. 10.40 lakh for the scheme of rain water harvesting/roof top rain water harvesting in Raj Bhawan Area, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa. In addition to this, Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the tune of Rs. 395.52 crores has been released under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to the Government of Orissa for completion of major/medium/minor irrigation schemes during the years from 1996-97 to 2000-2001.

Air Concessions to Senior Citizens

2310. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities being extended to senior citizens with respect to their air travels, both at the airports and in the aircrafts;

(b) the age being considered as senior citizens for both men and women;

(c) whether the Government propose to give relaxation in the age for both men and women above the age of sixty for considering as senior citizens; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) There is no category of senior citizens as far as airport facilities are concerned. However, certain facilities are like special lifts/wheel chair/special toilets have been provided at some of the airports for infirm/handicapped passengers. Senior citizens are given preference to board the flight before other passengers

and are facilitated as requested for wheel chair/ambulift and special meals etc.

(b) The norms, as per the IATA for an individual to be considered as senior citizen is 60 years.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Indian Airlines given 50% discount on fare to those citizens who have completed 65 years of age (in case of women above 63 years of age) on the date of commencement of journey. As regards, Air India, they do not offer discount to senior citizens. However, Air India has competitive market fares for international and domestic travel which are also applicable to the senior citizens.

Re-Employment of Surplus Labours

2311. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have decided to re-train and to provide re-employment to the surplus labours;

(b) If so, the details thereof along with the criteria to be adopted in such cases;

(c) Whether the Government propose to provide funds from the National Renewal Fund for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment of the VRS cptees from the Central Public Sector Enterprises, the Department of Public Enterprises have formulated a Scheme oriented towards self-employment. The VRS optees who desire to obtain the benefits out of this Scheme are to be imparted training by reputed nodal agencies for the purpose of self-employment.

The Government have assigned a sum of Rs. 8.00 crore for the purpose of such Counselling. Retraining and Redeployment activities for 2001-2002. The training programmes for the current year are about to commence.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. National Renewal Fund has been abolished vide a Gazette Notification dt. 12th July, 2000.

Rescue of Bonded Labourers

2312. PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether seventy bonded labourers were rescued at Khajurala village in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Forty bonded labourers engaged in the construction of a cold storage at village Khajurala, District Kapurthala in Punjab have been rescued.

(c) F.I.R. was registered against two persons accused in the matter, under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Both the accused were arrested and later released on bail.

Mobility Licences

2313. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Telecom Policy (NTP), 99 had been diluted while awarding limited Mobility WLL Licences;

(b) if so, whether Telecom operation without tender bid simply based on first-come-first served policy has been entertained in any part of the world;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether for having Limited Mobility Licences, the opportunity of the Government to get more prices in the aforesaid licences has been substantially reduced;

(e) if so, whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have adversely affected in the competitions due to limited mobility; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As envisaged in NTP-99, based on the recommendations of Telecom regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the Government announced unrestricted entry subject to fulfilment of entry conditions, for provision of Basic Telephone Services with inter-alia use of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) as an access technology including

with usage of hand-held telephone sets by the subscribers within the Short Distance Charging Area. Therefore, the question of adopting a bidding process did not arise. Further, the allocation of frequency spectrum even in the past has been based on processing of applications, as and when received. In this case the actual allocation of spectrum will be made in stages specifically linked to performance and subject to payment of prescribed fees.

(d) to (f) Provision of limited mobility with WLL is not outside the ambit of Basic Service provision and the same is to be provided as part of the Basic Services and the same is to be provided as part of the Basic Service Licence only. While VSNL is essentially providing Internal Long Distance Voice and data services, MTNL is already providing Basic Services with WLL and limited mobility in its service areas. Therefore the question of any loss does not arise.

Complaints against Airlines and Flying Clubs

2314. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of scheduled airlines, non-scheduled airlines and flying clubs in the country at present;

(b) whether some cases are pending in the court against these companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of debt equity ratio, current ratio and liquidity ratio of these companies;

(e) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding the financial irregularity of any of the company/flying club; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The list of scheduled airlines/non-scheduled airlines and Flying Clubs in the country are given in the statement-I and II enclosed.

(b) and (c) Details of the court cases pending against these companies are given in the statement-III enclosed.

(d) Information is being collected.

(e) and (f) Details of complaints of financial irregularity received from the DGCA are given in the statement-IV enclosed.

Statement-I

List of Scheduled/Non-Scheduled Operators

Scheduled Operators:

1. Air India
2. Alliance Air
3. Indian Airlines
4. Jet Airways (India) Pvt. Ltd.
5. Sahara India Airlines

Non Scheduled Operators

1. ACE Airways Pvt. Ltd.
2. Aerial Services Pvt. Ltd.
3. Agni-Aerosports Adventure Academy Pvt. Ltd.
4. Ahmedabad Aviation Academy, Ltd.
5. Airworks India Engg. Pvt. Ltd.
6. Asia Aviation Ltd.
7. Azal India Pvt. Ltd.
8. Blue Dart Aviation Ltd. (Cargo)
9. Century Textiles & Industries Ltd.
10. Deccan Aviation Pvt. Ltd.
11. Dwarka Air Taxi
12. Escorts Ltd.
13. East India Hotels, The Oberoi
14. Government of Rajasthan
15. Great Eastern Shipping Company
16. Hindustan Institute of Engg. & Technology
17. India International Airways
18. Indo-Pacific Aviation
19. Jagson Airlines
20. J.K. Corp. Ltd.
21. Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.
22. Malhotra Helicopters

23. Megapode Airlines
24. Mesco Airlines Ltd.
25. Orient Flying School
26. Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.
27. Rajputana Aviation Academy Pvt. Ltd.
28. Raymonds Ltd.
29. Reliance Transport & Travels Ltd.
30. Sahara India Airlines
31. Saraya Aviation Pvt. Ltd.
32. Span Air Pvt. Ltd.
33. Taneja Aerospace & Aviation Ltd.
34. Tata Tea Ltd.
35. Trans Bharat Aviation
36. U.B. Air
37. Uttar Pradesh Airways
38. Vidyut Travel Services

Statement-II

Names of the Flying Clubs in the Country

1. Amritsar Aviation Club
2. Andhra Pradesh Aviation Academy
3. Bombay Flying Club
4. Bihar Flying Institute
5. Banasthali Vidyapith Gliding & Flying Club
6. Coimbatore Aviation Academy
7. Delhi Flying Club
8. Government Flying Training Institute, Calcutta
9. Government Flying Training Institute, Bhubaneswar
10. Government Flying Training Institute, Bangalore
11. Gujarat Flying Club
12. Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation, Karnal
13. Jamshedpur Co-Operative Flying Club
14. Kerala Aviation Training Centre
15. Ludhiana Aviation Club
16. Madhya Pradesh Flying Club
17. Madras Flying Club
18. Northern India Flying Club, Jallandhar
19. Patiala Aviation Club
20. Rajasthan State Flying School
21. State Civil Aviation, U.P. Govt. Flying Trg. Centre
22. Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation, Pinjore
23. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academi, Raebareli
24. Andaman & Nicobar Flying Trg. Instt., Port Blair
25. Assam Flying Club, Guwahati
26. Nagpur Flying Club
27. Orient Flight School, Pondicherry
28. Garg Aviation, U.P., Kanpur
29. Flytech Aviation Academy, Secunderabad
30. Wings Aviation, Hyderabad
31. Tetra Aviation Academy, Tamilnadu
32. Hal Rotary Wing Academy, Bangalore
33. Academy of Carver Aviation, Mumbai
34. Ahmedabad Aviation, Ahmedabad
35. Tata Nagar Aviation, Jamshedpur
36. Rajputana Aviation Academy, Jaipur
37. Frank Airways, Indore
38. Taneja Aerospace & Aviation Ltd.
39. Bats, Bangalore

Statement-III

The Details of Pending Court Cases

1. Capt. N. Jaiprakash, Ex. Chief Flying Instructor of Madras Flying Club has filed two court cases bearing Nos.OS/27/2000 and OS/84/2001 against Madras Flying Club in the Munshiff Court, Alandur for revoking the termination order of his services from Madras Flying Club.
2. A court case No.G/1-249 dated 18/3/2000 has been filed by Shri Vivek Singh, Member of Executive Committee Jamshedpur Co-operative Flying Club, Jamshedpur in the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Jamshedpur against S/ Sh.N.K. Singh - CFI, Santosh Kumar and Mrs. Indira Singh reg. criminal breach of trust, cheating

forgery of documents relating to the flying club, theft, destruction of evidence, violation of India Aircraft rules etc.

3. The court case filed by the family of deceased Capt. D. Rajkumar for getting the insurance claim of the aircraft and the pilot which crashed on 22nd Feb. 1997 belonging to Kerala Aviation Trg. Centre, Trivandrum.

4. A court case is pending against Ex-Honorary Secretary, Capt. D. Sudhakar Reddy, of Andhra Pradesh Aviation Academy. As per the Managing Committee resolution no. 1522, a legal notice was issued to Chapt. D. Sudhakar Reddy to remit back the amount outstanding against him taken as advance. The case is pending in the City Civil Court, XI Metropolitan, Secunderabad.

Legal Cases to Recover Outstanding of AAI

S. No.	Name of the Airlines	Out-standing Dues (Rs. in lacs)	Remarks
1.	Skyline NEPC Airlines	169.97	Case initiated by AAI for recovery of dues pending before the Hon'ble Chennai Airport
2.	East West Airlines	1828.81	Matter pending before Hon'ble Mumbai High Court East West Airlines has appealed against the orders of the Hon'ble Court to attaching their properties.
3.	Continental Aviation	23.02	Both aircrafts grounded. Recovery suits pending in Hon'ble Mumbai High Court.
4.	Jagson Airlines	66.76	The airlines has appealed against the arbitration award in the Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

Statement-IV

Complaints Received by DGCA and Action Taken:

* DGCA has received complaints of financial irregularities done by following flying clubs and non-scheduled operators:—

A. Flying Clubs

(i) M/s M.P. Flying Club, Indore: A complaint of financial irregularities done by M.P. Flying Club, Indore in purchases of three aircraft and two engines has been made by Shri Sharad K. Sanghi.

DGCA does not interfere in the functioning of the Flying Club although there is one nominee of DGCA in the Managing Committee of the clubs. The Club Managing Committee is not required to take prior permission for such financial transactions.

(ii) M/s Jamshedpur Co-operative Flying Club, Jamshedpur: Another complaint of serious irregularities (financial and otherwise) in Jamshedpur Co-operative Flying Club, Jamshedpur has been made by Shri Vivek Singh.

The inquiry carried out in the matter by the Cooperative Department of the Government of Bihar revealed that the allegations made in the complaint were true and accordingly the District Cooperative Officer, Govt. of Bihar suspended the Managing Committee of the Club with effect from 19.4.2000.

An enquiry in this matter was conducted by Shri A.K. Ray, Director of Airworthiness, Calcutta on 7.4.2000. The report has been sent to the Special Officer, Jamshedpur Co-operative Flying Club for further necessary action.

(iii) M/s Yash Air Ltd. Indore: Security clearance to Directors of M/s Yash Air Ltd., Indore for extension of NOC to start flying training institute at Bhopal has been denied by M/s. Home Affairs due to allegations of financial irregularities and falsifications of documents against their Chairman and Managing Director during their association with Uran Research and Flying Institute, Bombay.

B. Non-Scheduled Operators:

M/s Mesco Airlines: M/s Sundaram Finance Ltd. has complained that M/s. Mesco Airlines Ltd. has been defaulting repayment of rental and other monies due to them under the lease agreement. Therefore, M/s. Sundaram Finance Ltd. have filed various applications in the Hon'ble High Court of Chennai against M/s. Mesco Airlines. As the matter of sub-judice, no action is required on the part of the Government.

C. Scheduled Airlines

* We sought security clearance of Directors of M/s. Stallion Airways Pvt. Ltd. for issue of NOC to them to operate air transport services. In response, the Ministry of Home Affairs has informed this Ministry that one Capt. Puneet Sabharwal S/o Lt. Col. A.S. Sabharwal after signing the contract of employment with M/s. Stallion Airways Pvt. Ltd. on 1st July, 1998, paid Rs. 6,50,000/- as fee for commercial pilot licence at the Fairchild Aircraft manufacturing facility at San Antonio, Texas, USA. Since he did not get the offer from the Company, Shri A.S. Sabharwal, father of Shri Puneet Sabharwal lodged a complaint with the local policy at Vasant Kunj against the Directors of M/s. Stallion Airways Pvt. Ltd. Presently the case is under investigation.

* In view of the facts furnished by Ministry of Home Affairs the request of M/s. Stallion Airways for extension of NOC to operate scheduled air transport services has not been agreed to.

M/s U.P. Air: Canara Bank has brought to the notice of this Ministry that M/s UP Air was enjoying various credit facilities at their Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi Branch. The account became overdue and the bank has filed a suit for recovery of Rs. 23.07 crore on 1.9.1997 which was decreed on 11.9.1998. Bank has filed an appeal before DRAT, Mumbai against the order of DRT which is pending disposal.

* In view of the above fresh security clearance of directors of the subject company has been sought. Therefore decision on their request to import 3 F-27-500 RF aircraft has been deferred.

Losses Incurred by Air India and Indian Airlines

2315. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India/Indian Airlines is incurring financial losses continuously for the last three years whereas private airlines are making huge profits in the air traffic sector;

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

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) During the financial years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, Air India has incurred loss of Rs. 174.48 crores and Rs. 37.63 crores respectively. During the year 2000-01, the net loss of Air India is estimated at Rs. 52 crore. This loss is mainly due to increase in fuel prices. If there had been no increase in fuel prices, Air India could have achieved a profit of about Rs. 200 crores in 2000-01.

As regards Indian Airlines, details are as under:-

Year	Profit/(Loss) (Rs. in crores)
1998-1999	13.12
1999-2000	45.27
2000-2001	(177.25) (Prov.)

Indian Airlines has taken steps such as (i) Strict budgetary control with all the major items of expenditure are subject to cost benefit analysis, operational and commercial expediency; (ii) Better fleet utilization, increased international operations; (iii) Better scheduling of aircraft and route planning, Capacity deployment alignment with market requirements; (iv) Code sharing with the foreign airlines, High level participation in computerised Reservation System. (v) freeze on recruitment unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons, fuel monitoring and tankering, reduction in publicity and sales promotional expenditure, Review of uneconomic flights, Out sourcing of services to the extent feasible etc.

Mineral Resource Area in Madhya Pradesh

2316. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has surveyed any area in Madhya Pradesh to find out mineral resource areas in the State during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome of the survey conducted; and

(c) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of minerals in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and

(b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI), a subordinate department under the administrative control of this Ministry has carried out surveys for mineral resources in the State of Madhya Pradesh during 2000-2001. It carried out investigations for Gold and base metals in Siddhi, Jabalpur and Betur districts and for Coal in Siddhi, Shahdol and Betul districts.

The mineralized zones in Chakaria Block, Siddhi district and Imaliya Block in Jabalpur district have shown Gold values ranging from 0.2 to 10 grams per tonne. So far Coal reserves of 14750 million tonnes have been established in the State by GSI.

(c) The National Mineral Policy, 1993 and its subsequent amendments by the Government are aimed at speedy and systematic exploitation of the mineral resources by the State.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): On behalf of Shri Sunder Lal Patwa I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Zinc Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3886/2001]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Water and Power consultancy Services (I) Limited and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3887/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, 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 3888/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—

(i) S.O. 1186(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 1999 seeking to appoint Arbitrator for the purpose of acquisition of land for the proposed Second Vivekananda Bridge across river Hooghly near Calcutta on National Highway No. 2.

(ii) S.O. 461(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2000 Notifying the land to be acquired for widening of existing National Highway No. 6 in West Bengal.

(iii) S.O. 488(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2000 authorising the Deputy General Manager, National Highways Authority of India as the competent authority to perform the functions of such authority under the Act.

(iv) S.O. 965(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2000 authorising the Deputy General Manager, National Highways Authority of India, New Delhi, to perform the functions of competent authority under the Act.

(v) S.O. 493(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2001 authorising Additional District Magistrate, District Howrah, West Bengal, as competent authority to perform the functions of such authority under the Act.

(vi) S.O. 531(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 2001 Notifying the land to be acquired for widening of the National Highway No. 6 (Kolaghat to Kharagpur Section) in the State of West Bengal.

(vii) S.O. 438(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2001 regarding land acquisition for building four laning of National Highway No. 8 between Jaipur to Kishangarh in the State of Rajasthan by constructing Grade separated intersections and Toll Plaza.

(viii) S.O. 591(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2001 regarding land acquisition for public purposes for widening of National Highway No. 60 from Govindpur Brahman Sasan to Rupnarayanpur in the State of West Bengal.

(ix) S.O. 592(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2001 regarding land acquisition for widening of National Highway No. 6 from Dankuni-Kolaghat Section in the State of West Bengal.

(x) S.O. 593(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2001 regarding widening of existing National No. 60 from Laxmannath to Kharagpur Section in the State of West Bengal.

(xi) S.O. 620(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2001 regarding land acquisition for public purposes of building maintenance management or operation of National Highway No. 5 from Bhubaneswar-Calcutta Section in the State of Orissa.

(xii) S.O. 629(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 2001 regarding Development of Jaipur Bypass Phase-II in the State of Rajasthan.

(2) Four statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) to (iv) of item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3889/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952:—

(i) The Employees' Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 326(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2001.

(ii) The Employees Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 383(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2001.

(iii) The Employees Deposit-Linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 398(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2001.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3890/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:—

(i) The regulation on Guidelines for Registration of Consumer Organisations/Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and their interaction with TRAI, 2001 published in Notification No. F. No. 108-4/98-TRAI (Tech.) in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2001.

(ii) The regulation on Guidelines for Registration of Consumer Organisations/Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and their interaction with TRAI (First Amendment) 2001 published in Notification No. F. No. 108-4/98-TRAI (Tech.) in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 2001.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3891/2001]

[English]

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Management of Floods

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sethi, has to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): Sir, it is a very long statement. With your permission, can I lay it on the Table of the House?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, it is a long statement. You can lay it on the Table of the House.

*SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement regarding Management of Floods.

Reports of floods have been received from the State of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Of these, the State of Orissa experienced severe floods. Some parts of Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Tripura also experienced floods. Having regard to the extent of area affected, the most recent floods in Orissa should be referred at the very outset.

Floods in Orissa occurred in three phases. The first was in the beginning of July, 2001 caused by heavy rains in the catchment area of Mahanadi and release of water from certain reservoirs in Chhattisgarh into the Mahanadi system. This resulted in inundation in large number of districts including Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak, Khurda, Kendrapara and Kalahandi etc. With the abatement of rains, the water receded around 11th July.

Again, following recurrence of torrential rains, sluice gates of the overflowing Hirakund reservoir had to be opened. To keep the Hirakund Dam out of danger, 7.85 lakh cusec of water was released on 18th July against the inflow of 8.53 lakh cusecs to bring down the water level to 628.35 ft. against the storage capacity of 630 ft. the resultant outflow with other run off caused by the next round of extensive rains caused serious floods in 24 districts. The situation aggravated due to high tide which slowed down drainage in the Bay of Bengal.

The situation eased by about 22nd July on to recur around 25th July, 2001 with the next round of rains which affected many districts including Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak, Kendrapara and parts of Puri. In all, 96 human lives were lost with more than 16,000 villages and 87 lakh persons being affected. 8.91 lakh hectares of cropped area and 2.34 lakh houses have also been affected. The State Government rose to the occasion and deployed all available resources for relief and rescue which resulted in a much lesser toll of life than was possible given the magnitude of the flood. 6 lakh people were evacuated to safer places and relief material along with medicines was sent to the affected areas. The losses are yet to be assessed and quantified in detail as the State Government machinery is rightly concentrating on providing immediate relief.

In Bihar, the rivers Sone, Kosi, Bagmati, Ghaghra, Ganga, Punpun, Kamla-Balan, Burhi Gandak and Mahananda were in spate and flowed above danger levels. The river Ghaghra at Gangpur-Siswan on 31st July flowed within 0.5 m of its HFL. The overall flood situation aggravated on 2nd August, 2001 with three major rivers Gandak, Bagmati and Kamla Balan breaching embankments and inundating vast rural as well as urban areas in East Champaran, West Champaran, Gopalganj, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Madhubani districts. The Saran main embankment at Gopalganj on Gandak had breached by about 200 feet at Hira Pator and by 100 feet at Deapur inundating 32 panchayats in an around Gopalganj. About 4.70 lakh cusecs of water had entered North Bihar from Nepal through the Gandak, due to torrential rains in the catchment area of Gandak in Nepal. This has caused breach in the Champaran embankment near Nagadaha village. The swirling waters of Bagamati breached its left embankment worsening the flood situation in Darbhanga district.

According to the latest assessment report received from the State Government 15 districts mainly Gopalganj, East Champaran, West Champaran, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Shivahar and Madhubani have been affected. Cropped area affected is 55,000 ha. and value of crops damaged is Rs. 10 crore (appr.). Two persons are reported to have lost their lives and 5,000 people have been evacuated from the affected districts. The State Government has initiated large-scale rescue and rehabilitation measures in the flood affected areas. Army is assisting in the State's effort.

In Uttar Pradesh, due to heavy rainfall in the catchment the rivers Gandak, Ghaghra and Ganga flowed above danger level. The river Gandak at Khadda on 30th and 31st July, 2001 flowed with 0.5 m of its HFL. This year due to excess rainfall in Nepal Territory unregulated water came into Indian Territory which breached at four places an embankment under construction on Mahav drain in Maharajganj district. As per the information received two places out of four have been plugged and work on the remaining sites is in progress. No loss of crops due to release of water from the damaged embankment has been reported by the State Government.

This year the monsoon broke over Assam during 1st week of June, 2001. Due to heavy rainfall in the catchment, the river Brahmaputra, Barak, Katakhal,

*Laid on the table of the House.

[Shri Arjun Sethi]

Dikhow, Dhansiri, Desang, Beki, Jiabharali, Manas and Sankosh flowed above danger level. The river Beki at Road Bridge on 30th July flowed within 0.5 m of its HFL. No flood damages have been reported so far by the States.

In Tripura, four districts have been affected due to floods. The State remained completely cut off from the rest of the country as the Assam—Agartala National Highway No. 44 was blocked following heavy landslides at Patharkandi in the neighbouring Karimganj district of Assam. There were reports of breaches in embankments along Manu, Dhalai and Longai rivers posing threat to Kailasahar, Kamalpur and Dharmnagar Sub-division. Information regarding flood damages has not been received so far from the State Revenue Authorities.

The floods in Kerala, which were preceded by landslides around 7th July took a heavy toll of more than hundred human lives. The first instalment of 50% of central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of Rs. 26.48 crore has already been released as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Finance has also released the second instalment in advance. A Central Team has recently returned from the State after assessing the situation and the allocation to be made from the NCCF to the State will soon been decided.

In West Bengal too, due to heavy rainfall in the catchment, the river Ganga at Farakka since 20th July continues to flow above danger level. However, no flood damages have been reported so far by the State.

Recently flash floods occurred in Binwa Khund in District Kangra in Himachal Pradesh where 12 persons have lost their lives. The total loss during the flood season is estimated to be Rs. 23 crore. The State Government is taking steps for restoration of the damaged works.

Chhattisgarh too suffered flood from 9th July, 2001 which affected Dhamtari district and other catchment areas of the Mahanadi system affecting 23 tehsils and resulting in loss of 12 lives.

While primarily the Flood Management is the responsibility of the respective State Governments, the Central Government renders assistance that is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. The Central Government has taken initiative for cooperation in the field related to water resources development/flood forecasting on bilateral basis with neighbouring countries. Various projects for the development of water resources/ flood control are under negotiations with the Government of Nepal. In this regard, the Detailed Project Report of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project of river Mahakali (Sarda in India) is already under preparation jointly by both the countries. Similarly, the Sapta Kosi and Sun Kosi multipurpose projects are also under active discussions with Nepal. The matter was discussed during the 3rd meeting of Joint Team of Experts in March 2001 at New Delhi wherein the Project Inception Report and opening of the Joint Project office for preparation of Joint Detailed Project Report was discussed. Exchange of hydrometeorological data of rivers originating from Nepal and flowing to India is already being done to assist flood forecasting works in these rivers. In this connection, a Committee of Flood Forecasting of India and Nepal has also been formed which held its first meeting in April, 2001 in New Delhi. As a follow up to this meeting, a Joint Task Force was constituted which held its meeting in Kathmandu in June 2001 to review the existing Indo-Nepal flood forecasting system and preparation of a comprehensive flood forecasting master plan. Further an Indo-Nepal Standing Committee on Inundation Problems is also functioning since 1980 to look into various inundation problems faced by the two countries in the border areas. This Committee which had held 11 meetings so far is meeting regularly to discuss the problems faced by both the countries and is trying to evolve suitable remedies. The Committee has been successful in sorting out many issues.

Similarly hydrometeorological data of rivers originating from Bhutan is also being transmitted to India for flood forecasting in the country. The progress in this regard is monitored on a regular basis by a Joint Experts Team (JET) of India and Bhutan. Recently a dialogue has also been initiated with China on the need for Hydrological data on both the Brahmaputra and Sutlej rivers.

Since 1958, the Central Water Commission (CWC) under the Ministry of Water Resources have been operating Flood Forecasting network on major interstate rivers so as to give timely warning to flood affected regions in various States on major interstate rivers. This network has grown over the years to 159 stations. The forecasts issued by CWC have been consistent with an accuracy of more than 96% and as a result of which the flood forecasting and warning services have rendered immense benefits to the people in the flood prone areas.

The most practical approach in flood management is to provide a reasonable degree of protection against flood damages at economic cost through a combination of structural and non-structural measures. Out of the 40 mha.

flood prone area assessed by Rashtriya Barh Ayog, 32 mha. can be provided with reasonable degree of protection. So far an area of 16.435 mha. (anticipated) has been benefited upon March, 2000 by different means of flood management works.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, Doda issue has been raised by my colleague, Shri Dasmunsi. We should be given an opportunity to speak on it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the floods in North Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Jha ji you will be given a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you a chance. The Hon. Minister has laid the statement regarding floods. Discussion on this will be held later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Entire Bihar is in the grip of floods...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will discuss floods after fixing time. You may kindly resume your seat now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am saying you please take your seat, I will listen to you later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please go back to your seats.

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* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Innocent people have been killed in Kishtwar.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, the State Governments hardly have any resources to deal with these devastating floods. The State Governments of Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar do not have funds. There cannot be discrimination by the Central Government in the distribution of funds. Why was no provision been made for Bihar? They must make provision for Bihar. This is a major natural calamity and therefore, the funds will have to be provided by the Centre...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Raghunath Jha ji, I will call you. Please resume your seat. I have said that I will listen to you and also support you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: The Government should respond to this. We cannot discriminate between Orissa and Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Please understand seriousness of the situation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am understanding, but how can the statements go on record if four persons continue to speak at one time.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you speak like this, nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Discussion on this issue may be held after the statement of the hon. Minister. The Central Government team has not yet been sent to assess the extent of loss in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed him to lay the Statement on the Table.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please read the statement first.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and others, will you all please resume your seats? Let there be some order even in the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seats. I am on my legs. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, this morning, we expressed our serious concern about the flood situation in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we want to know as to how many people have been affected, the steps taken by the Central Government, how much money has been released, the facilities provided and the materials being given to the affected people...*(Interruptions)* We want to have all this information. About five lakhs of people have been affected...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Minister has already laid the statement on the Table. You may fix a time for discussion in the Business Advisory Committee. Who is going to deprive you from doing that?

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, this morning, he has given us an assurance that there will be a full-fledged discussed on flood and drought situation...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time would be fixed in BAC in this regard and only then would the discussion be held over this. No purpose would be served by shouting like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Shri Ahamed, let us first come out of the flood situation and then you may raise your point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He wanted to make a statement on the flood situation. The House expressed that it may be laid on the Table as it is a very lengthy statement and now, the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is responding to it. We have simply wasted ten to fifteen minutes. Shri Pappu Yadav, please hear me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, what are you doing now? You are also interrupting now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, you must be remembering that at the time of discussion on Water Dispute Bill on Friday, many hon. Members had expressed their concern over the flood situation in various States. The number was less, but concern was very deep. The hon. Minister of Water Resources, replying to the Bill, had stated the he would give a statement in the House on Friday. There was a delay in sending the letter in this regard to the Lok Sabha Secretariat and that is why it could not be included in today's list of business, but the

* Not recorded.

hon. Minister of Water Resources has come here with the statement. This statement is not related to a single State only, but it covers Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal and even Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): What about drought...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, in the present Government drought is looked after by one Minister and flood is looked after by the other. So reply regarding drought would be given by the concerned Minister. The statement is of five pages. I request the House that such a sensitive subject cannot be discussed upon merely by asking one or two questions and giving their reply. The meeting of Business Advisory Committee would be held tomorrow. If BAC decides, a full day discussion on floods could be held in the House. Thereafter, the Government could give the reply on this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had stated that yesterday people expressed their concern over floods in Bihar and now this four page statement has come in this regard. The statement pertains to Bihar only *i.e.* the action taken in the earlier times to check floods in Bihar and talks held between Bihar and Nepal in 1980 do not find a mention. I do not know as to how would the MPs of Bihar face the people there after this statement is published tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

12.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the flood near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, shall we have access to the statement...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. It is laid on the Table. You can take a copy of it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has laid the statement. A discussion would be held on this and the hon. Members would give their suggestions and the Government would give reply in the end.

...(Interruptions)

12.19 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ram Prasad Singh and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot create Pandemonium like this over the issue of Bihar.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has given a statement regarding flood. Time for discussion on this issue would be fixed only in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. Only then we would be able to tell about the stand of the Government. This is not the proper way.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members may go back to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have received 36 notices. They are all on important matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Switch off the telecast of Television. Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record and cameras have been switched off. You may continue like this.

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* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, please bring order in the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given floor to Shri Dasmunsi.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vinay Katiyar, please do not exhibit anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall give a chance to all the hon. Members to speak. All the hon. Members may kindly resume seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Members are merely wasting time like this. Please speak from your respective seats. Its no use speaking like this.

12.24 hrs.

At this time Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, Shri Ram Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not exhibit that...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnaur): Sir, the Government should give a statement over the massacre that took place in Jammu and Kashmir...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: They are terming terrorism as the struggle for independence...*(Interruptions)* Our people are being killed there. How long can we sit quietly...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to speak as per the rules. I have asked Dasmunshi ji to speak. Therefore, you please sit down. Katariaji you also please sit down. This is against the rules, I will not allow this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how do I speak? The Ruling Party is not allowing any Member to make his submission...*(Interruptions)*

12.27 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raghunath Jha, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, Shri Rajo Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unless all the hon. Members resume their seats, how can I give them a chance to speak.

12.29 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raghunath Jha, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, Shri Rajo Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

12.29 hrs.

At this stage, Shri E. Ahamed came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed please go to your seat. I will give you a chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

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* Not recorded.

12.29 hours

At this stage, Shri E. Ahamed went back to his seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has given notice regarding Muzaffarnagar incident.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everybody would get a chance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you a chance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please go to your seats. I will give you a chance.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How the House is getting infuriated on Monday?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Muzaffarnagar incident is a very shocking.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, if there is an order, I can call you. If there is a disorder, how can I call you?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the members from Bihar have requested that a central team be sent there to assess the situation arisen due to flood...*(Interruptions)* How is it possible to send the team just now? Some transportation arrangement is required for this purpose...*(Interruptions)* As per their request, I will ask the concerned Ministry to send the team during this week which could assess the situation there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a Central team must go there but it should also inquire as to how the dams built there gave way?...*(Interruptions)* Also the inquiry should be made regarding the funds spent on these dams...*(Interruptions)* This Central Government should provide money for relief works immediately...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Home Minister should come out with a statement in the House regarding Doda incident...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, terrorism in Kashmir is being termed as a freedom struggle by Pakistan. Hon'ble Minister should give clarification in the House in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please sit down. Shri Swami ji, you have to resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am unable to control the hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seats? I am giving the floor to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, I think, I have to name you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is this going on? What is this?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have allowed Shri Dasmunsi ji to speak. Why the treasury benches are not allowing him to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khurana, I have allowed Shri Dasmunsi.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khurana, you are a senior Member. I am on my legs. Please hear me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khurana, will you hear me?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I may be given the opportunity to put may views regarding Doda incident...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would allow you also.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi gave a notice for suspension of the Question Hour. Hon. Speaker told me to give the floor to him immediately after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am giving the floor to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I seek cooperation of the Chief Whip to please help me.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you never give us a chance to speak. They always get an opportunity to speak. Such a grave incident has happened and you are not allowing me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he is questioning the authority.

[Translation]

They are always called to speak.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: There is no end to killings in Doda and you are not giving me an opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What is this?...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we have to convey, through you, to the Government that the incidents after incidents are taking place in the Doda district of Jammu and Kishtwar and other places in the Kashmir Valley.

These incidents and repeated assurances. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khurana, do you know that he had given a notice to suspend the Question Hour and that hon. Speaker had asked me to give him the floor after Question Hour?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you mean by that? I have said that I will give the floor to you also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, if they do like this, we can also do like this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If this is the way the Treasury Benches behave in this House, I am afraid, I cannot conduct the House like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, hon. Home Minister, Shri Lal Krishna Advani, in the House, right from the day of first massacre last year and in public postures, have assured the country and the Parliament that all possible measures would be taken to save the lives of the innocent people...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whether Jammu & Kashmir....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except Shri Dasmunsi's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is the third incident in Doda right after Agra Summit. The hon. Home Minister, instead of explaining what measure he has taken to ensure the safety of the innocent people there, gave a lecture yesterday that only the next day of the Agra Summit, 'we came to know that Parvez Musharraf will not honour this accord and the killings will continue'. He did not tell this in Parliament nor at the time of Agra Summit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir we know that Pakistan estremists, right or left, are taking the lives of the innocent people and this Government is functioning with casual comments. The Home Minister, Shri Advani, has failed, one after another incident, to ensure full security to the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Amarnath Pilgrims were massacred right after the Agra Summit. This is the third massacre and today also some incident happened in Udhampur. But the Home Minister is trying to pass the buck elsewhere.

We know, Sir, Pakistan extremists are taking our lives and they are doing whatever they like. We know it and we condemn the terrorists and we condemn Pakistan also. But the Home Minister merely cannot absolve himself by condemning them. What role has he played in this? He did not play any role till now to ensure the protection of the people of Jammu & Kashmir Valley. Does this Home Minister deserve to continue in his office when one after another massacre is taking place? He is going and making his political articulation of the issue without taking care of the security of the people.

I demand, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, that the Home Minister must come to the House, give all priority to this incident, make a statement, allow the House to question him on all the matters. He is failing everyday. His handling of the matters right from Kandhar episode to yesterday's kidnapping and killings show how incapable he is, how ineffective he is, how insincere he is to take the issue seriously. His simply talking about cross-border terrorism will not help us. We are ready to cooperate with the Government in all matters of Jammu & Kashmir, but we cannot keep silence on the callous attitude of the Home Minister of India in the matter pertaining to Jammu & Kashmir, especially to the incidents of Doda village. Sir, if one district cannot be protected by the Home Minister, how will he protect the country, I want to know. The same incident has taken place in Doda three times.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I demand the Home Minister to come, make a statement and take the House into confidence on this issue.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I would like to associate myself with Shri Dasmunsi...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice. You always given them the opportunity to speak and today also you have done the same.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khurana, why I have given floor to Shri Dasmunsi, do you know this? He gave a notice for suspension of Question Hour and hon. Speaker asked me to give him the floor first.

[Translation]

You all were accusing me which was not fair. I would have called you later on.

* Not recorded.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the past few months, 104 people have been killed in 12 incidents in Kishtwar and Doda districts.

Two days ago, a tragic incident took place there in which 17 people were killed. I would like to submit that Pakistani President has termed the cross border terrorism as freedom struggle. If it is a freedom struggle, then they should fight this struggle with our defence forces. Killing of innocent people can not be termed as freedom struggle ..*(Interruptions)* I do agree that earlier also and even yesterday, Home Minister has sent state Home Minister on the spot of incident. My submission is that Hon'ble Home Minister should come out with a statement in the House regarding the action being taken by the Government to counter the terrorism...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, undoubtedly the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is becoming more and more serious. Especially after the failure of the Summit, there were incidents of grave nature. Innocent lives were lost. We certainly condemn what is happening there most strongly. The country is resolved to fight this terrorism, which is there. That does not absolve the Home Minister and the Home Ministry of the Government from their responsibility of providing security to the lives and properties of the people who are there. There is a clear indication of lack of security arrangements.

Now, what is happening in this country is that a Member of Parliament was killed on the street of Delhi at 1.20 p.m. in broad daylight. I can shudder to think as to what is happening there. Obviously they are sitting ducks and easy targets. The insurgents are coming inside the State of Jammu and Kashmir and killing innocent people at their sweet will and the Government is only reacting to situation. That is what we have said earlier. This Government is unable to prevent things from happenings. They are only reacting to incidents or reacting to situation. Security is not a matter of reaction. Security has to be provided initially.

The Home Minister should have been here today and taken the House into confidence. Merely giving media coverage does not help. This House is not taken seriously by the Government on any major issue. All sections of the hon. Members from Bihar have to shout for saving the people of Bihar and we are told that there is a five-page statement, where Bihar figures only in a small paragraph. Is this the way the country will be run? If they are unable to tackle them, let them save this country by getting themselves out from here.

Sir, it is the duty of the Home Minister to come before this House and tell us as to what is the real situation and what steps are being taken by the Government.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Kishtwar Tehsil of district Doda...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, please sit down. He has given a notice.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): Sir, I would also like to speak on this issue. Other members are getting opportunity to speak but you are not allowing me...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYANATH: Massacre of Hindus in Kishtwar Tehsil cannot be viewed only as terrorism...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: It is Government's responsibility...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has given notice in this regard.

YOGI ADITYANATH: A conspiracy is being hatched to vanish Hindus from Kashmir especially from Doda district. Hindu families are migrating from there. Insurgent activities are taking place to make Hindus flee from there.

I would like to know the circumstances under which defence troops have been withdrawn from there though more than half of the massacres that took place in Kashmir during the past eight years, have occurred in Doda and Kishtwar districts only. In spite of such massacres and even on the demand made by the people of these districts, security has not been provided to them. Whether the people who are not considering it as a misfortune and are people who are not considering it as a misfortune and are demanding the establishment of local government in Kashmir are not aware that Kashmir is an integral part of India and an elected Government of people is working there. A thorough investigation should

be conducted to identify such people and stringent action should be taken against the people who while staying in India have adopted anti-India attitude and are harbouring the terrorist organisations.

Through you, I demand from the Government to make a statement in this regard and handover Kashmir to the army. Additional Security Forces should be deployed there and a befitting reply should be given to terrorists who are killing innocent Hindus in Kashmir...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHIR ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Sir, I should be allowed to speak on the Doda killing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You ought to have given the notice. You have not given the notice.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, militants abducted 21 people from a village under Kishtwar tehsil in district Doda in Jammu. 17 out of them were shot dead while four sustained injuries. It is not a sole incident which occurred on 4th. On an earlier occasion also 12 Amarnath pilgrims were also shot by them and the very next day, i.e. Saturday, the 21st July, terrorists struck Doda district in Jammu and massacred 20 villagers. Sir, the way people are being massacred at the behest of their leaders by cross border terrorists is a matter of grave concern. Sir, through you, I request the Union Government, hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to make a statement in the House as to what action the Government have taken to give a befitting reply to these terrorists.

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I should be allowed to speak about my State.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Goel has given the notice. How can I give you the floor?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is an important matter. You did not give the notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK: There was no notice from the Communist leader. He was given the chance. I want to speak regarding my State.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shir Vijay Goel. Do not interrupt now.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 17 Hindus have been massacred by terrorists in Kishtwar tehsil under Doda district Jammu division. Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is not a new thing, it has been going on unabated for the last several years. During last 7 years, out of 61 cases of massacre, which took place in Jammu Kashmir, 26 incidents took place in Doda, 20 in Udhampur and Rajori. I would like to tell the House that the issue raised by Shri Priyaranjan ji is not a political issue where in Home Minister is alleged to have been critised more than the terrorism itself. The issue concern the entire country and Security Forces throughout India should be strengthened enough and given a free hand to deal with militants in the valley...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We are with you yet why are you not able to do anything?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whenever the Prime Minister takes an initiative for the talks, the opposition only critisises, whatever may be its...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): It is absolutely wrong. Let the Government say that we have opposed the Prime Minister on Kashmir issue. We have always supported the Government's stand on Kashmir.

[Translation]

You are not competent enough to do anything, on the contrary you abuse us.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Those who have given the notices should be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name is there.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund): Sir, through you, I would like to ask why 20 thousand armed forced personnel have been withdrawn by this Government?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If an MP is affected, that MP should be given the chance. He is the MP from that area.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know it, Shri Dasmunsi. The names are listed on the basis of time at which the notices were given. After him, he is getting his chance. His name was listed at serial number five, and Shri Ramji Lal Suman's name was listed at serial number two.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, I would like to say that after the present Government assumed power, more tough measures have been taken than before. It is not a new problem. It cropped up doing their regime. When their party was in power, they failed to take tough measures which resulted in spread of terrorism. I would like to say only this much that terrorist bases in Pakistan should be destroyed and all the parties should rise above politics and observe day's token fast in protest against terrorist activities. If the entire House agrees to my proposal of keeping a day's fast, I would consider that cutting across party lines, all political parties have taken this issue seriously and they are united to fight the evil called terrorism.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request hon'ble Home Minister to make a statement in this regard in the House. The House should be apprised as to what steps have been contemplated by the Government to ensure such dastardly act of killing does not recur. It should be similar to the statement made by the Hon'ble Home Minister in Aligarh that the Government are contemplating tough measures to check terrorism.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally I would like to say that it is a calculated move by Pakistan. As Kashmiri Pandits have been forced to leave Kashmir, similarly only the Hindus are targeted and attacked. Therefore, the Government should take it up seriously and take tough measures...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has given the notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are wasting the time of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): Let him speak first because he is from that constituency...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not understanding. Though you are an M.P. from that constituency, yet the notice given by Shri Ramji Lal Suman was received first. Hence, he would speak before you speak. You may sit down, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the situation in Muzaffarnagar is very tense. A mosque was set on fire and during last 5-6 months...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these people only are engineering riots in Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mishra, this is 'Zero Hour'. Please do not disturb and let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHIR RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir these people only are provoking others to commit murder....*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 2nd in a bazar in Shahbuddin village...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, would you please resume your seats? I have given the floor to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: If Members of ruling party behave like this then the proceedings in the House cannot keep going...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mishra, I have given the floor to him. Please do not disturb him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Workers of Samajvadi Party were involved in it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Katiyar, I have given the floor to him. Please do not disturb him. He has given notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you would given an opportunity to speak, but these people did not allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)* Where hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs have gone, please call him.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA: What is he telling...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mishra, please resume your seat. There is a limit to it. Please do not disturb like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mishra, if you disturb them like this during zero hour then they would surely disturb you during the time allotted for you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has given notice. I am calling him. Why are you disturbing?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: In, Uttar Pradesh, whether it is in Kanpur or Muzzafarnagar, there is no law and order worth the name...*(Interruptions)* The government want to engineer riots in the entire State...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, will you please resume your seats?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: If they who were behind the riots in Muzzaffarnagar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called him? Why are you standing?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the Government is not controlling their Members...*(Interruptions)* This is being done right from the beginning...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, would you please resume your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vinay Katiyar, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): They engineered riots, they opened fire...*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

SHRI MANOJ SINHA (Gazipur): The Government had effectively controlled riots, how they are the people who are trying to engineer fresh riots there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: People were looted in Muzaffarnagar in the presence of police and they were also defamed, it would not be tolerated...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If the ruling party Members continue to behave like this, we will not allow the House to run....*(Interruptions)* The Chief Whip of the ruling party is sitting here; a Minister is sitting here; and they are not controlling their own Members...*(Interruptions)* They are deliberately trying to stop the House from functioning...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 15th a muslim was killed in a village in Muzaffarnagar and another Muslim was beaten up...*(Interruptions)* some hand bills were distributed there, but from that day onwards the government never discharged their responsibility...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: This campaign was started by the members of Congress party in Kashmir and extended upto Kanpur...*(Interruptions)* The caders of Samajwadi party want to deteriorate the law and order situation of the State...*(Interruptions)* The Congress party extended it further starting from Kashmir...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry to see this. When the ruling party Members do not cooperate with the Chair, how can the Chair control the Members belonging to the Opposition? The House stands adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.

13.02 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.04 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the BJP people are engineering riots in the entire country...*(Interruptions)* Curfew has been imposed there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak during zero hour tomorrow instead of today. This is not zero hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the BJP people are engineering riots...*(Interruptions)* the BJP people are hatching a conspiracy for engineering riots in an orderly manner in the entire country...*(Interruptions)* it is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramji Lal Suman it is not zero hour. Please speak tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am not going to listen anything. Not today. Please speak tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record please.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Please listen to my request...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to listen anything. Please speak in zero hour tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not zero hour. What you people are doing? Should we run the House like this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the BJP people are intentionally causing interruptions for the

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* Not recorded.

country. We seek your protection...*(Interruptions)* Curfew has been imposed there. People remained confined in their houses...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record please.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Not today, you speak tomorrow. I am not going to listen today. I will listen tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people are trying to weigh people on Hindu and Muslim balance...*(Interruptions)* For them, human beings are not human beings...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record please.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, we seek your protection...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record please.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the politics of election in U.P....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): Sir, nothing should go into the record and we should start the proceedings of the House immediately...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is none of your business to direct the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that this is not 'Zero Hour'. Please take your seats. I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Suman ji, you also take your seat please. Rashid Alvi ji You may also please take your seat. What are you doing.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: These people are handing over the city to the force...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEKAER: Shri Banatwalla, you are a senior Member. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people are hatching a conspiracy to put the entire U.P. into flames...*(Interruptions)* The RSS people are intentionally engineering riots through out the country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not waste the time of the House. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly allow me to speak....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, you are a senior Member, please take your seat. I am on my legs please.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.09 hours

[English]

COMPETITION BILL*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, in India, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, in India, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I raise my objection to leave being granted to introduce this Bill.

This Bill, as you know, will bring in far-reaching changes in our economy. The purpose of this Bill is to gear up the Indian markets to face the international competition. That process has not taken place so far. Secondly, the existing MRTP Act gives some protection to our public sector undertakings. That protection will also go away once this Bill is passed.

So, the entire economy, the entire infrastructure of industrial development will be left to the mercy of the international competition. We are not prepared to face international competition at this stage. Without sufficient protection to our home made industry, passing of this Bill will be disastrous, suicidal. We have the bitter experience of putting our signatures to the World Trade Organisation. We are now suffering from that. Passing of this Bill, at this stage, without bringing necessary protection to infrastructure development, will be detrimental. Moreover, whatever is left behind of MRTP, is also done away with. So, I strongly oppose this Bill at the introduction stage.

I am not oppose to globalisation. It may take its own course but we are not prepared to face such a situation. So, I strongly oppose the introduction of this Bill which will bring far-reaching changes in our economy.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you wish to give any clarification?

SHRI ARUN JAITELY: This is the stage of introduction. At the stage of introduction, an objection could be raised either with regard to the legislative competence or with regard to the Constitutional vires, where an objection is being made on merit. If my learned friend goes through the Bill, the Bill seeks to check practices which may come about as aberrations in a market economy. Therefore, the Bill is intended to protect the consumer interest. The Bill in no way says that it is going to encourage competition of the kind which is going to put any Indian company to a disadvantage. The Bill seeks to check anti-competitive practices. The Bill seeks to prevent any abuse of dominance. The Bill seeks to prevent such amalgamation which will have an appreciable adverse effect on competition itself. Therefore, the Bill seeks to protect those very factors about which my learned friend is concerned. Therefore, I do not see any reason why the Bill should be opposed at the introduction stage.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, in India, and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARUN JAITELY: Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

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* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 6.8.2001.

*Introduced with the recommendations of the President.

14.11 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for proper maintenance of National Highway No. 3 between Sarangpur and Dewas in Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Highway No. 3 running between Agra and Mumbai via my Parliamentary constituency, Shajapur, is in very bad condition from Sarangpur to Dewas. A proposal for strengthening this road and constructing bridges across river Lakh under the Nainawad drain as also constructing an over bridge at Maksi Railway Crossing and a by pass road for Shajapur and Dewas towns has been pending with the Government for sanction since long.

I demand from the Government that sanction should be given as soon as possible for changing the above National Highway into a four lane Highway and for solving the above mentioned problems.

(ii) Need to review transfer policy in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, particularly in Bihar.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari): Sir, the transfer policy of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is totally vague and not justifiable. While on the one hand the sangathan has tried to bring about transparency in its transfer guidelines, it has, on the other, overlooked its for reaching repercussions. This is hindering the entire process of education and adversely affecting the education system itself.

Sir, the Kendriya Vidyalayas of Delhi metropoly have been divided into four parts in terms of transfer guidelines just to keep them off this Rule. Why this double standard policy has been made for Delhi only? Similarly, transfer guidelines of Kendriya Vidyalaya of the respective cities, i.e. Patna junction, Khagaul, Danapur, Ranchi and Hatiya, Varanasi and Kashi, Jamshedpur and Adityapur which under the Patna regional office of Bihar, should also be amended because they also fall in different stations.

I urge that keeping in view the circumstances in Bihar, it would be justifiable to stay the whole process of transfer and also suitably amend the transfer guidelines policy. Under this policy 280 teachers have been transferred in Bihar, of which 130 women teachers have been transferred to North-East and to other parts of the country. Due to this their family life has been disturbed, it should therefore, be stopped immediately.

[English]

(iii) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Orissa to solve Water logging in Bhograi block of Balasore District, Orissa.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Thirteen Gram Panchayats of Bhograi Block of Balasore district in Orissa remain inundated during the monsoon almost every year. Water logging due to the flow of water from the West Bengal side damages the kharif crop every year in an area covering about 100 square kilometres. The silting of the river and other water channels, construction of embankments parallel to the sea coast by the shrimp farmers and unauthorised encroachment of water passages by the local people are the main causes of such water logging. The State Government of Orissa is incapable of funding for such a project for drainage of water.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take it up as a Centrally-sponsored scheme and provide funds for the same.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to write off loans of farmers taken from nationalised banks in J&K.

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (Jammu): Sir, while drawing attention towards the condition of farmers of Jammu & Kashmir, I would like to state that as per the assurance given by the former Prime Minister, these farmers did not deposit the instalment of the loan taken from the banks. But now they are facing its consequences. At that time the Central Government made promise to innocent farmer but did not fulfil it. Commitment was made to other people also including businessmen and industrialists whose outstanding loans upto 50 thousands were waived off. However, outstanding loan of Rs. 10 thousand against the farmers has not been waived off so far. Now that amount has become three fold the poor farmers are unable to repay this huge amount.

I humbly request the Government and this House to write off the loans of farmers so that these innocent farmers could heave a sigh of relief.

(v) Need for construction of railway overbridge at railway gate at Makronia station in Sagar Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, a railway level crossing near Makronia station of my Parliamentary Constituency Sagar is situated on Kanpur-Bhopal national

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

highway No. 86. A large number of vehicles from various cities of U.P. including Kanpur and Reeva, Satna, Sidhi, Shadol, Shaktinagar, Panna, Chhattarpur and Teekamgarh cities of Madhya Pradesh go towards Nagpur, Madras and Bhopal the Capital of Madhya Pradesh use this National Highway and pass through this level crossing. The Engineering college of Sagar is also situated on the other side of the level crossing. Being a goods track, goods trains pass through this track after every 15-20 minutes.

Therefore, I request the Central Government that keeping in view the problems of vehicles owners the railway over bridge at railway level crossing of Makronia station should be constructed on priority basis to facilitate smooth traffic on this highway.

[English]

(vi) Need to declare Nagpur city as an embarkation point for Haj Yatris.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): The Vidarbha region has a population of more than 25 lakh Muslims and about 3000 Muslims are going for Haj Yatra from this region every year. They have to take their flights for Mecca and Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) from Mumbai. Because of the heavy rush from Maharashtra and the adjoining States, the Haj yatris from Vidarbha region face a lot of difficulties in getting the flights and have very often to wait for days together to get the flights.

The Central Haj Committee at its meeting held on 23rd June, 2001 have also adopted a resolution urging upon the Government to declare Nagpur airport as one of the embarkation points. The Airports Authority of India have also taken steps to make the airport fit for the operation of wide bodied aircraft like B-747 for the Haj flights.

The next Haj yatra is to commence from 14th January, 2002 and as such it is necessary that immediate decision to declare Nagpur as one of the embarkation point need to be taken so that the Haj yatris are informed by the Central Haj Committee about their choice for taking the flights for Mecca and Jeddah.

I would, therefore, request the Government to make the necessary announcement in this regard immediately.

(vii) Need to look into the problems being faced by allottees of Chandigarh Housing Board flats.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, the allottees of Chandigarh Housing Board flats are a harried lot today. Most of them, in the absence of any guidelines by the Board, have carried out some need-based additions and alterations without compromising with structural strength of the super structures or the architectural aesthetics. In many cases, there has been effected a marked improvement in the original poor quality of work. Now, after over ten years of inaction, the Housing Board is threatening to demolish and undo these changes, refusing to accept that architecture must move with times. This has caused widespread anxiety and concern amongst the allottees. Their woes are multiplied by the insertion of self-defeating and unrealistic provisions in rules relating to transfer of proprietary rights. No democratic discussions are being held with representatives of the Residents' Federation.

I urge the Government to call for a meeting of the Federation's representatives, public representatives and the U.T. Administration to sort out the matter and in the meanwhile, issue instructions for withdrawal of any stipulated action.

(viii) Need to withdraw ten percent reduction in import duty on agricultural products and oils.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards the recently declared import duty reduction which will affect the prices of cash crops of Kerala seriously. The Central Government, in the Budget 2001-2002, has increased the import duty to 75 per cent but subsequently, ten per cent has been reduced from that 75 per cent. This provoked the agrarian community of Kerala. I recall the protest made on 1st August, 2001 by MPs of Kerala in the House. They lodged their protest with the Prime Minister and requested to restore the old percentage. The situation has further aggravated by the Railways materialising the agreement with Malaysian Government for Rs. 180 crore in exchange of palm oil with the Government of Malaysia.

I request the hon. Finance Minister to withdraw the recently declared import duty reduction on agricultural products and oils.

(ix) Need to take stringent measures to check irregularities in financial institutions in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ignoring the guidelines of Reserve Bank, 25 commercial banks have granted loans during the past 6 years. IDBI, ICICI an IDFC have granted about Rs. 2300 crores of loans to such companies which are not genuine. During the financial year 2000-2001, 200 companies obtained loan to the tune of Rs. 1100 crores from IDBI; NCD, ICICI, and HBI through debentures and bonds which has been later converted into non-performing assets. 229 companies collected the money from capital market and then vanished. To make good of the financial losses suffered by Industrial Finance Corporation of India, an investment of Rs. 1000 crores has been made. Similarly, bad loans have weaken the financial position of these banks and therefore, funds worth Rs. 2550 crores are being given to them so that they could maintain their goodwill.

Time and again during the past years Government have stated to strengthen the monitoring system to check the economic irregularities. However, desired results have not been achieved. Therefore, my request is that the monitoring system is required to be more vigilant and effective, also there is a need to bring transparency and to fix accountability in the functioning of these financial institutions. Government should take action in this regard without any further delay.

[English]

(x) Need to suitably amend the Anti-Defection Law.

SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP (Outer Manipur): The imposition of President's rule in Manipur has been approved by both the Houses of Parliament. But, at this juncture, the pertinent issue that looms large over the political horizon of Manipur is the Government's proposition to dissolve the Manipur Assembly in the near future. Until and unless we strengthen the anti-defection law, the chronic cancer of horse-trading and floor-crossing will continue. It is almost certain to happen again and again in smaller States like Manipur, Goa, Meghalaya and others. Hence, let us first bring about changes in the Tenth Schedule so as to make the anti-defection law more effective and comprehensive. In such a fluid political situation of Manipur, the first and foremost thing to do is to restore people's confidence in political leadership and democratically elected representatives. Holding election for every two years cannot be the panacea. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government not to dissolve the present Assembly. Instead a new effective be enacted in place of the existing anti-defection law to restore people's confidence in democracy, elected representatives and rule of law.

14.25 hrs.

[English]

HYDERABAD EXPORT DUTIES (VALIDATION) REPEAL BILL

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 10 Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to repeal the Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Act, 1955, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, The Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Act, 1955 was enacted to validate the levy and collection of certain duties on export of goods from the erstwhile State of Hyderabad to other States during the period from February, 1945 to September, 1954.

The Act has become obsolete and the Government of Andhra Pradesh also has no objection to its being repealed. The Commission on Review of Administrative Laws has also recommended for repealing the same as the Act has outlived its utility.

Since the objective of the Act to validate certain actions taken during specific period has already been achieved, the Act is no longer relevant and is proposed to be repealed through The Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Bill, 2001.

Sir, I request this august House to consider and pass the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to repeal the Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Act, 1955, be taken into consideration."

This is a small Bill. Thirty minutes have been allotted. If there is no objection, we can pass it without discussion also.

[Translation]

Shri Raghuvanshji will you talk about Hyderabad? We are moving from Bihar to Hyderabad.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Act, 1955, has been moved in the House. From 1945 to 1954 Hyderabad was under Nizam rule. Export duty used to be imposed on the goods exported to other countries from there. He has stated that the Jain Commission was set up in 1998 with a view to identify all the acts which are obsolete and have outlived their utility and should be repealed. There are 2500 central acts in the country out fo which 1324 acts should be repealed at one stroke as has been recommended by Jain Commission. The Hon'ble Minister should tell us that when the commission has stated to abolish these acts and some of them have already been repealed, why the precious time of the House is being wasted in bringing such bills separately. Out of 1324 acts, how many of them are pending with the Ministry of Finance and how many of them have been repealed so far.

During the regime of Nizam there was an act to levy the duty which was abolish in 1955. All the laws regarding the levy of excise duty which used to exist between 1948 and 1954 were abolished. It is failure on the part of the Government not to abolish the invalid and obsolete acts inspite of the recommendations fo the commission. The Commission has recommended it in 1998 but the Government did not pay any heed for the three years. I do not know how many such obsolete laws still exist and are not being repealed by the Government. Central Government must be having 2500 of such acts and every state should also be having 700 to 800 acts with them. Government is cheating the people because I know that many of the law experts might not be even aware of such acts. Therefore, the Government should shed its callous approach as the Government is not required to pay any thing for it. Besides Finance department, the other departments may also be having such obsolete acts. Why the Government is not repealing them? It shows the callous approach of these departments. Many irregularities and scams are taking place in Finance department. Therefore, it is a matter of scrutiny.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of all this, Hyderabad Export Duty (Validation) Act should be repealed. Similarly other acts for which commission had recommended to repeal them in 1998 should be abolished immediately and efficiently. When this Government is not implementing the recommendations of the Commission, I do not know in which direction this Government will lead to our country...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy never speaks from his seat. He deliberately sits among the lady members. It is a matter of investigation because it is prescribed in Lok Sabha rules that any member shall speak from his seat.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Jain in 1988, and the report of the committee was submitted in 1998. In the report, recommendations were made to repeal 166 laws. The hon. Member is very rightly saying that there are many laws in various other departments, which need to be repealed. And that is why other departments are also making proposals for repealing such laws.

I urge the august House to pass this Bill unanimously.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Act, 1955, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.35 hrs.

ADVOCATES' WELFARE FUND BILL

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that you have provided.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a welfare fund for the benefit of advocates and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

In the Concurrent List of the Constitution, Entry 23 provides for social security and social insurance. Entry 26 covers the legal profession. This hon. House, therefore, has the legislative competence to enact this Bill. There have been similar legislations that have been approved in some of the States in the country. We had an opportunity to examine all of them and various bodies at the level of the Bars — the Bar Association of India, the Bar Council of India — have been repeatedly representing to the Government of India that a comprehensive legislation which covers the whole country should be proposed to this hon. House. Since there are already some legislations in some of the States, this Bill makes a specific provision that those legislations will continue to hold the field unless the State Legislatures in their wisdom decide to accept the national law rather than the State legislation.

I may explain the scheme of this legislation. We have taken guidance from a larger number of State legislations that hold the field. The scheme of this legislation is that it provides for the creation of a Fund, called, the Advocates' Welfare Fund. In this Fund, the principal donations come from the Bar Council of India. There is a provision making it mandatory for every advocate to fix a welfare stamp out of his own pocket rather than passing on the burden to the client. The advocates will fix this welfare stamp over a period of time for every case or every *waqalatnama* that they file and the entire corpus will be collected by the Bar Council of the State.

In every State, there is a provision for creation of an Advocates' Welfare Fund Trustee Committee. The Advocate-General of that State will head that Trustee Committee. It will have representation of the State Bar Council. The Secretary of the State Bar Council will be its Secretary. There will be nominees of the Bar Council to this Committee. The Secretary of the Department of Law of a State will be a Member of this Fund. The amounts which are collected in this Welfare Fund will, therefore, be amounts which are substantially collected from the advocates themselves though there is an enabling power for the Fund to collect revenues and resources from other sources also. But the principal funds will themselves come from the Bar itself.

The Act, in fact, in a facility. It is a legislation that makes the affixation of the welfare stamp mandatory and then enables the Bar Councils to collect those moneys. These moneys are intended to be used for several welfare measures. They are used, even in the absence of any social security for families of deceased advocates, for advocates upon cessation of practice and for creation of certain common facilities. There is a provision that 10 per cent of the amounts which are collected for this Fund would also be used at the level of the District Bars where the common amenities are indeed not of the best quality for improving the infrastructural facilities of these Funds. A lot of discretion has been left to these Committees that are going to be constituted in every State. These comprise of the Advocate-General of the State, the Law Secretary of the State, the Members of the Bar Council of that State who are administering the Fund. Section 24 provides for various purposes for which this Fund will actually be put to use. There could be group insurance. The money could even be provided for common facilities, such as, libraries, Bar rooms, etc. The fund makes one exception. The very categorical points that have been stated are like this. There is a certain amount which even senior advocates are expected to pay into this Fund every year. But because they belong to a more affluent class in the Bar, they are not entitled to the benefits as far as the Fund is concerned. So, this will be for the community that the Fund has been suggested.

The fund has a categorical provision in clause 27(2) that the value of the stamp which is to be affixed will be by the advocate himself and not by the client.

There are two Annexures, scheduled to this legislation. The first schedule provides for the amount which is to be paid to an advocate upon cessation of practice. I may mention that this is illustrative and each State Government has been given the power that the schedule, being a subordinate legislation annexed to this Act, can be amended by every State Government adding or improving up by every State Government, depending on the amount of fund that is available in that particular State.

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

There is also schedule two which provides for different States, where the Act already exists, with a provision in the Act that those States are at liberty to continue with their own State legislations or can switch over to the Central legislation if they find it to be of utility to the members of the Bar. The amount of stamp which has been provided for in the Act, in the first instance, is five rupees in the case of subordinate courts and ten rupees in the case of tribunals, high courts and above.

This is one of the first cases, where for a professional group where there is otherwise no social security available and there is a very large section even amongst them who are not so affluent, which seeks to create for them a social security mechanism. Some States have done it, some have implemented it, in some places it is implemented in somewhat marginal manner. Therefore, at the national level this is one of the first occasions where an effort has been made to create a social security fund of this kind.

I propose to this hon. House to support and approve this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a welfare fund for the benefit of advocates and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to have a clarification from the hon. Minister.

A statement of Objects and Reasons is attached with every new Bill and is signed by the hon. Minister. But the hon. Minister who is the Minister of Law has not even put his signatures on the statement of objects in the Bill and the objective behind the introduction of this Bill is also not clear...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL (Betul): The object has been mentioned in the Bill. The hon. Member should read it carefully. What can we do if he does not have complete papers...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Law has, for the first time, given proper thought to the fact the provision of funds should also be made for the welfare of those people who defend the law and extend their cooperation to the judicial system. There was no act or provision till date which has ever been enacted to provide social security to the lawyers, who are associated with the legal profession since long years. The family of a lawyer suffered starvation if, in case, unfortunately he died. Today we observe that if a trader dies, his son takes over his entire business. A son of a farmer manages his agricultural work, but if a lawyer dies and there is no one in his family to take up his profession, all files of the cases dealt with by him are returned and the family virtually comes to the verge of starvation. I, therefore, congratulate the hon. Minister of Law and the Government for having introduced the Bill for providing social security and strengthening the economic status of people who help in maintaining law and order of the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some amendment needs to be made in the rules and provisions of this Act. The hon. Minister said that some more funds would be provided and an increase will be made in the scheduled funds. The States would be able to make amendments in them, but I would like to say that apart from the these things we require more financial help. The various provisions made in the Bill include contribution by State Bar Council of 20 per cent of its fees received contribution of some amount by Central Advocate Bar Council funding by States and some funds to be received from donations. Despite all this, clause 27 speaks of a very important issue that the scope amount to be deposited in the welfare funds after charging stamp duty on vakalatnama be increased. What I want to say is that a Vakalatnama is not only given before civil or criminal courts and Tribunals but can also be give before the courts of ADM, SDM and in the offices of collectors and Naib Tehsildars, so its scope should be increased to the extent that wherever the Vakalatnama is given, be it a court or any other office, the Advocate should be given power of Attorney to present himself on behalf of his client, all matters, where stamp duty is charged on the vakalatnama, should be included in this, so that it could increase money and more amount could be deposited in the welfare fund.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, second thing which I want to say is that there has always been disputes over clause 27. It is mentioned in clause 27 that:-

[English]

"The value of the stamp shall neither be the cost in a case nor be collected in any event from the client."

[Translation]

It is violated in any way.

[English]

"Any contravention of the provisions of sub-section (I) or sub-section (2) by any advocate shall disentitle him either in whole or in part to the benefits of the Fund and the Trustee Committee shall report such contravention to the State Bar Council for appropriate action."

[Translation]

A court fee of Rs. 5 is not a big amount and if it so happens then any could make a complaint and the trustee committee would unnecessarily remain engaged in resolving such disputes only a for a meager amount of Rs. 5/- anyone can say that this amount was taken from him and not returned therefore, I say this provision should be deleted. It should not be made mandatory. The fee given should not be recovered, otherwise this would increase unnecessarily litigations. Moreover, Rs. 5/- is not a big amount, so as to create problems for others.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 1 would like to draw your kind attention towards two things. First that its scope should be extended and not only the civil and criminal courts, but all the courts should be included in it. The welfare stamp duty would be charged wherever vakalatnama is given. Secondly, the clause pertaining to recovery should be deleted. With these two things, I congratulate and support and hon. Minister of Law for introducing a Bill for providing financial help to the lawyers of our country.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, though any measure, legislative or administrative, intended for the welfare of the people ought to be supported, yet I am constrained to say that the Advocates' Welfare Fund Bill, 2001 gives too little too late.

Sir, a young law graduate who takes to the profession steps into a world full of uncertainities. Despite his having had a brilliant career to his credit and also the ability to articulate his views successfully, the life that lies ahead of him may not be really that certain and promising. This situation is all the more difficult for a young man who may have come from a family of modest means. Those belonging to the weaker sections of society may not even be able to afford a course at law and in no case can such a person aspire for a career as an advocate.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to this Bill appropriate underlines the need to provide for social security in the form of financial assistance to junior lawyers, but the provisions contained in the Bill miss out on this important aspect. I must also hasten to add that whatever has been provided is welcome.

The most important measure that needs to be introduced is to assure a new young entrant to the profession of some regular income in the first few years of his career. There has been a provision in the Bill to provide some assistance to buy books, but a good library is much more than just having some books. He got to have good premises and a well-stocked library to start off in the profession. This Bill misses out on these important aspects. A scheme needs to be formulated to associate new entrants to the profession with Legal Aid Scheme and there is need to give them an opportunity to appear for the Government in various courts and tribunals. To begin with, it may be to assist the senior counsel.

The young lawyers do not need charity but an opportunity to work and contribute their labour to the cause of justice. It was in late 1980s that the Behrulal Islam Committee made some recommendations in this regard but with the new Government taking over, the priorities shifted and we heard nothing thereof. After a gap of over 10 years, the hon. Minister has come forward with these suggestions. I certainly welcome them. But it is only a few things that I referred to, which I would like to him to take care of. The most important aspect that I have referred to is the need to provide some sort of an assured income to the new entrants so that they can stick on to the profession with hope and expectation, and do not soon become a frustrated lot in this world of cut-throat competition.

The hon. Member speaking before me has referred to one provision in the Bill which I also must really say is an important provision, that is, the introduction of the affixation of stamp on the *Waqalatnama* etc by the lawyers to generate income to serve as the corpus of this fund. I would also admit that if it is just Rs. 5, you cannot really keep an account of it. When the client comes to you and pays you the fee, he would not really ask you as to what is the break up of the expenditure thereon in filing a case. Therefore to incorporate a provision to the effect that if the lawyer charges those five rupees from the client he would be liable to certain penal action, I suppose, is not really necessary and it could only lead to some difficulty. There is also a good provision that the Bar Council will contribute 20 per cent of their earnings from the enrolment of new members towards the corpus of this Fund.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

One provision which I could not really understand is this. The Trust Committee has been made all powerful under this Act and it is not the Chairman of the Bar Council but the Advocate-General who is supposed to be the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Trust Committee. I have no objection to that. The Committee has also been declared to be a body corporate. I do not know how it has been provided that the printing of the stamps shall be done at the behest of the Bar Council and that the Bar Council shall maintain the accounts thereof. If the money vests in the Trust Committee, if the Committee has to utilise that money and hear the applications from different people seeking assistance. I do not really find any rationale in bringing in the Bar Council in this aspect. The stamps to be affixed should be printed at the instance of this Trust Committee itself by the Government and handed over to this Committee for the Committee to distribute it through the various Bar Associations for ultimately affixing on the *vakalatnamas* and memorandum of appearance, etc. The hon. Minister may kindly look into this.

There are one or two aspects that I would briefly like to refer to. Amongst the sources of income for the fund, it has been mentioned in clause 3(2) (g):

> "All sums received from the Life Insurance Corporation of India or any other insurer on the death of any member of the fund under any insurance policy..."

On the face of it, it is all right but I think what should have been added here is that this 'insurance policy' should have been qualified by the words 'obtained by the Trust Committee'. I know of cases in my own High Court, in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana. The Bar Association there is running an Advocates' Benevolent Fund. On the one side they have their own set of rules and on the other hand advocates have got together at the instance of the Bar Association itself to obtain another group insurance policy. Therefore, if you were to just extend this law as such, the income accruing under those schemes, under the policy taken or obtained by the Bar Association would also have to be perforce added to this fund. So, you have got to make a provision under clause 3(2) (g) and (h), to apply it only to income from the insurance policies, which are obtained by the Trust Committee, and not to others. All other schemes could work independently to the exclusion of the schemes stipulated under this Act. I suppose, this is one small amendment that needs to be made.

It is good that we have provided for certain exiegencies like hospitalisation of an advocate, his having had to undergo major surgical operation or suffer from scourges like tuberculosis, leprosy, cancer or unsoundness of mind and to extend some assistance during such times. But the amount has not be specified for this assistance. I do not know that would be the guidelines regarding the extent of the benefit. This would be covered under the rules. But under Schedule II, which deals with the grant of benefit on the member of the fund ceasing to be a lawyer because of any eventuality — maybe, death or voluntarily giving up practice — this is too small an amount. If an advocate, after ten years of practice or memberships, gets just Rs. 10,000, what for are we preparing these schemes? It is only to provide some tangible benefits to the people. It is good that we have schemes like this but these schemes should also work. Actually, if you look into any aspect of Government's activities you would find extravagance all over, wasteful expenditure incurred by the Government on the smallest of occasions. When you celebrate some occasions, you spend crores of the rupees. There is a provision in this Bill that the Governments, both at the Centre and in the States, would contribute to the fund. But kindly provide for amendments contribution, because then only you would earn the goodwill of the people that you have really done something worthwhile for them. You have to provide that each State Government out of their respective funds would contribute at least a crore of rupees and the Government of India would provide at least Rs. 5 crore to start the corpus.

15.00 hrs.

The Hon'ble Minister says that he is leaving it to the Government. Sir, I think that this clause has been drafted in just a routine bureaucratic manner and it may not really serve the purpose. If a lawyer dies - I will not like to use the word 'indigent' which has been used - after 30 years of his having slogged in the profession, he is going to get such a meagre sum. In situations and circumstances which call for some compassionate consideration of his circumstances, to extend him the benefit of just Rs. 30,000 would not be enough. I would urge the hon. Minister to take care of this.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to express another viewpoint. Hon. Minister has provided for a provision of common facilities. It is very fine. But the hon. Minister himself knows in what pitiable conditions you have the premises of the courts, the places from where the lawyers work, in the mofussils, tehsils and district headquarters. What are we going to do about it?

What are we going to provide for them? In one of the earlier legislations, he had provided for deployment electronic gadgets and modern means of communications, but how can he do it with the resources that he himself is asking for? I can understand if he makes a demand and the Ministry of Finance does not agree to it, but I would request him to please make a beginning and ask for something by which we can start off well.

Finally, I would like to raise a small matter about the form of the Bill. We have Schedule II which enumerates 16 States legislations which, in fact, recognises the right of the State Governments to formulate their own laws and this Bill gives them power, apart from the Union Government, to amend Schedule I from time to time, meaning thereby that if the States wish to have their own legislation, it is good, and if they do not, the Centre will, through this piece of legislation, come to the aid and assistance of advocates during that critical period of their career when they need some help. What I find is that reference to amendment in Schedule-II is provided first and the reference to this Schedule as such is the last clause of this Bill. Clause 38 says:

> "The provisions of this Act shall not apply to the States in which the enactments specified in Schedule II are applicable."

The provision should have been somewhere earlier, to say that this Act shall extend to such and such States and in such and such matters. Thereafter, the power of amendment should have come.

With these words, I once again appreciate that at least an effort has been made. We did not really want this matter to be delayed by taking the usual course of sending the Bill to the Standing Committee. We want this Bill to be passed immediately so that something gets going and a mechanism is put in place for lawyers' benefit. At the same time, I would request the hon. Minister to give a serious thought to it. Maybe, after the Bill is passed, he may refer it to the Committee, have a meeting with advocates and with representatives of lawyers because I find that there is a provision to confer certain powers on the Bar Council to nominate advocates to the Trust Committee. But there is no such authority with or occasion for the President of High Court Bar Association or President of a District Bar Association to be represented thereon. These are matters which need to be considered and I am sure that the hon. Minister would take care of those matters. With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, in principle, I support this Bill, but the scheme is not acceptable. Now, the legal profession, as we know, is facing crisis and we will have to maintain professional integrity also. There have been erosions in the recent past and they are there now-a-days also. All those things are there but, at any rate, I have to speak from my own experience. The Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, the first of its kind in India, was passed in the Kerala Legislature as early as in 1980. I was a Member of the Assembly at that time. I took pain and initiative to getting the Bill passed.

The Bill was finally passed and given effect to. Now, the scheme provided in the Kerala Act and the scheme of the Central Government in this Bill are entirely different. In the first place, the approach itself is different. Whenever a social legislation is passed, the Government also will have to play a role. In the Kerala Act, the State Government is also contributing to the Welfare Fund. They have decided to contribute and that provision is there in the statute itself. We all know that the Government is getting revenue collections from the Stamp Act and so many other things. The legal fraternity or the legal profession is a part and parcel of our legal system. You cannot think of eliminating the professoinals or the lawyers. So, the Government is duty-bound to make a contribution towards the Fund. That salient feature, the most important and the vital factor is absent in this scheme.

We are definitely discussing a State legislation as well as 'concurrent legislation' if I may put it. I am happy that the States have been given the choice of continuing their own scheme. I do agree with it, but the stand taken by the Central Government, by the hon. Law Minister, is ridiculous. Think of a lawyer who is practising for 30 years and the fund that is provided to him is only Rs. 30,000. A *beedi* worker gets Rs. 50,000 and the Tailors Act provides for one lakh of rupees. In the lawyers' case, a lawyer practising for 30 years will only get Rs. 30,000.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansal had already mentioned that point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This amount of Rs. 30,000 is not even sufficient for his funeral rites. After 30 years, he will have to say good-bye to the world. Then, this amount of Rs. 30,000 will not be enough for meeting his funeral expenses. I wonder how Shri Arun Jaitley forgot it!...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Those with advocate background can speak on this subject.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: At this stage, one gets Rs. 30,000. After 30 years, what will be the value of Rs. 30,000? It will be less than Rs. 3,000. At the market value or the value of the rupee at that stage, it will be less than Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000. As per this provision, in future, after the lapse of 30 years of service in the profession, what he will get is Rs. 30,000, that is, Rs. 1,000 per year. It is ridiculous, fantastic, and I cannot agree with him. In the Kerala Act which was passed 21 years ago...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Are you a senior advocate?

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): No, he is not.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: In the Kerala Act, a lawyer who has put in 30 years of practice will get one lakh of rupees. Now, this amount was raised to three lakhs of rupees. At the time when it was passed 21 years back, it was one lakh of rupees. When I took the initiatives, when I participated in the legislative process or in the discussion of the Bill, we arrived at a consensus that the amount that was awardable to a lawyer after 30 years of practice would be one lakh of rupees. That was 21 years back. Last time, we had raised it to three lakh rupees for a lawyer. Therefore, it is very ridiculous that the Central Government, without contributing a pie to Lawyers's Fund, fixed this amount Rs. 30,000 for a lawyer who has been practising for 30 years. I am extremely sorry about this.

Another fact or is that we have not excluded anybody in the Kerala Act. Irrespective of a lawyer being senior or junior, those who contribute to the Fund can get it. It is left to them. The choice is with the lawyer. The lawyer can opt out. There is no compulsion for the lawyer to become a member of the Fund.

The senior lawyers need not compulsory become members of the Fund. The choice should be left to them. If they want to become, then they can become members of the Fund by paying the prescribed contribution. Nobody should be left out. The choice should be left to the lawyers as to whether they would like to remain outside the purview of the Fund or not. All the lawyers who contribute to this Fund would be eligible for this amount whenever he requires that amount for the purpose of his practice.

Sir, I am not personnaly worried about this Act. It is because the Kerala Act will prevail in my case. But this is ridiculous in the context of that in an All India legislation, the hon. Minister is proposing a sum of Rs. 30,000 for the lawyers whereas the Kerala Act has provided for a sum of rupees three lakhs. Irrespective of a lawyer being senior or junior, he can become a member of the Fund. Such a provision should also be introduced here in this legislation. Why should we leave out the senior lawyers if they are interested to become Members fo the Fund? Now, they have been asked to contribute a sum of rupees one thousand for this. How could they be asked for this amount? Is it for the simple reason that they are senior lawyers? The senior lawyers are now being asked to compulsorily pay a sum of rupees one thousand. What is the purpose? You cannot compel a person to contribute a sum of rupees one thousand when he is not a member of the Fund. That is why, this proposal is not acceptable to that extent. The Government would have to change the scheme in such a way that anybody who is desirable of becoming a member may be given a chance to become a member of that Fund. The choice to keep out of the fund should rest with the lawyers. So, my suggestion is that, firstly the Government should increase the amount of Rs. 30,000 and secondly, the choice to remain out of the Fund should lie with the lawyers themselves. The Government cannot compel a senior member to contribute a sum of rupees one thousand for nothing.

Sir, what is the role of the Central Government in this? The Government has put in the Secretary, Ministry of Law and the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and all other important officials in the Board of Trustees but the Government is not contributing anything. Who are the members of the Board of Trustees? This law provides that the members of the Board of Trustees would be the Secretary, appropriate Government, in the Ministry of Law; Secretary, appropriate Government, in the Ministry of Home Affairs. These two Secretaries are there.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: They are the Secretaries of the State Governments.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: If it is for the Union, then the Law Secretary of the Union Government would be there. The Secretaries of the Union Government would be represented in the Board of Trustees but the Central Government would not contribute a pie. What is the contribution of the Central Government? The Central Government collects the Stamp duty and all such things in various ways.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Some State Governments will get.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Central Government is not contributing a pie to this Fund. But there is the Supreme Court of India. There are the High Courts functioning in this country. The persons working in the legal profession are getting money but when the Government thinks of making a Fund for the welfare of the lawyers, the Central Government does not contribute a pie to it. I did not expect such a treatment to be meted out to the lawyers from the hon. Minister. There must be a contribution from the Central Government to this Fund. Why does the Government refrain from contributing to this Fund? Some of the State Governments are prepared to contribute to this Welfare Fund. The State Governments will contribute in all social security measures and in welfare schemes.

There is no other welfare fund wherein the State Government have a role to play. This is the only legislation in India where the Government of India is not contributing even a pie to the scheme. Is it proper? Is it just? Are advocates second-class citizens? Does the Government consider them second-class citizens? They are also making their contributions. They are not collecting it from their clients. They are making the contributions from their own pockets. The Government will have to recognise the profession of lawyers as a noble profession. The Minister is also bound to contribute to the fund.

The Government has nominated the Law Secretary and the Home Secretary to govern the fund. What is the *locus standi* of the Government as far as this fund is concerned? When it is not contributing anything to the fund, why should the Government depute the Secretaries of the concerned Ministries? Sufficient representation is not given to the lawyer community. The Bar Associations are not duly represented in the Committee. Two members of the respective Bar Associations in the States as well as in the Union Government, either of the Supreme Court or the High Courts, must be nominated as members. Without that type of a representation, it cannot be said that the scheme is entirely meant for the lawyers's benefit. The scheme will have to be altered with that in view.

I have given amendments for increasing the amount and also for giving representation to the Bar Associations on the welfare fund. After all it is only a trusteeship. They can do it. So, I request the hon. Law Minister to accept my amendments and make suitable changes in the scheme of the Bill making it a true welfare fund for advocates. I think the law Minister consider all these aspects and the scheme will be altered in such a way that the legal profession is given its rightful place in the scheme.

I support the legislation in principle, but request the Law Minister to make changes in the scheme.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Advocates Welfare Fund Bill, 2001 introduced by the hon. Minister of Law. But alongwith this, I would like to say a few things.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you also an advocate?

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Yes, Sir.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only advocates are speaking on this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I obtained my law degree from the Allahabad University. I also got an opportunity to work with advocates in the rural areas as well as districts, so I have sufficient experience in this field. They have to face a lot of difficulties. The new law graduates are facing many difficulties now a days. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Law more towards those boys who came from tehsils and districts to practice in High Courts. Such boys have to face many difficulties in their profession. They are not getting a proper place, or a chamber to sit and pursue their practice nor do they have any access to any library wherein they can read and consult books. Provisions have been made for their untimely death and other conditions. But I wish that advocates hailing from villages should be provided with basic facilities either they do their practice in tehsils or somewhere else. Efforts should be made to encourage them. Money is the main problem for them when they face health problems.

[Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel]

Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I request the hon. Minister to kindly give his reply only after considering the problems being faced by the young law graduates entering this legal profession and their present condition. There is no service for providing Health facility to them, they have no seat in the chambers. I have seen in tehsils. They do not have proper place to sit, be it rains, or summers or scorching sun. Besides, they are not provided with any facility as such. The hon. Minister is an eminent lawyer and must be frequently visiting High Courts or Supreme Court, and he must have visited a tehsil courts as well and seen the condition of lawyers there with his own eyes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while framing new laws in the coming days the Government should take care that new advocates should also get a chance to practice. There have been several Ministers of Law who used to practice in Supreme Court or High Court. Shri Shanti Bhushan is one of them who used to practice in Allahabad High Court. Several judges have been advocates earlier. Hon'ble Minister may be aware of the fact that in comparison to the income of advocates practising in district courts, the income of advocates, who practice in Supreme Court or high court is quite higher. There should be a provision in this bill to fix the limit of fees charged by advocates. Poor villagers do not have capacity to pay fees charged by advocates of Supreme Court or High Courts. This fee should be fixed and provision should be made for contribution in Advocates' Welfare Fund.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a provision has been made in this Bill for payment of Rs. 30,000 for welfare of advocates. Provision should be made for payment of certain amount to the family in case of death of an advocate in accident. It has been noticed that in case of death of an advocate often his family face starvation. Therefore, a provision should be made for payment of certain amount to the family of an advocate practising in district or lower courts in case of his death.

With these words I conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has brought the Advocates Welfare Fund Bill, 2001 prior to it, in 1974 it was introduced in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and in 1980 in Kerala and in some other States also. In olden times, the people belonging to affluent class used to go in this profession and poor people were unable to get a chance. We have also seen that most of the leaders who took part in freedom struggle were advocates by profession. Wealthy people used to go to foreign countries for studying law and they were known as barrister, Bar-at-law etc. After Independence it has been noticed that poor people and villagers also started joining this profession.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now Patelji was saying that advocates do not have space for sitting in tehsil and district courts and I feel that advocates have to pay fees for getting space. Their chairs are fastened by chains with the pole so that someone may not take it away.

There is scrambling for chairs. I have seen that in some courts legs of chairs are chained to a pole or the table. There is no proper arrangements for clients and they keep on standing, junior advocates also do not get any space to sit. The eminent advocates get more clients and their fee is also high, one lakh, two or three lakh and sometimes more than that. They accept cases of rich people. Our Minister of Law is also very smart. He has influence in high courts and supreme court. Former Minister of Law Shri Ram Jethmalani is also an eminent and smart advocate but he is smarter. He has reached here by removing him.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, people come to this stage by advocating the cause of poor and solving problems of public. But he is very clever. He got elected to Rajya Sabha first and then become Minister. We appreciate his smartness. He is also very clever in making use of political opportunities. There are two types of advocates in the courts-one who charge hefty fees and other the new entrants in the field. I do not know whether they earn even Rs. 10 or sufficient money to meet their expenses. They charge very less fees and face difficulties. There are two classes — one the rich advocates earning lot of money who accept selected cases. There should be some control on fees of eminent lawyers. There is no limit to the fees charged by them as there is no limit of dowry given for a prosperous, employed and educated bridegroom. No one knows the amount of dowry demanded by him. In the same manner there is no limit to the fees charged by eminent advocates. Advocates do not say or demand fee but their clerks do so. These clerks create a lot of problems for clients. If a poor client comes and tells that he does not have money to pay fees. One can go to Supreme Court or High Court none will listen to him. Therefore all the members are in favour of setting up Advocates' Welfare Fund for new entrants who do not get clients and do not earn sufficient money. In earlier times rich people could stay at homes for one or two years reading standard books before starting their

practice in court but it is difficult for unemployed poor people. We face the problem of unemployment in our country. Here people take to study for getting job and when after schooling they do not get employment they start doing their graduation, post-graduation and Ph.D. to hide their unemployment. Even then if they do not get employment they take up to LLB. There is a rule for examination of lawyers. It is stated that while pleading cases in courts lawyers consult books and in the same manner lawyers consult books even during examination of law. In this way people pass examination and become lawyers without hard work and much efforts...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, sometimes it happens in House also.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: MP's are considered to be clever. But they also resort to such practice of bringing written material for debate. They cannot debate in the House on their own.

In the same most of the lawyers pay fees and go to their houses. They are not getting employment. The condition of new lawyers especially from poor families is critical. Their standard of living is very poor.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): They even cannot draft a single paper for their clients.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Therefore, the senior advocates should train them. But they feel that in that case new entrant would start sharing their income...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): You joined Karpuri Thakur and Lalooji when you cold not establish your practice in court.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Late Karpuri Thakurji was a public leader. He used to listen to common man and raise issues concerning them. I am one of his followers. Karpuriji and Lohiaji had taught us to advocate the cause of poor people of the country at every forum. Everyone plead the case of rich and flatter them. Industrialists in our country get the laws framed according to their need but the oppressed and poor people who come from villages, have nobody to raise their voice. There is a saying in Bihar that "Sukhle footani aise" which means that with increasing power and treasure declines. The Government are not contributing any money and laws are being enacted. Just now Varkala Radhakrishnanji has rightly said that what is the use of enacting a law. Now client would be forced to pay the stamp duty of Rs. 5 Client has to pay the money spent by advocate in preparing stamp paper. What is the contribution of the Government? The Government are not contributing a single rupee under this bill and there is no provision of contribution by affluent advocates under this fund. The Government should also contribute to this fund and provision should also be made for group insurance and health facility for new lawyers who have no room to sit and work. The Government should make all these provisions in this bill. The lawyers should also be given representation in it otherwise officers will make it more complicated and the actual needy will get nothing out of it. I support the bill for setting up Advocates Welfare Fund but it should be made more simple. The Government should take care that more funds should be collected under this fund. Someone has rightly pointed out that there is no uniformity on this matter in various States. It will bring uniformity. The new advocates belonging to poor families will be benefited by it. With these words I support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Sir, I fully support this Bill. At the same time, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the sufferings of the advocates due to economic disabilities. The Government has taken a view as if all the senior advocates are having good practice and they need not be given any retirement benefits. I personnaly know a number of senior advocates, who have been elevated as senior advocates after being into practice for five to ten years, whose life style changes totally due to their own family circumstances.

Therefore, these people should not be prohibited from getting the benefit out this fund.

I can tell you from my own experience as a lawyer who practised in the mofussil court, the High Court and then in the Supreme Court that only 20 per cent of the lawyers are getting regular practice. Rest of the people are not having the practice. They get only one or two cases per month or even once in six months. Therefore, their families and their welfare should be looked into. I know certain people who used to say that if you are in the practice for four years, then you would not be fit for any other profession. It is because things like laziness and taking things in their own way creep in them. These things entice the lawyers not to go away from practice for other jobs. Therefore, this situation should also be taken into consideration and people who are suffering should be benefited.

[Shri E.M. Sudersana Natchiappan]

Sir, only three clauses are focussing upon the benefits which they are going to get. These are clauses 19,21 and 24. Under clause 19, there is a provision for *ex gratia* for particular disease. Leprosy is also included in it. But leprosy is now being eradicated by the Department of Health.

Sir, many advocates are dying because of heart attack. These people should be looked after. People who are having low status and are practising in mofussil courts are suffering. Therefore, *ex gratia* payment should be fixed so that it could be compensatory. If there is any medical expenditure amounting to Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 1.25 lakh, that should be compensated. They should not be left in the lurch because their families are having no other source of income except practising.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to clause 21 regarding cessation of practice. After 65 years of age, there should be some age of retirement. The advocates who are ready to do away practice, may be given voluntary retirement. It should not be compulsory retirement. Then only young lawyers can come up. Otherwise, people who are retiring as judges, are again doing practice. They occupy a place. With the result, the young lawyers are unable to compete with them. Therefore, the competition is also very high. Therefore, if some ceiling of 65 years or 70 years is given for application of this particular clause, it will be very useful for the youngsters to come up. I would also like to draw the attention of the Government that the senior lawyers are not filing the *vakalatnama*. Therefore, they are not going to give any contribution. So, they will not be worrying about it. But at the same time, they should also be benefited and their families should be taken care of.

Sir, normally, the lawyers are not getting any advances from any bank. The lawyers, the policemen, and the Press people are disqualified from taking any loan from banks. The same disqualification is there in getting a house or office on rent. Therefore, there should be a provision in clause 24 for getting loan for constructing house or office. When you are framing the rules, that aspect may also be looked into.

A provision for electronic acknowledgment is also provided. It is in clause 11(2)(g) which says:

> "communicate to the applicants, by registered post with acknowledgment due or through electronic mode.."

Clause 24 provides for monies for members of the Fund for purchase of books and 'electronic goods namely, CDs" Now, all the law books are available as CDs. That also should be provided.

Finally, I would like to sum up with the social aspect saying that the life of lawyers should be looked into when the rules are framed. There should be representation for the Mofussil Bar in the Committee at the State level.

Section 26(6) says:

> "...State Bar Council after paying the value thereof as reduced by ten per cent of such value towards incidental expenses."

That also should be given to the subordinate court associations. There should be some ceiling for the associations. There should not be more than one association in one area. Otherwise, there will be rivalry in getting the associations registered.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is good that some sort of a thinking is there. This is not a pioneering legislation nor I think it is an improvement on the State legislation either. We do not know whether the Central Government or the hon. Minister felt it necessary to ascertain the experiences of the different State Governments about the applicability of this law. At least I tried to find it out from my State and they said that nobody contacted them. They have not tried to get the opinion of the State Governments and nobody consulted them. Therefore, we have been hearing many views on the subject. All are supporting the Bill. But there are certain areas where still some doubts are there. Every suggestion is, I believe, for the improvement of this legislation. Therefore, it would have been better if the experience of different State Governments had been taken note of.

Here, everybody understands it and as Shri Bansal said, almost all the State Bar Associations or Bar libraries as in my State at Kolkata, have some sort of non-official and voluntary funds from which some help is given at the time of difficulties to our friends in the profession. But so are as this is concerned, the matter of greatest importance is the availability of money. Now, where does the money come from? I do not know whether there is any computation made by the Central Government or assessment by the Ministry on the basis of contribution of Rs. 50, Rs. 100 and Rs. 1000. I think this law will be applicable to Delhi. How much money are you expecting from Delhi, what would be the need and whether sufficient money will be there or not? After all, so far as insurance purpose is concerned, it would be done through the LIC

and rightly, it should be done so. But unless there is a sizeable contribution made, I should have thought that many problems could have been solved if the Government of India had decided to provide funds even to the State Governments because all these are non-partisan matters. These are not to be treated either as political matters or party matters. There is a general desire that our colleagues who are in the profession should lead a secure life. Some reasons have been pointed out by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. The legal profession has become the easiest of professions to get into. Although it is a profession with a principle and also self-employment — I have the privilege to be in this profession the sheer number now has made it impossible for a lawyer to succeed easily. We have a huge population and we find that other avenues of employment are reducing. There are problems of going into business faced by the middle class. Therefore, they are going into the legal profession. I agree that senior lawyers are not doing their duty. They are not training the young lawyers also. There are very many pitfalls which I am not going into at the moment.

But I would expect the hon. Minister to make a commitment here. Otherwise, everybody is questioning as to what is the role of the Central Government and what motivated the Government to bring forward this legislation, except giving a pat on his own back saying that he has piloted this Bill.

Sir, it is very good to say that the lawyers will pay the amount themselves, but they will get it from their clients and pay, but these are meaningless provisions. Therefore, I thought that some contribution coming from the Government would be of real help instead of nibbling here and there. I agree with Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. He has raised a very pertinent point. There are many senior advocates who are very willing to pay. The amount is also, according to me, a pittance. But, I think, this Bill was drafted probably before the hon. Minister's Government came into power. Thanks to this Government, the money value of the rupee is nothing; it is in steep decline. Therefore, what can you do with this amount of Rs. 30,000? After 30 years, even if you give this amount, probably nobody will take it.

Sir, this is a provision for those lawyers who are going out of practice or giving up practice and those who have got certain difficulties. I believe Clause 19 deals with personal problems like hospitalisation, certain illness, etc. What is actually needed is that there should be some provision for enabling the junior lawyers and those lawyers who are not that successful, to have the benefit of accommodation, library, or some sort of a common facility centre, if it could be provided. The hon. Minister has a lot of experience and, I am sure, he must have also visited many of the district court bars or even the sub-divisional level courts and seen the pathetic conditions prevailing there. Everywhere it is the same thing. There is hardly adequate accommodation; there are no library facilities and they are really struggling even for just a place to sit and a place to work, apart from the miserable condition of the court rooms also in many places. Therefore, some help during the practice would be welcomed more.

I certainly join all my colleagues here who have spoken of the paucity of the amount. This amount should be raised and a more comprehensive provision should be made for this. I know this Bill has a limited scope, but let the Minister also consider this point that if we are really sincere and serious to see that those who are taking part in the legal profession can at least, render better service, we have to provide the lawyers this much confidence that something would be available to them after they choose to retire.

Sir, speaking for myself, we have no pension, except as a Member of Parliament. I do not know whether Shri Arun Jaitley is eligible for pension; probably he will be eligible for that if he continues to remain a Minister. So, we have no pension, provident fund and gratuity. Therefore, I would request the Minister to make it a sum which is worthwhile. Secondly, the senior advocates will have no compulsion, except to pay, but they will not at all be the beneficiaries.

I do not know whether it amounts to taxation or not. That has to be considered.

Shri Jaitley, I am sure that you feel for these people. You are aware of their problems. We can all discuss how to do it. You can formulate some mechanism to stand by the people who, in their own way, are also contributing to the development of our society, resolving the problems and disputes that are arising between the people. Therefore, whatever may be the light in which the lawyers may be looked at some places by some people, after all, we are trying to render service to the society. Therefore, they are also eligible for this consideration. But the Government shall have to take a leading role in the matter. That is my humble submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: You can seek a clarification after the Minister finishes his speech. I called your name but you were not available.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can seek the clarification later on. Please understand that we have to take up another matter at four o' clock.

SHRI A.C. JOS: May I suggest a point? Everybody said about Rs. 30,000. My request to the hon. Minister is about the powers to use the amount. By the time the Fund is enhanced, the power to give money to calculate it should be given to the Trustees so that if there is more money, Rs. 30,000 shall not be pegged to that amount. This can be decided.

All Bar Councils have a lot of money. They have got the enrolment fee. Now, section 15 provides that 20 per cent of the money can be taken from the Bar Council's Fund to this fund. The hon. Minister can accept it. At least 30 per cent of the money can be taken from the Bar Council's Fund.

Now, the amount towards the LIC could also be enhanced. At least Rs. 10 lakh can be given.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chakraborty, what is your viewpoint?

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Our point is that we have been deprived from speaking on many things In this House, the lawyers should get a chance. I have been a practising advocate for more than 20 years. I belong to a lower court. I think, Shri Arun Jaitley and Shri Somnath Chatterjee are not able to appreciate the problems faced by the lawyers, and the plight and fate of the lawyers in the lower courts. So, we have been deprived of a chance to highlight it because we are lawyers from the lower courts. They are lawyers of the higher courts, so they got a chance earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your viewpoint? The time is very short.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Besides being the Speaker you are a lawyer also, you should also intervene in this issue.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Due to constraint of time, I will not go into the details. I support and welcome the Advocates' Welfare Found Bill with some reservations. This Bill has been brought forward with the intention to render social security by way of financial assistance to the junior lawyers and the lawyers of other classes. In our country, there are two classes of lawyers. One is the privileged class. They are practising in the Supreme Court and High Courts. The other class of lawyers practise in the district courts and the subordinate courts.

I have already told that the lawyers like Shri Arun Jaitley and Shri Somnath Chatterjee have not been able to appreciate the plight and the sufferings of the lawyers of the district courts and subordinate courts. So, the lawyers of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are demanding and getting a huge amount of fees that are unthinkable and unimaginable. It is very much a problem on the part of the common people to reach the High Courts or the Supreme Court and engage senior lawyers. I belong to a lower court.

There is no facility of library, Sometimes I have to rush to my district court in Barasat...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I have a point of order and that is that advocates are themselves a party in this, so they should not be allowed to speak.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: There is no facility for purchasing books, even though lawyers practising at the lower courts have no financial capacity. They have sub-standard chambers. And also the buildings of the library of Bar Association and of the lower courts are in dilapidated conditions. The lower court does not have any capacity even to rebuild its own buildings.

I have seen in the lower courts the lawyers sitting on torn benches and chairs. This is the condition of the lawyers there. So, special provision should be made for the construction of Bar Association library, for providing facilities to purchase books and special provision should be made for the welfare of the advocates and giving financial assistance to the libraries at the district court and the subordinate court. They are the pillars and architects of our judicial system.

The lawyers appearing for their cases in the lower courts have to appear for the cases under Section 302, Section 364, Section 376 of the IPC and so on. They are advocating the cases on behalf of their clients in

such cases. So, I urge upon the hon. Law Minister to make a special provision for the welfare fund of the district courts and lower courts lawyers. The 30 per cent amount which is fixed for the lawyers is not sufficient amount. I would appeal to the hon. Minister not to treat the lawyer as a beggar. After thirty years, they will get only Rs. 30,000. After thirty years the value of this amount of Rs. 30,000 will be Rs. 3 only.

Sir, one more point I would like to say before I sum up. The trustee committee consists of a secretary, there is no lawyers. So, lawyers must also be represented in this committee. So, I urge the hon. Minister to make a special provision for the welfare of the lawyers of subordinate courts and district courts.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I am extremely grateful to the Membes who have participated in the discussion on this Bill and almost all of them, without exception, not only supported the Bill but also suggested some areas where it could be improved upon.

I must clarify at the very outset the question which Shri Somnath Chatterjee has raised. From amongst the State Government which had it and the State where it has been implemented, we did seek copies of all the State legislations. I consulted the Bar Council of India, several Bar Associations, the Law Commission as to what is the experience in each of the State. There were a large number of States where this law was not applicable because there was no law. In the Union Territories, there was no law and in some of the States, we also noticed that the implementation did lack because of certain specific reasons. Therefore, the areas of concern which had been expressed, we wanted to give the rights to the States to continue with their own legislation, with an option that if they found the Central legislation more beneficiary, they could opt for it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They want Central money.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I may at the very outset deal with three-four principal issues which have been raised by several Members. The first, as to where the entire cropus of the fund really will come from?

That, in fact, Shri Chatterjee and other Members were right that really is the heart and soul of the matter as to whether it will have only those Rs. 50,000 which he referred to or will it be an active fund. In a number of States, the membership was not compulsory and that was one reason that enforceability of the welfare stamp on a regular basis was not possible. This was one of the reasons where it was found lacking in implementation in some of the States.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We have enforced it in our State.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: That is why, Kerala is very successful. Therefore, under clause 3, we have enumerated the various areas where the funds will come from. The funds will come from in the form of 20 per cent of the entire collection made by a Bar Council from the enrolment fee, which will be transferred to the welfare fund rather than we spend it on the administrative expenses of the Bar Council itself.

16.00 hrs.

If there is surplus money, as Shri Jos was suggesting to me, then the surplus money can be transferred by the Bar Councils. Under clause 3(2)(d), we have made a specific provision that the Central and the State Governments, after due appropriation can also contribute to this fund. Under articles 203 and 204, we are enabling a fund here. We cannot say as to how the States will appropriate their expenses. So, an enabling provision was created....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You can bring a provision applicable to the Government. You can compel the State Government....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: There is an enabling provision for both the Central and the State Governments to make a contribution. Clause 3(2)(d) has been specifically provided for. Kindly do not have a worry on that score.

Finally, besides the insurance policies, interest, all sums which are collected by sale of stamps under clause 26, and the sale of stamps and the model which we have adopted from some of the States, where the State Government print those stamps on behalf of the Bar Council. The Bar Council is the agency through which it is distributed and the membership is compulsory. Annual subscription is also payable by those who become a member, and, therefore, by this entire process, which has been made mandatory, it is being made sure and adequate amount of money is collected in this fund. I can not give you how much each State will collect. But if you were just to take a broad assessment of the number of cases filed in the subordinate courts in the country itself every year, it is over a crore. Therefore, if you multiply the all India figure at Rs. 5/- into two — there will be two sides every year — that itself will give you how much will be in the subordinate courts.

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal asked what about other authorities. We have made it very clear in the Act itself that these are required to be put in all courts subordinate to the district courts and all other authorities also. That is a provision. It is contained in the Act itself...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I did not say that. I only said that the power to collect should vest with the Trustee Committee and not with the bar council.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I will explain the reasons for that. Under clause 27, the point Shri Bansal has made is that it is Rs. 5/- in District Court and subordinate Court; Rs. 10/- in Tribunals, other authorities, and High Courts. For every authority, where vakalatnama is required to be filed, this fund has been made mandatory.

The membership of the fund has been made compulsory under clause 18 the Bill itself. A question has been raised and which has agitated a large number of members as to this amount of Rs. 30,000/- after thirty years is itself on the seemingly inadequately. If we see the prescription which has been made under this Act as to what is the purpose for which moneys are going to be spent, moneys are going to be spent under section 19 for *ex-gratia* payments in cases of illness and disease where treatments are required. Moneys are going to be paid under section 21 for cessation of practice. We checked up the Schedules in most of the State legislation and in a predominantely large number of them, the Schedules were almost identical. But the Schedule, as Shri Jos has very rightly observed, should not be a mandatory Schedule and we have to amend the law. Therefore, we have incorporated the all India pattern and that Schedule is only for a limited payment. It is not the entire payment under this Act. I will explain what the payments are. Under clause 32, we have made a provision, as Shri Jos has said, that upon cessation of practice, if it is Rs. 30,000/-, depending upon the fund available and on the recommendation of the Trustee Committee, the State Government can change and alter this amount. Therefore, this amount depending on the moneys available in a State fund are amendable by an Executive notification itself and that power has been given to the State Government on the advice of the Trustee Committee. But then, this is not the entire payment, which is envisaged...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Where is the provision?...*(Interruptions)* You have to bring it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, indexing in a large number of legislation, either by indexing or amendment of the Schedule is a power, which the legislation itself can provide. Clause 32(1) very clearly says:

> "The appropriate Government may, on the recommendation of the Trustee Committee, by notification, and having regard to the availability of the amount in the Fund, amend the rates specified in the Schedule I."

This power has been given in the Bill itself.

The most important thing is that this amount of cessation of practices or *ex-gratia* amounts are only two of the incidental payments. If you kindly turn to clause 24, there are payments by way of life insurance; there are payments by way of medical and educational benefits; and there are payments which provide for a scheme for purchase of books.

The hon. Member was very right when he said the best beneficiaries of this Fund have to be those who needed the most, that is, the advocates practising in the subordinate courts. Ten per cent of this Fund would be spent in every State for amenities only for common facilities in the District Bar Association, that is, in the subordinate court itself, for adding common facilities, etc. This is not there in any State legislation but for the first time we have provided it.

Section 24 provides fund for every other purpose that the Trustee Committee may decide.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, just a minute please. Hon. Members, in fact at four o'clock, we have to start the discussion under rule 193. If the House agrees, we can take up the discussion under rule 193 after passing this Bill.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Under section 24, there is also a provision for preparing a scheme depending on the availability of funds. One of the indicated areas in the Act itself in section 18 is that in the event of death, both from the insurance policy, the common policies under the Fund and the amounts available, amounts would be given to the relatives fo the deceased advocate, for which he has to make a nomination under section 18.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What about the premium? Is it individual premium or collective premium? Why not it be a collective premium?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The premium is under the scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you are not using the earphone. Please use earphone. I think there is some problem.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Some premium from the Life Insurance Corporation would go to the corpus.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Yes, you are right. That is the common facility. There will be an insurance. There will be a nomination. There will be funds going into the corpus and there will be a scheme that in the event, in addition to medical assistance, in addition to facilities of books for young lawyers, there would also be a scheme under which, in the event of death, the entire residual funds including the amount received to the Fund from the common insurance policy, how much is to be given to the relative of the deceased which is not a part of the Rs. 30,000 which is given on the cessation of practice. That is the figure which we have indexed, which can get increased. So, there is a provision for facilities for aid to young lawyers to the needy. There is a provision for giving *ex-gratia* and medical aid in the event of death, to his relative, and this entire money comes from the entire corpus which we have envisaged as far as the Fund is concerned...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: These are enabling provisions the Trustee Committee will make use of. The only thing is if the money is there, they will do it.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I am grateful to what Shri Somnath Chatterjee says. Therefore, we have made sure, studying the experience of the various States, that it is necessary to make the membership compulsory to have a mandatory stamp because this is where some of the State legislations really could not be enforced in full. We have studied those experiments. We have consulted people across the country, who have participated in the experiments. We have consulted the Bar Council. We have consulted the Law Commission on this. Therefore, the core of the issue is that the help goes to the persons who need the help the most. You increase the corpus of the Fund by making some mandatory guidelines. You indicate statutorily as to where the money can be spent. This Rs. 30,000 is one of the areas where it could be given. That also is a variable figure which has been left depending on the availability of fund. This is the amount which has been indicated. There are only certain categories of persons who have been excluded. For instance, a point was made about senior advocates. The exclusion is only with regard to two of the funds. In all their insurance policies, etc., which they contribute, the exclusion is not there because that would be a benefit they would be entitled by virtue of the contribution which they are making. It is only benefit under section 19, 21 and some of the section 24 benefits from which they have been excluded.

Here are the several areas where I tried to improve upon the State legislations. One of the areas is compulsory. One of the areas is, common amenities should be contributed for. One of the areas is assistance be given to some new entrants who need in terms of library etc. This is really one of those welfare measures which we have tried to bring about, the object, being that the Central Government, the Parliament brings a facilitating legislation, makes arrangements where the funds will come from and makes sure that those who deserve them the maximum, get the benefit out of those funds.

Sir, an objection was raised or a suggestion was made as to under which section we should have this provision with regard to mandatorily providing that the advocate has to pay himself and not transfer the burden on to the clients. Several comments have been made on this and difficulties have been apprehended which have been suggested by the Members.

We studied the pattern as far as the country is concerned. There is a corresponding provision in most legislations which the State Legislatures have drafted and those State legislations which have been drafted, which have been implemented. In this area, out of an identical provision, which Shri Khandelwal was apprehensive about, at least, no problem has been felt anywhere, in any of the State legislations implemented till today.

Sir, it was an attempt by us to frame a facilitating legislation. I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members of the House who have almost unanimously supported this legislation. Most of the suggestions are already incorporated in it and if we do see any problem in its implementation or improvement once it is implemented, I am sure that this House will always be there to correct and set it right....*(Interruptions)* Shri Somnath Chatterjee had made a point. I have studied this in various legislations including the West Bengal legislation. The appeal is provided to the full Bar Council of the State. Now, a question was raised as to who are the members of this Trust. It is true that the membership of the Trust comprises of Advocate-General, two officers of the State Government, Chairman and Secretary of the Bar Council

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

and two other members nominated by the Bar Council. Now, it is predominantly a body where there would be a larger lawyer representation. The appeal is to the Bar Council. Rules will have to be framed. Obviously, the rules can also clarify that those who participate in the original decisions will not be sitting as part of an Appeal Tribunal. A suggestion was made by Shri Radhakrishnan that two members of the Bar Association should be there. I have studied the experiment in the States. In most States, they have not kept it for the reason that there are innumerable number of Bar Associations in every State. You have Bar Association at the district level, at the *tehsil* level and at the High Court level. Which is the Bar Association to which we will give representation? This will always be an area which will not be free from doubt. Since there is only one Bar Council and the Bar Council is a statutory body, we have given predominant representation to the Bar Council of India.

Sir, I am grateful to the Members. I commend to this House that this Bill be accepted.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Bill to provide for the constitution of a welfare fund for the benefit of advocates and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

Definitions

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3

Advocates' welfare fund

MR. SPEAKER: There is an amendment No. 2 to clause 3 to be moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. Are you moving your amendment?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3,—

for lines 11 and 12, *substitute*—

"(d). An amount not less than Rs. 1 crore per annum by the appropriate Government;" (2)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 2 moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to clause 3 to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4

Establishment of trustee committee

MR. SPEAKER: There is an amendment No.3 to clause 4 of the Bill to be moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. Are you moving your amendment?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3,—

after line 48, insert—

(h) Two advocates to be nominated by the State Bar Association"—Members (3)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No.3 to clause 4 moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 26 were added to the Bill.

Clause 27

Vakalatnama to bear stamps

MR. SPEAKER: There is an amendment No. 4 to clause 27 to be moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. Are you moving your amendment?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 10, line 22,—

after "advocate" *insert*—

"who has opted out of the fund" (4)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 4 to clause 27 moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 27 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 27 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 28 to 38 were added to the Bill.

Schedule I

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, are you moving amendment No. 5 to Schedule I?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 14, lines 6 to 35, *substitute*—

For Rs. 30,000 *substitute* Rs. 3,00,000

Rs. 29,000 *substitute* Rs. 2,29,000

Rs. 28,000 *substitute* Rs. 2,80,000

Rs. 27,000 *substitute* Rs. 2,70,000

Rs. 26,000 *substitute* Rs. 2,60,000

Rs. 25,000 *substitute* Rs. 2,50,000

Rs. 24,000 *substitute* Rs. 2,40,000

Rs. 23,000 *substitute* Rs. 2,30,000

Rs. 22,000 *substitute* Rs. 2,20,000

Rs. 21,000 *substitute* Rs. 2,10,000

Rs. 20,000 *substitute* Rs. 2,00,000

Rs. 19,000 *substitute* Rs. 1,90,000

Rs. 18,000 *substitute* Rs. 1,80,000

Rs. 17,000 *substitute* Rs. 1,70,000

Rs. 16,000 *substitute* Rs. 1,60,000

Rs. 15,000 *substitute* Rs. 1,50,000

Rs. 14,000 *substitute* Rs. 1,40,000

Rs. 13,000 *substitute* Rs. 1,30,000

Rs. 12,000 *substitute* Rs. 1,20,000

Rs. 11,000 *substitute* Rs. 1,10,000

Rs. 10,000 *substitute* Rs. 1,00,000

Rs. 9,000 *substitute* Rs. 90,000

Rs. 8,000 *substitute* Rs. 80,000

Rs. 7,000 *substitute* Rs. 70,000

Rs. 6,000 *substitute* Rs. 60,000

Rs. 5,000 *substitute* Rs. 50,000

Rs. 4,000 *substitute* Rs. 40,000

Rs. 3,000 *substitute* Rs. 30,000

Rs. 2,000 *substitute* Rs. 20,000

Rs. 1,000 *substitute* Rs. 10,000 (5)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 5 moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to Schedule I to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Schedule I stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Schedule I was added to the Bill.

Schedule II, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITELY: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

16.16 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Recent Summit-level talks held between India and Pakistan agra-*contd.*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, in this discussion today, may I know at what time the Minister of External Affairs will intervene? We have a large number of speakers in the list. We may reduce that. We would like to know from the Treasury Benches at What time the Minister of External Affairs will intervene in the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There are seven speaker and his name has been listed at serial number eight.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, the time was fixed according to the strength of the parties. If the time has already been taken, then the speakers should not be permitted to speak. Otherwise, the speakers would like to speak, but it should be according to the time that has been fixed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we would like to know whether the Minister of External Affairs will intervene in the debate today or not.

MR. SPEAKER: We are well within the time. Maybe, around 5.30 p.m., the hon. Minister may intervene. Now, I give the floor to Shri Ali Mohd. Naik.

16.17 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the people of Jammu and Kashmir are concerned they appreciate the efforts of hon. Prime Minister for maintaining friendly ties and fraternity between India and Pakistan. The people of Jammu Kashmir are in favour of peace and more so because several innocent persons are being killed everyday in the State and the militants have decimated the basic infrastructure of the State.

16.18 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Besides two lakh Kashmiri Pandits belonging to Hindu fraternity have been forced to migrate out of their homeland. It is not only they but people belonging to Sikh and Muslim communities have also been forced to leave the State of Jammu & Kashmir which is there motherland. They have been compelled to take this extreme step because they have been subjected to constant threat to their lives and honour. These people have been rendered homeless and forced to accept the status of refugees in their own homeland.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the third thing that I would like to mention is that no proper development is possible under the existing circumstances in the State. Hence the people of Jammu & Kashmir have a strong desire that friendly ties be maintained between India and Pakistan so that they could lead their lives peacefully when the issue of militancy is raised, the point of Hindu and Muslim is also raised with it. I would like to submit to this august House that the killings of innocent persons should not be linked to the issue of Hindu and Muslims.

I would also like to submit to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to apprise the House so to how many Hindus and how many Muslims have been killed by the militant during the last ten years. Persons belonging to all communities whether they are Hindus, Muslims Sikhs, including the pilgrims and the Muslim labourers have been killed there. Militants do not discriminate between communities and they mercilessly kill anyone irrespective of the religion they follows if they feel that they are Indians. Recently the Amarnath Pilgrims were killed and I strongly condemn. These killings. I am not prepared to accept the point that the Indian Muslims are not well versed with the teachings and tenants of Islam. Similarly I do not accept that Pakistan has been fighting a Jehad. I know what does Jehad means and what are the teachings of Islam. It is an heneous crime to kill the innocents as per the teachings of Islam. Militants have been trying to defame Islam through whatever they are

doing in the name of Islam. Innocent persons of the country are being killed by creating terror in their minds in the name of Islam and freedom struggle. What kind of freedom do they talk about. We got independence on 15th of August. After independence Jammu and Kashmir opted for merger with India. At that time there were two political parties in the Country viz: the Congress party and the Muslim League. The Muslim League was in favour of accepting the verdict of royal Lineage to decide about the question of merger of J & K either to India or to Pakistan. However the Congress party was in favour of endorsing the opinion of the names. Hence the Congress party always had close ties with the National Conference in the State. The line of thinking and the sentiments of both these parties were common and this was the reason that the Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir arrested Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru on Kohala Bridge. It is a historical fact and cannot be forgotten. The Maharaja of J & K decided to marge with India much to the displeasure of Pakistan. I would like to submit to the government to frame a consistent policy on Jammu & Kashmir. The government should not keep on changing its stance every now and then so far as Jammu & Kashmir is concerned. If militancy is to be combated then there is no need to make it an issue of Hindus and Muslims. I was surprised to view the Doordarshan News the day before yesterday in which it was stated that 13 pilgrims had been killed in Kashmir. However no mention was made that even the Muslim were among those killed. Had it been made clear then the Country men could have taken assurance from the facts that not only Hindus but also the Muslims are being killed in the State. Pakistan is pursuing the policy of promoting mass killings of Hindu people in Kashmir so that they are forced to migrate out of the State. To do so is reflective of a deep rooted conspiracy on the part of Pakistan. We should fight against this conspiracy by not dividing in the name of communities but remain united irrespective of our religion and region. When Hindus are killed in Kashmir Soniaji leads a congress delegation and the government also send their delegation. I appreciate this. By there efforts at least some moral boosting can be given to the aggrieved persons. However, I would like to put a question to the august House.

16.25 hrs.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav *in the chair*]

I would like to know as to how many hon. Members of this House went to Rajouri when 15 Muslim belonging to Bakkarwal community were killed there and their houses were put on fire.

[English]

What signal are you giving to Kashmir Muslims?

[Translation]

What signal was sent to the majority population of Muslims there? Which Members or member of the House went to Rajouri when the Muslims were killed there? No Member of this House went there. However, it was reported later that some officer of the rank of IG of the Ministry of Home Affairs, whose name I don't remember went there after eight days of that incident taking place.

[English]

What signal you want to convey to the Muslims of Kashmir.

[Translation]

I urge the august House that for god's sake do not make it a Hindu Muslim issue. Why do I call it inconsistent policy. The government invited the Hurriyat Leader for talks. The Hon. Prime Minister and the President invited Mussarraf for lunch. However the Government did not invite the representatives of Hindu and Muslim communities in State for Lunch on for holding talks. There are many big names like Gulam Rasulkar, Sayyed Mir Kasim, Shebu Kureshi, who had been a governor. They were not invited for lunch. By that Pakistan could have come to know the Status of Kashmir Muslims. The Government did not even invite me on lunch.

[English]

You called somebody but not me who is the representative of Kashmir.

[Translation]

Nor the government invited Maulana Ifaitkhar, a pro India activist and leader having a following of lakh of people, for lunch. The government invited to lunch only those who have been fighting for a separate homeland for Kashmir Pandits and talking about separation. Nor did the government invite the Muslim MLA's of Janta Dal or Communist parties. What signal do the government intend to convey to Pakistan? How you invited all those Muslim Leaders, they would have given this message loud and clear to Pakistan that the Muslims in Kashmir do not, in any way, support the separate campaign which they have been sponsoring in the name of Jehad. The

[Shri Ali Mohd. Naik]

government is deceiving the people. The government talks to Hurriyat. Sometimes the governments say that they recognise Hurriyat in Toto and sometimes they completely ignore them. The government made arrangements for sending Hurriyat leaders to Pakistan and got the passports issued to them. However they changed these stance afterwards I do not have reservation over the government holding talks with anybody. I am also not against giving them entry in Jammu and Kashmir. However, I would like to know as to what talks did the government held with the Hurriyat leaders? Hurriyat is in favour of merging the whole of Kashmir with Pakistan. Even then the government want to send them to Pakistan. I would like to know as to why it is so? The slogan for the trifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into three parts namely, Buddhist Laddakh, Muslim Kashmir and Hindu dominated Jammu region is being given.

People belonging to some political parties are sitting here also. Their local units are supporting this proposal of separation of Laddakh and Jammu from J & K here.

[English]

Then, what right do you have to keep the Muslim majority area of Kashmir? Are you playing the game of Pakistan? You are playing the game of two-nation theory.

[Translation]

How do you talk of trifurcation of the state? If you talk of trifurcation then there are six districts of Jammu. Three muslim majority districts of Jammu will have to be left out of the proposed state of Jammu. Are the Government going for a division the State?

My submission is that you should have a consistent policy. All the political parties have extended their support to the hon. Prime Minister for holding talks with General Musharraf. When this issue was raised Members from all political parties including me were present in the meeting. The meeting persisted on keeping the dialogue continue. When we authorised the Prime Minister for holding talks, then what is the topic on which a discussion is being held. The august House is holding a discussion now. I am happy that no joint communique was issued and approved during the talks because whenever a joint communique was issued, our country has ended up giving some part or the other of Kashmir to Pakistan.

Thankfully, a joint communique was not issued and we were saved from losing a part of our territory. However who has been the beneficiary of Indo-Pak talks. It is they who want peace and friendly terms between the two countries who have benefited from this summit. When the Government are going to hold talks with Pakistan, why do not they hold talks with the Kashmiris? The Government should hold talks with the people of Jammu & Kashmir and respect their sentiments?

Who is responsible for the alienation of Kashmiri people during the last 50 years?

[English]

Why are people alienated? I am not alienated. Why should people feel alienated?

[Translation]

The Government did not allow democracy prosper in Kashmir. The Government dismissed and arrested the Prime Minister of Kashmir who enjoyed majority support in the Assembly and kept him in jail for 22 years. Later Bakshi Saheb was brought dismissed and also jailed. Then once again Sheikh Saheb was brought back and an agreement made with him. However a vote of No Confidence was passed against his Government. Sheikh Saheb fought the elections. It was Morarji Desai who conducted the most free and fair election in the history of Kashmir in 1953 and most of those who today claim themselves as big leaders had to face heavy defeats during that election. Nobody supported such leaders and almost all the voters of Kashmir went with Nainital Conference. The Government dismissed Farookh Abdullah Government twice and once again a demand for the same is being made. I would like to know whether his dismissal will resolve the Kashmiri imbroglio and end militancy on the soil. If it is so then I will certainly support this thing. Sometimes the demand for the resignation of the home Minister is raised. If his resignation solves the Kashmiri issue then I don't have any objection to such a demand.

Thirdly why don't the Government want to talk to the people of Kashmir when they are willing to do so with Pakistan? The Government should look into our sentiments. I would like to convey the genuine feelings and sentiments of the people of Kashmir in this House. The Government did not allow democracy to thrive in Kashmir. Similarly the Government also failed to give any economic prosperity and generate employment opportunities for the people of Kashmir. The Government should try to look into as to how many Muslims have been given employment in central services during the last 50 years. They have been totally overlooked. I am of this opinion that the Government should receive the

muslim with love in its bosom for they are not aliens but very much a part and parcel of this system. The Government should give them employment and provide opportunities for economic prosperity. The Government provides funds to Kashmir when the season comes to an end. Though the Government release funds it does not reach the state in time. No work can take place there due to the deposition of snow during the hard months of winter. When allocations are made, intimation to this effect is sent to the State Government that the amount of allocation has been cut. It should not be so since the sentiments of Kashmiris are associated with it. I submit to the House that House and the Government should try to comprehend the sentiments of Kashmiris and the issues linked with them. When the Kashmir decided to merge with India, the Government of India had given some guarantee and made some promises to the people of Kashmir. The Government gave internal autonomy to Kashmir initially, however it was diluted gradually. Why did it happen? The Minister of Home Affairs says that the Government will think of Kashmir also when the issue of making allocation to other states comes to the fore. I would like to know as to why the Government will have to think separately for Kashmir? The Government think that other states are very much a part of the country while Kashmir which also merged with India, is not.

[English]

We had acceded to India on an agreement.

[Translation]

The Government of India have the power to frame laws in three areas in respect of Kashmir and for rest of the matter, Kashmir been given autonomy. I would like to know as to what problem do the Government have with such an arrangement. The Government maintains that the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, Election Commission jurisdiction and other jurisdictions do not suit the Kashmiris.

[English]

It is to be decided by us whether it suits us or not. Let we be allowed to have our say.

[Translation]

The Government want to talk with Hurriyat which is in favour of independent Kashmir. Similarly the Government want to talk with JKLF which talk of Kashmir independence. On the other hand the Government ignore the National Conference with is in favour of integration of the country and want that Kashmir may remain an integral part of the country. We fought the elections and assured the people in our manifesto that we will try to grant autonomy to Kashmir and Kashmir will not be allowed to merge with Pakistan. We emerged victorious on the basis of these promises. Still the Union Government do not support our demands.

[English]

You discuss it with us. If they say anything that is against the interest of the country, then throw these suggestions into the ocean, if they say all the things that are for the interests and unity of this country, then why do not agree to that?

[Translation]

The Government should accede to our demand. The Government should try to make such efforts so as to convince the people of Kashmir that the Government are willing to accept and extend their full cooperation to them. Today here is militancy in Kashmir. Security forces have been deployed there, however, they are committing excesses on Kashmiri people.

[English]

Kindly start this exercise.

[Translation]

Innocent people are being killed there and now the Government are making fuss over it. Security forces killed 5-6 muslims on the pretext of their being militants. However when there true identity was established, did the Government take any action against the guilty security personnel despite the directions of the High Court for doing [redacted]one or two officers may get wrongly punished in doing so, however, this thing will send a clear message to the people of Kashmir that justice still prevails in this land. The Government should instill confidence in the minds of the people of Kashmir that they will get justice in this country. This will curb their separatist tendency for good so much so that it will hardly make a difference even if Pakistan wages war against India more than 60 times? The Government should also look into the incidents of forcible abduction of civilians in Kashmir by the security forces. These things should be stopped.

As I have said earlier that the Government must give us a package to resolve our problems. Innocent killings must be stopped completely there. The security forces should deal with the militants and with those who harbour them.

[Shri Ali Mohd. Naik]

[English]

Innocent people should not be harassed in any case.

[Translation]

Because it give rise to lot of tension. The Government should give arms and ammunition to us for how can we fight without them? My submission is that the Government must pay a heed to the woes of the people of Kashmir. I appeal to the hon. Members of both the ruling party and the opposition not to support and proposal of creating a separate homeland for two lakh Kashmiri Pandits.

[English]

This is division within division. Nobody wants it.

[Translation]

Kashmiri Pandit are a part and parcel of our land and they are very much a part of our even flesh and blood. If the Government want to defeat the Pakistani design then it should ask those Kashmiri, Hindus who have migrated out of the state to come back to Kashmir. If 10 people are losing their lives there, it is only for the sake of their countrymen. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs as to how many muslims have been killed in Kashmir? They have lost their lives because they are the Indians. One dozen of our MLA's and one of our Ministers have been killed. Who comes to see there killings? We don't want any monetary compensation from the Government of India for it, however visits by the Government representatives on such occasions only fosters the sentiments of unity in the country. I associate myself with the efforts of the hon. Prime Minister for restoration of peace in the country and thank him on my own behalf and on the behalf of my party, the Jammu Kashmir National Conference.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, information has just been received that a devastating fire broke out in Jabalpur Ordnance depot causing huge losses. This is the Seventh incident of fire in last few months since this Government came to power. This incident of fire has caused loss worth crore of rupees. The Defence Minister should give reply to it. What will happen to the security of the country if such incidents of fire take place day in and day out.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter related to security of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very serious matter. This concern the security of the country?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member should know that there are certain rules to raise a matter.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Since the Minister of Defence happens to be in the House, he should apprise the House of the position...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs himself said in the conference of freedom fighters that there is threat to the security of the country and such a serious incident has caused threat to our internal security. You should direct the Minister of Defence to make a statement on this issue in the House. He should apprise the House of the factual position.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are aware that the rule of the House states that no issue can be raised here without giving a notice for it in advance. You have not given any notice about it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How the business of the House will be conducted in this manner? The Government require some time to gather information. Only then it can apprise the House of factual position.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Defence is present in the House. He can tell us about the incident that occurred there.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the statement can come afterwards but he can say about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. The Government will come in the House after gathering information about the incident.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I would like to know whether the Minister is at least of it or not...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): The Government should make a statement...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. The Government will make a statement after collecting information about the incident.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it can not be so that Minister of Defence does not know anything about it. He is silent on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not start a wrong practice in the House. You are a senior Member. Achariaji, please take your seat.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister should assure the House that facts will be placed in the House after collecting the requisite information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon'ble Member knows it very well that there are rules for conducting the business of the House and the Government will collect and give information about the incident under these rules.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the hon. Member knows about it, it is certain that the hon. Minister must have received the information. I agree to him on the issue of getting facts about the incident.

But he can assure the House that facts about this incident will be brought before the House later...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Akhileshji, please take your seat.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Members have made the demand that the House should be apprised of the incident that took place just now. It is appropriate and also the privilege of the Members. I would like to make a submission that on behalf of the Government I would like to make a factual statement in the House. My statement will be based on facts. I am sure that the hon. Members will definitely accept two point no matter whether it is Ministry of External Affairs or Ministry of Defence, whenever any matter concerning my Ministry came up in the House I never failed to make a statement myself. I would like to submit that whenever I make statement in the House, it will be based on facts only.

[English]

SHRI R.L. BHATIA (Amritsar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the previous speaker, Shri Naik, in most of the part of his speech, was saying that so many Hindus have died and that so many Muslims have died. I want to assure him that any person who died in Kashmir was an Indian. It is not the question before us whether he was a Hindu or a Muslim. That is why, we are defending Kashmir for the last 50 years. He raised one more question which he should have asked the Government as his Party is also in the NDA. He has said that Shri Abdullah is our elected leader and that he is our leader in Kashmir. He should have been fully associated with the talks. He should also have been included in the delegation which the Prime Minister took to Agra. It is because he represents Kashmir. Kashmir is not represented by Hurriyat. He should have been fully associated. But Hurriyat has suddenly become very important. But they represent nobody. They represent only Pakistan. But the Press as well as the Government is trying to talk to them. The Government is sending Shri Pant to them. You are giving them importance. They are nobody. They should not be recognised. The only person in Kashmir who should be recognised is Shri Abdullah.

Sir, Agra Summit was a very important Summit in which Indian as well as Pakistani people were interested. Rather, I would say the whole world was interested and they were looking to the meeting of Shri Vajpayee and General Musharraf. They were looking as to what would be the outcome of that meeting so much so that 500 journalists from all over the world came to Agra to report the result of the meeting. In India all the Opposition Parties fully supported the Government to go for talks because we believe that ultimately dialogue is the answer to the disputes between the two countries. For that, India did make some preparations and I appreciate that. Those preparations were that they announced cease-fire. That was a good augury to create good conditions for the talks.

And they released some Pakistani prisoners. That was another step. The third step which you took was the reduction of tariff on goods imported from Pakistan and the fourth step was that you offered scholarships for Pakistani students to come and study in India. The last

[Shri R.L. Bhatia]

one was that there was a relaxation in visas. These are the good things with which you tried to create an atmosphere but unfortunately, it was not considered important by Pakistan. There was no response from their leaders and all our efforts went waste.

I want to ask you a very important question. You have always been saying that there will be no dialogue with Pakistan unless cross-border terrorism is stopped. Prime Minister said it; you said it a number of times and the Home Minister also said it. What happened then that immediately, there was a U-turn in your foreign policy and you went for talks? The country does not know about it. And we are surprised as to what happened. While changing this policy did you consult your colleagues? What is discussed in the Cabinet? Was it discussed in the NDA? You have created a national defence security system. Could you talk to your Chiefs of the Army which has a direct bearing? These talks have a bearing on the Kashmir issue. Of course, when you want to change your policy, you may be aware that it has to be based on a national consensus. You should have consulted all of us. There are very good people in the Opposition who are interested and you should have consulted them so that a national consensus could have been built on this issue. What was the necessity of changing this policy? I would like to know whether there was a changed condition in Kashmir or military was reduced? Or was it that you got some kind of an information from the second track which the Prime Minister has started with Pakistan and you got information that some kind of a change is there in the thinking of the leadership of Pakistan?

Apart from that, America is taking a lot of interest in the negotiations. They are asking India and they are asking Pakistan about it. Their Minister came, went to Pakistan and came to India. They must have consulted you; they must have consulted them. Was there any indication from those talks that Pakistan has changed its mind that they are ready to come to the table with an open mind and have a dialogue with us?

My complaint is that you talked to the wrong person. You talked to Mr. Musharraf who usurped power in Pakistan. He was a military general. He took over power in Pakistan. He was opposed by all the political parties there. Some people even went to the court to dislodge him. And Mr. Musharraf called a meeting of the Opposition leaders before coming to India. But they refused to talk to him. They said, "You have no status, you have no *locus standi*, you have no mandate of Pakistan. Then, why are you going there?"

About the international situation, America did not like the change in Pakistan. Similarly, Europe also did not like. They were hardly making up their mind as to how to deal with the situation in Pakistan and you invited him.

Sir, you must know that the Army in Pakistan has a vested interest.

Right from the inception of Pakistan, the Army is dominating there, whether it is a civilian power or a military power. The military people have dislodged the elected Governments for four times in Pakistan and usurped power. In Pakistan, military is above the Constitution, but in India, Army is under the President, under the Parliament and under the Prime Minister. But there is no such thing in Pakistan. It is a separate entity there and they do not agree with the civilian Government over there. So, our Government is dealing with an Army man and the hon. Minister of External Affairs also belonged to the Army. Therefore, he should have known their mindset and their way of thinking. They know only the barrel of the gun and they do not believe in negotiations. So, I believe that our Government is dealing with a wrong person.

Sir, what is the policy of the four military dictators who ruled Pakistan at different periods of time? Their domestic policy, their foreign policy and their military policy are all based on only one point, the unipolar point as to how to get Kashmir by aggression. They made three attempts for that earlier and for the fourth time, there was the Kargil conflict in the year 1999. This is their thinking and our Government has tried to invite him here for talks.

I would like to submit that our Government ignored the history also. When our Government decided to talk with the leader of Pakistan, they should have known the history of Pakistan in the last 50 years. At the time of Partition, they said that the Partition had taken place between Hindi India and Muslim India. We are not surprised about it, but they have been insisting on the two-nation theory. Secondly, they said that Kashmir is an unfinished agenda of Partition. They said that all the areas were divided, Kashmir remains to be divided and they have to make a decision whether Kashmir has to go with Pakistan or India. They were claiming Kashmir because it is a Muslim-majority State and they refused to believe that the Maharaj of Kashmir had acceded to India. So, our Government is dealing with that person who does not believe in all these things. Therefore, they have ignored the history.

Sir, at the time of Partition, I belonged to West Pakistan and when Partition took place, the Muslim League said: "Hans ke liya hai Pakistan Larkar Lengen Hindustan" That mentality is still there and even today, the Muslim League is saying the same thing over there. They say that first they will take Kashmir and then they will take India. That is their intention. They also said that one Pakistani solider is equal to 10 Indian soldiers. Such is their thinking and if you recall Shri Bhutto's statement, he said: "we will have a 1,000 year war with India to take Kashmir". When this is their thinking, our Government is talking to a wrong person. I think they did not read the history and the background of the relations between our two countries.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): What is your opinion in this regard. As has been stated that Pakistan has a principle of getting two Pakistans and such is their thinking - "Hans Kar liya hai Pakistan, Larkar lengen Hindustan". You should tell us asto what should be done in such a situation?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: I am coming to that only. I am talking about the historical background of Pakistan. The Government have initiated dialogue with a wrong person, who has got no status in his country because he is not the elected representative of that country. Now I am coming to the next point. Finally, I will come to the point he was asking for.

[English]

Sir. Gen. Pervez Musharraf had declared some time back that he did not agree with the 1949 Agreement with India. He repeated the same thing about the 1972 Agreement also. He did not appreciate even the Lahore Declaration for which our Prime Minister went there to show the goodwill of India.

17.00 hrs.

We chose to bring this man to India. They say about 'two-nation theory'. We say that India cannot accept the two-nation theory. India is a secular country. Sixteen crore Muslims did not decide to go to Pakistan. That is the secular policy of India.

Their policy also failed when Bangladesh was separated from Pakistan. The Bangladesh Muslims refused to live with Pakistan. In spite of the fact that their history is wrong, their Army is still continuing to have their base on that theory.

I say that the invitation was also at a wrong time. You were talking to a wrong man. You did not understand the history. Now, I say that the timing was wrong. When Shri Musharraf took over — usurped power — as President, he dismissed Shri Tarar, the elected President of Pakistan. There was uproar in Pakistan. The Pakistanis turned against him. All political parties turned against him. When he asked them to give him advice and have a talk with them as he was going to Agra, they refused to talk to him. They did not talk. They said, "You have no *locus standi*." The people went to court. The international opinion was against him. But you invited him.

Nobody recognised him. India was the first country to recognise him — a man who did not salute Shri Vajpayee when he went to Lahore, a man who initiated troubled in Kargil. I do not know how you had faith in him.

The Government is silent on the fact as to why they changed that policy and why they wanted to have the talks. There have been a lot of articles in the Press. Many political people have been asking the Government. But the Government has been totally silent. The silence of the Government created much misunderstanding. There were a lot of speculations. You know that we have an independent Press. The people were having their own conjectures. Some people said that it was America who was forcing the two countries to sit around a table and have talks with him. You never refuted it.

The Press in Pakistan was saying different things. They say that their *Jehadis* in Kashmir forced Shri Vajpayee to come to the table, and because they had created such a situation, he was forced to come to the table. Did you refute it? But there were Press reports from Pakistan.

Some Press people said that Shri Vajpayee was getting very unpopular. They wanted to divert the attention of the nation. They should say that it was all wrong. I believe that it is wrong. But all these things are appearing in the Press. You should come forward and say that they just tried luck.

[Translation]

They tried their luck as to who will become a millionair. While initiating the dialogue, they were trying their luck as some astrologer had advised him to initiate the dialogue considering it to be an opportunities. There are many a political astrologer in the country because politicians depend on astrologers for every issue.

[Shri R.L. Bhatia]

[English]

Then, you did not prepare for the Summit. Before all Summits, a lot of preparations are made. You are a very competent Minister. I admit that you are a very wise person. All the process should have been gone through.

When Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, I was the General Secretary of the Party. We decided to first send some communist leader, either Shri Surjeet or Shri Basu or someone else like that.

Well, when we sent the communist leader, he brought a very good report. He had a very good rapport and he reported that Chinese were ready to talk. Then we sent a delegation of Congress Party because it was a communist country and it is the party which is stronger than the Government. They plan, they make policies and the Government only implements them. I was also a member of that delegation. Then we talked to them and they were ready to discuss with us each and every affair. As a result, we prepared a ground. Then we sent our diplomatic officers, secretaries and others who made agenda as to what meeting will take place, what discussions will take place and so on. Then Shri Rajiv Gandhi went. There was a break-through in the relations and the Summit was very successful. If you remember, their President Deng Xio Peng did not leave the hand of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, for five minutes and it was reported in the Press 'the longest handshake in the world.' This is how preparations should be made for a Summit. I do not know when the hon. Minister was there, why all these things have not been done.

Sir, now I come to the Agenda. We are not aware of what agenda they prepared, with whom they discussed, whether they discussed with the Chief Minister of Kashmir or the concerned people like Defence or their Cabinet. We are not aware of what the agenda had been. But there is an agenda of Pakistan. The statement of Shri Musharraf is there, statement of Shri Sattar is there continuously telling the Press what their agenda is. But our agenda was not known to any of us, like BJP everything is hidden, so this agenda was also a hidden agenda.

All that we know is what MEA spokesperson said when it was asked from the MEA because no Minister was coming forward and no information was available. The spokesperson said that the agenda would be set by Shri Vajpayee and Gen. Musharraf. It is a Summit, it is a very important meeting. The whole world is looking at it and the MEA said that it would be set by Shri Vajpayee and Gen. Musharraf. This is the situation at our end, but at the end of Pakistan, they were using media in full stream.

Gen. Musharraf have had two conferences, meeting with the Press. One was Breakfast meeting in Lahore. They called Indians also and there was one meeting here also where they explained fully what their agenda was. Not only that, they tried to approach our intellectuals at the Tea Party of Shri Qazi, the High Commissioner of Pakistan here. Shri Subramaniam was there, Shri Dixit was there, Shri Nayyar was there and so many other people were there with whom he talked. They explained his point of view. But our Prime Minister and the hon. Minister did not take care to call the Press people or experts to discuss with them and give them a feeling that they are all being consulted.

Since there is no time, I am cutting short. Shri Qazi, the High Commissioner, said that there were nine points which discussed at Agra and six of them were agreed upon. The Prime Minister also in his statement has said that there were some points which were agreed upon. But there was some difficulty about the other as the talks broke. There was no joint statement, I do not know what was agreed upon and what was not agreed upon. I have not seen any Summit meeting, though I cannot say to the best of my knowledge that after every Summit there is a joint statement, where there was no joint statement after this Summit. It is further confusing.

Then Shri Vajpayee in his statement said that there was no failure of talks. It is also said by Abdul Sattar over there that it was an inconclusive talk.

Sir, what is the correct thing? What is

[Translation]

Chupke Chupke Chori Chor?

[English]

What were the points on which you had agreed upon? We want to know what made you to go in for another meeting? What were the points that had been taken care of?

Sir, I would say that talks had miserably failed. If ignored the history. There was no compulsion for you to go ahead and jump for talks while the situation in Pakistan was not stable. Now again, we find that talks are going on, likely to go. Sir, who were the beneficiaries of these talks? It was Gen. Musharraf. His position was not stable. People were against him. You made him stable. He had gone back as a victor he became a hero and we became 'zero'. With the result, what we find are the consequences. *Jehadis* are very happy. They are in good spirits now.

They say, 'we have won in Kashmir. That is how, the talks have come.' Now, there is further increase in their activities over there. The hawks in Pakistan are very happy. Today, my dear Minister, I want to tell you that people in Pakistan, *Jehadis*, hawks and the people of Pakistan are admiring him as their hero, he stood over there in India, and he stood by his position.

Now, the talks are again going on. I would only like to ask whether you have again, for Good sake, prepared the home task, what about your second track, if it is going on and giving you right information or diplomatic channel, you may have to find out. We do not know as to what was agreed upon. As I told you, you want to go ahead further. We would like to know as to what are the situations in which you are going to talk. We have no objection and we would like you to talk. We are not against talks because this is our sincere belief. All the parties on this side are saying that you may have a talk and we have no objection but you must do the home task. But before you go there, Mr. Minister, my advice is that you must finish, fight out *Jehadis* and finish them in Kashmir.

What did we do in Punjab? It was the same Pakistan, same ISI and we lost 3,000 Congressmen, who fought in villages, and we drove them out. I was one of them. I got three bullets. My grandson was taken away by them and he was released after 34 days. My car was burnt. We fought over there along with Police, BSF and the Army. Please do something in Kashmir, co-ordinate with the Army, BSF, Police and all these forces, and finish them. After you finish them, you go to Pakistan. I assure you that you will be respected and something may come from your talks.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House has been discussing the matter raised by Shri Mulayam Singhji under the rule 193. It is a very sensitive matter and the hon. Prime Minister has also given the details regarding as to under what circumstances the discussion was held and what was the outcome. The hon. Prime Minister has thrown light on all these things during his speech.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire House is aware of our relations with the neighbouring country and there is a need to bring about some positive change in this relationship, striking friendly ties and shunning hostility.

Some steps were taken in pursuance of this policy of improving the friendly ties, with our neighbouring country. All of us are aware that through ISI Pakistan is trying to destabilise our economy and disintegrate the country by sponsoring cross-border terrorism. This conspiracy is not new but has been going on for a long time. We know that the talks have taken place in very adverse circumstances. I am saying so because the entire House is aware, the Hon. Prime Minister, in order to boost friendly ties and foster harmonious relations with Pakistan, undertook Lahore Bus journey. However, the results was contrary and Kargil war ensured. India emerged victor in this war. Though we celebrate Vijay Devas to commemorate this occasion yet it is fact that we achieved nothing out of this war. Our soldiers made sacrifices for defending the borders of our country. Our soldiers made sacrifices for defending the borders of the country. Our soldier had sacrificed their lives in the past also. However the circumstances in these wars were entirely different from the Kargil war. We sacrificed the lives of many of our soldiers to defend our own land. We gained nothing from this war. According to my view, the friendly ties are struck and fostered under three situations. Firstly, when there is a mutual sentiment for fostering the friendly ties; Secondly, friendship is made out of compulsion i.e. when the one person or country finds itself much inferior to the other in strength and sees no other option than extending the offer of friendship. Thirdly, the friendship is also struck when one tries to outmaneour one's enemy by posing as friend. I feel that India is not under any of compulsions to offer friendship to Pakistan in such a haste. India have been repeatedly deceived by Pakistan. One should step up surveillance and be quite vigilant after repeatedly having been deceived. The government increased the strength of the country by testing the nuclear bomb. The government also warned that if our neighbouring country tries to assume aggressive postures against us, we will not waste time in decimating our enemy and annexing Lahore. You did the country proud by doing so. However, we also made a mistake by offering the hand of friendship to Pakistan when it failed to respond to our demand of checking the cross border terrorism. Never did Pakistan express its intention of initiating dialogue. India extended the invitation of talks to Pakistan which was accepted by the latter. However, soon different kinds of statements were prominently published as main news by several Indian dailies which conferred upon General Musarraf the status of a hero. Main issue was termed to be autonomy. I would like to know whether autonomy could be given at the cost of honour and security of the country? A spate of statements is reported by the media and we remain silent on the issue of autonomy. I would say that it is nothing but the weakness of the government in controlling the situation. It is due to it that such kinds of

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

circumstances arise in our country. The statement of Gen. Musarraf that he is going to India with an open heart was widely reported by the media. I want to know as to what does it mean? Later on he states that Kashmir will be the main issue of talks. Is it the open hearted statement which is reported as the headline news by the media. The government clauses that no comprise against the integrity of the country will be made and Kashmir is very much a part of India. Then where does the question of compromise arise? The Pakistan is adamont on holding talks on Kashmir issue while India refuses to enter into dialogue on this issue stating that Kashmir is the heart of the country. Then what for we are trying to strike agreement? General Musarraf gave a statement in Pakistan that without including Kashmir in the agenda, the talks will not bear any fruit. Still India is so anxious to hold talks. India states that talks will be held on the issues of terrorism and several other issues. However, the Pakistan says something else. Hence mutually contradictory statements are being given from both the sides.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, two sentiments come to the fore when the matter of holding talks was raised. Ruralfolk say that these talks are not going to serve any purpose when nothing is going to be accomplished through it and on the other hand, a person who lives in the border areas. under constant terror and has been victim of terrorism, starts hoping that now they will lead a normal life of the summit is successful.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when General Musarraf came to India he immediately extended invitation to the Hurriyat leaders. The government should have gauged the true intentions of Gen. Musarraf. However the government failed to do so. The government extended hand of friendship while we know that the intention of Mussarraf were not honest. He came to India with two-three points in his mind. On one hand he was trying to encourage separatist forces in Kashmir and oppose the fundamentalist elements back in Pakistan, on the other he was trying to seek legitimacy for his regime by visiting India. He was successful in achieving all three of his objectives. He came to India as a guest. Yet he insisted on selecting the representatives of his choice for talks? He also said that Hurriyat is the true representative of Kashmir. He came to our country as a guest or our boss to dictate terms to us. What is the use of holding talks in such circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I don't want to dwell on as to what dialogue took place at Agra because it has been made by the hon. Prime Minister. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister for maintaining the age long tradition of our country of propagating peace in the world and also for taking initiative for holding talks under such adverse circumstances. He ended the vacuum in relationship between the two countries by inviting Pakistan for talks. I would like to congratulate him for doing so. However, the government should also be catious because there may be some Pakistani conspiracy behind it and it was almost confirmed by the killing of 15 persons in Kashmir by militants within two hours of the arrival of Gen. Mussarraf in India. This thing clearly sent a message that the terrorists who thrive on the funds and assistance provided by Pakistan, were trying to welcome the arrival of the head of such a country by doing so. Killings also took place after he departed for Pakistan. These kinds of terrorist acts are taking place daily and several of our soldiers also lay down their lives. Not a single citizen of Kashmir is able to lead a life of peace and comfort...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You speak in brief and conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I wanted to speak more. I don't want to deliver a big speech. However, I certainly would like to made two to three points in that we should try to revive as to what we have gained and what we have lost by holding talks with Pakistan. News of the Hon. Prime Minister's second visit to Pakistan are in air and I don't want to oppose it. However, being a part of the government, I would like to suggest that each and every point in the agenda of talks should be comprehensively reviewed before initiating any talks. I am of the view that if consensus fail to emerge after holding deliberations at secretary level and foreign Minister level, then the Hon. Prime Minister should not visit Pakistan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that the representatives of the government should make statements with a great sense of responsibility regarding such sensitive matters. I read the statement made by one of the Minister of the Government. He had said that the President of Pakistan General Musarraf is very openhearted person and whole life he wants to remain in his company...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: He belongs to your party, you tell his name.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I don't remember the Name, you can yourself read it. I don't know the name. I would like to know as to whether the Minister does not think that hon. Shri Atal Bihar Vajpayee is a lively person?

I am of the opinion that issuing such statements tantamount to striking a blow on the dignity of the country. This government is headed by hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee and we have an unfailing faith in his leadership. We have extended cooperation on permanent basis and have never backtraked. Despite this showering such praises and enlogising the head of other country tantamounts to lack of faith in the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister. Besides, I would also like to submit that we should refrain from conferring hero status to any person whenever such dialogue takes place.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Let him become the Minister, he will do a great job.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Make him a Minister.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I will become Minister neither with your support nor with his support. The day I become Minister you see how I will discharge my responsibility. You don't worry...*(Interruptions)* I am relying neither on your support nor his support. You don't worry.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: It is with your support that you will become Minister. Some Members of your side will defeat and join us and we will form the government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You, please sit down. The hon. Member is speaking.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Lastly, I would like to submit that no one should be given autonomy at the cost of the security and dignity of the country. Expressing my fool faith in the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, I would like to urge upon the government that every aspect regarding the visit of Prime Minister to Pakistan should be analysed.

Lastly, as regards the statement given by the hon. Home Minister regarding Doda incident, I would like to submit that tone and tenor of his statement, given an indication of waging war against Pakistan. I would like to relate it to the conversation between Kunti, mother of Pandavas, and Lord Krishna when the latter met her and on Kunti desirous to know the message she would like to person to her sons, the Pandavas, Lord Krishna told Kunti that you must remind your sons that time has come for paying back the debt of your mother and no other option is there except waging war against the Kauravas.

I am of the opinion that the time is ripe for our forces to attack and capture Lahore to check Pakistan who is increasingly continuously engaged, in hatching various conspiracies of disintegrating our country and running our economy through ISI sponsored terrorism and who also waged the Kargil war in which thousands of our soldiers had to sacrifice their lives so that the dispute could be solved for all time to come. With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the hon. Minister Shri Jaswant Singh would like to respond.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to speak only after all the hon. Members finish.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it was decided by the hon. Speaker that the distinguished Minister for External Affairs shall intervene at 5.30 p.m. today and then other speakers would continue to speak and the hon. Prime Minister would reply tomorrow. That was the understanding between the parties.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Speaker had clearly stated hat the hon. Minister will speak at 5.30 p.m. Hence I have called his Name.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister- that he hears the views of the other Members before he replies.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down for a minute.

[English]

Message from Rajya Sabha.

[English]

17.32 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 3rd August, 2001 has passed the following motion:

MOTION

"That the Rajya Sabha recommends to the Lok Sabha that the Lok Sabha do agree to leave being granted by the Rajya Sabha to withdraw the Bill to declare, the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters, connected therewith, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on the 18th December, 2000 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the 18th December, 2000."

17.34 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Recent Summit-Level Talks Held between India and Pakistan in Agra—*Contd.*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): When it was decided that hon. Minister will speak at 5.30 p.m. Then he alone should be called...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a submission to make.

More than 15 hon. Members had gone to the chamber of the hon. Speaker and requested him to allow them to speak since it is an important subject. We have been preparing to speak over this subject for the last 15 days. Over 10 lakh persons have migrated from Punjab.

[English]

That was the biggest migration in the history of the world.

[Translation]

What can be more unfortunate then not being allowed to speak on such an important issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You listen to me first. You will get an opportunity to speak. However, as per the clear directions of the hon. Speaker the hon. Minister will respond at 5.30 p.m. I am not disallowing you from speaking.

Hon. Shri Jaswant Singh.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Sir, it would be a bad precedent if the Minister replies before all the Members finish speaking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the reply.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: This is as good as the reply.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I would like to make it clear for the sake of records. This is the statement of hon. Prime Minister and hon. Prime Minister is going to reply tomorrow after the Question Hour. Hon. Minister of External Affairs is intervening in the debate, and he has the right to intervene at the time he thinks right. There is no insult to any Member in this.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to all hon. Members that have participated in this very important discussion. It was my intention that when I intervene I will be able to address as many of the concerns as have been voiced by the hon. Members during the course of the discussion and endeavour to answer as many of the queries as are raised. It is with that intention that discussion has gone on for, I think, already for three days. On the other evening we sat here until about 10 o'clock. Today also when the discussion was taken up, I was informed that there were only about seven or eight speakers left and that all of them would conclude whatever they had to say by 5:30 p.m. It is only for that reason that I had chosen and the recommendation was that I intervene at 5:30 p.m. It is not at all my individual, or the Government's intention not to take note of whatever the number of speakers that you finally permit, at whatever length, to participate in this discussion. Naturally, the issues they raise subsequently, if they have not already been raised by other Members, will have to be addressed separately.

Sir, hon. Mulayam Singh Yadav invited the discussion, hon. Deputy Leader of the main Opposition Party Shri

Madhavrao Scindia participated, and a number of other speakers have benefited the Government with their views. I find that in the intervention that hon. Madhavrao Scindia made, with scarcely disguised sarcasm he imputed that he was more in agreement with the visitor's views. Though somewhat subsequently he futilely attempted to correct that, I am sure that is not the position. If you distil what he said or what other hon. Members have said, they all fall into one or two broad categories. I must, however, before I proceed further, refer to one particular aspect of an observation made by the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition...*

The Government does address these issues in that fashion and if I share with the hon. House what have I to say? But broadly, the critical observations or otherwise, that have been made fall into four broad categories. There were observations about the preparation, home work and such like matters. Also, Sir, there were observations about the agenda, about the response of the media and how the Government responded to it and thereafter the assessment of the success or the failure of the Summit.

I do wish to make very at the very beginning that we wish to make a distinction here. I certainly do wish to make a distinction. There is no doubt, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition during his speech made that distinction. It will be worthwhile reflecting on it that there is a difference between history, hagiography and histrionics. Making the distinction when it comes to examples being cited to us about the preparation and the adequacy of preparation, a number of speakers from the principal party in the Opposition have pointed out a visit by the former distinguished Prime Minister of the country who during his visit to the People's Republic of China exemplified preparation by the duration of the hand-shake between him as Head of the Government and the Head of the State of the People's Republic of China. I have no doubt that it was a visit that was marked with certain developments which preceded it, and which then set a pattern of further developments between China and India.

It is a matter of some disappointment to me that the very same Congress Party do not refer to the advancements that were made in 1996 or earlier in 1994. I do also wish to point out the selectivity of the veneratres that persuaded so many of them to repeatedly speak of the importance as it were and the examples of hand-shake denoted by way of preparation, forgetting the essence that indeed and in fact, the genesis, the root of the whole problem of Sino-Indian issue as it were at the border, lies at the doorsteps of the then Ruling party. I do not wish to go into the total examination of what preceded 1962 and how before 1962, the accounts of our history, the annals of our history were filled with what the Ruling party and other speak of the importance of preparation. Indeed, they are not simply that.

Also about the whole question of Jammu & Kashmir, starting from the very beginning, from the invasion of 1947, for all the subsequent steps that were taken by the then Ruling Party in 1948, I am sure, they were taken on account of preparation. Whether it was the 1963 late Sardar Swaran Singh and the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto talks or it was the talks at Tashkent following the 1965 conflict, if it is the suggestion of the hon. Members from the principal Party in Opposition, that Tashkent exemplified preparations or indeed the Simla Accord of 1972 exemplified preparations, then it is a matter of considerable disappointment to me. In 1965, of course, I had the honour to be still in uniform. So, in 1965, it exemplified preparations then, it is not for me to say that prior preparations resulted in such a thing. For example, it was for the first time when we accepted — not the first time, but yet another time — when the then Ruling Party accepted a third party 'not simply intervention', but a mediation.

The event, the whole question, the issue, the problem, or whatever you wish to call it, of Jammu & Kashmir was discussed not here, not bilaterally, but at Tashkent. In Tashkent, what did the great preparation achieve for India? It certainly did achieve among other things, the handing back of Hajipur Pass to which a number of speakers, have already referred. I will also refer to the preparations that were there in 1972 Simla Accord. No doubt, a great deal of preparations went into it. What did the preparation finally result in?

Firstly, a very important issue camp up; that is, hereafter, Jammu & Kashmir, for its final settlement—it will still referred to as final settlement — as it was unresolved, would be dealt with bilaterally. But nevertheless, at that stage 93,000 prisoners were in their hands; hands were traded; prisoners were traded. Even before the ink on Simla Accord had dried up, the signatories of that Accord had resented. That too was a part of the example of preparations that our friends have referred.

I do not wish to go into the other examples of preparations, whether it is the misadventure of the IPKF intervention or other examples. There are many. But for

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair

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all the hon. Members to speak of preparation, know for a fact the amount of preparation that went into this Summit and I will in a minute come to it again. I felt in necessary to place it, in its proper background, that preparation and the constant reiterating of this word that there was inadequate preparation therefore it happens, is, in fact, not an argument or an observation, leave alone the criticism that is able to stand on its own. We are informed, Sir, and I will answer all the questions from the very beginning, as to why it was post-Kargil, or the particular policy about not giving any quarter and not accepting cross-border terrorism; what preparations, what assessment, what appreciation led the Government to thereafter alter its stance and say we will have a talk with you.

Before I come to the key issue, I would like to share with the hon. Members of the House that on the question of fundamentals about India and Pakistan relations, there is in fact a little difference between what all sides of the House have been saying and what the Government continues to believe. It is my belief and let it be very clearly understood that so far as Pakistan is concerned — I have said so in public and I say so here again — the State of Jammu and Kashmir is not a cause but a consequence of this kind of approach or attitude that Pakistan continues to adopt. It is a consequence and it is the consequence Mr. Chairman, Sir, of a consistent and a deliberate policy posture by Pakistan of compulsive and perpetual hostility to India; the compulsive hostility as in means and methods of sustained nationhood which is born in hostility to India. It is in that compulsive hostility arising from the seeds of the two-nation theory that today or even earlier, all their actions in Jammu and Kashmir are attempted to be justified. I have said so very clearly, Sir, not here but in the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of the Government and I have no difficulty in saying so again that Jammu and Kashmir, therefore, is not the core issue as the President of Pakistan, General Musharraf Sahib is so given to repeatedly pronounce. Jammu and Kashmir is not the core issue. Jammu and Kashmir is not a cause but a consequence. It is the consequence of this policy, this approach of compulsive and perpetual hostility to India. Jammu and Kashmir and what it represents is at the core of the Indian nationhood because it represents rejection of two-nation theory. It represents that the division of this land on grounds of faith is not acceptable. It clearly exemplifies that India believes in and shall continue to believe in civic nationalism as against denominational nationalism which Pakistan openly subscribes. Jammu and Kashmir is not simply a State of the Indian Union but it is an example of the creed of secular India and, therefore, there is simply no question of this Government treating it in any other manner but that is its centrality. I must share this quite explicitly with the hon. Members.

I will not go into what the hon. Prime Minister said to the visiting dignitary, the President of Pakistan, that is, "You keep repeating that Jammu and Kashmir is the core issue, then I will have to go into the core of the core. Do you want me to do that? Do you want to met go into the core of what you call the core issue? Do you want me to go back?" Then, the visiting dignitary said, "No, we do not want to go back into history. I do not want to go back to 1947 or 1948". This is all very clearly and in unambiguous and explicit terms stated by the Prime Minister. Of course, he stated it with civility and courtesy that is due to a visiting Head of State. But there is absolute necessity, Sir, to understand that the kind of fundamentalism that Pakistan is structuring around hostility to India in addition, of course, to deluding and mesmerising its own citizens, is worrisome. That is the path which the hon. Members ought to reflect upon and that is the path which we all fully agree.

It inculcates a kind of self-induced cult of false glory about themselves. This is a deluding miasma that is being created by the leadership of Pakistan deliberately in its own citizens. This is a path that is full of peril much more so for Pakistan than for anybody else. I have had an occasion to repeatedly and on a number of occasions pointed out to the visitors from Pakistan that the path that you have chosen is ruinous. This path has no other alternative but to reject; else it will reduce Pakistan to a kind of social and political anarchy which is, of course, a matter of concern to us. But it is not in our hands to address. They have to address it themselves. It is these tendencies that we have always taken into account and we have always borne in mind. This is the reality.

Why is it that we said that we must continue to engage. It is because we believe in the challenge that India confronts, where it is a question of terrorism or challenging or questioning India's territorial or any other kind of integrity that our nationhood represents, then that challenge would be squarely met. It will be met; it will be defeated; and it will be repelled each time and every time with no ambiguity and without exception. Kargil represented that in its essence. It was during Kargil that we first said that you must vocate your aggression.

Sir, I recollect that it was, in fact, on the 11th of June, 1999, on the eve of the then Foreign Minister of Pakistan's visit that in a Press Conference, I said: 'Aggression must be vacated'. I also said many other

things because we had then six soldiers of ours returned in a mutilated manner. We had said that the validity of the Line of Control must be re-affirmed and we had said, quite clearly, that cross border terrorism must be rejected and stopped. That is where cross border terrorism started. That was the first time that we placed cross border terrorism squarely and firmly as an issue that must be addressed by Pakistan. In re-affirming the validity of the Line of Control, we were re-emphasising one of the principal attainments of the Simla Agreement the Simla Agreement is a Treaty document. It is the Simla Agreement that saw the conversion of the earlier cease-fire line into a Line of Control. That Line of Control was agreed to as a Treaty document by both sides and the designated officers of the military of both sides sat continuously and signed various maps and also descriptions so that the details of the Line of Control were in no doubt whatsoever. It is this, that was required to be re-affirmed. Therefore, when we speak of cross border terrorism, it is here that we re-affirm and re-emphasise that cross border terrorism is not acceptable to us. I really do not know how I should put it. Thereafter, the Government took it upon itself to create an international atmosphere about terrorism as not simply a challenge that India is facing but as something that the entire international community ought to wake up to because this menace is threatening.

18.00 hrs.

In fact, it threatens the civilised function of humanity in various parts of the world. It is a matter not of any false claim. It is a matter of objective reality. It is a matter that is now borne out by all the developments that have taken place that between Kargil and now, the manner in which terrorism was recognised by the international community was, in fact, clear denunciation of what Pakistan is doing and continues to do.

A number of hon. Members spoke about...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Would you please take the House into confidence on one point? We were told by the media — we may be totally wrong—that at one stage, your meeting with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan during the Summit almost clinched the issue and finalised the draft but later on, it could not get through. Is it because of the word, cross-border terrorism that they were not accepting or something else? Could you just elaborate as to why after your understanding with their Foriegn Minister and the draft was ready, it could not get through?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will certainly answer your question. This is one of the speculative items that is most unfortunately not only circulating in our media but has actively been put across - and this is a matter of some regret to me - by my interlocutors from Pakistan. But I will answer this question. Do please be patient and permit me to proceed with my intervention in the manner in which I have chosen to do...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Sir, would the time of the House be extended?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

If the House agrees, the time may be extended till the conclusion of the discussion.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will attempt to be as brief as possible I can, mindful of the concerns and sensibilities of the hon. Members. The subject is such, the speculations surrounding the issue have been such and the kinds of things that have been said have been such that I am sure that the hon. Members will give me an opportunity to explain the points. I will be mindful of your sense of time but please be mindful of my responsibility and explaining, as well as I can, what I have to explain. That is all the time which I am asking.

On the question of cross-border terrorism and on the totality of terrorism, I do agree that never before in international relations have we had such a situation in which terrorism has been put forth and frontally as has been Pakistan's role today. And I have repeatedly said that what is happening, the kind of anarchy that has visited Afghanistan...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I would just ask one clarification. He has yielded, Sir. Has Mr. Musharraf's accession to power been legitimised by the Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What the hon. Member wanted to know is that whether we are legitimising Mr. Pervez Musharraf's usurpation of power through military coup. I will attempt to answer it. I will answer all these questions. Please do not worry.

May I go back, with your permission Sir, to terrorism and how we approach the question of terrorism. It is a kind of social and political anarchy, which today visits the unfortunate land of Afghanistan, which is one of the

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consequences of promotion of terrorism and cross-border terrorism.

In fact, it is an unleashing of a variety of medieval malevolence that I have cautioned my friends in Pakistan that if you do not curb, it will have very grave consequences for Pakistan. I have said so in public; I have said so here; in international gatherings that India has no illwill for the people of Pakistan, India has no illwill for Pakistan, as such. We do not covet even an inch of Pakistan's territory. India is on the move. We are not preoccupied with Pakistan. It is a matter of some regret and it is a matter of fact that all of Pakistan's policy is Indo-centric, not so with India.

When hon. Members and others find fault with us as to how we continue to observe certain proprieties and reticence in regard to exposure to media or of media or what we had to say to media, they should please bear in mind that India has not to deal with only one interlocutor or one country, but with the entire international community. When we deal with one country, and in a particularly irresponsible manner, in fact it is not how India will deal with other countries, but I will come to that later. It is because of that that we have a situation today in the form of a UN Security Council Resolution No. 1333, to which the signatories were the two principal antagonists in Afghanistan, Russia and United States of America, which is jointly promoted with India and that is the Resolution on Taliban. This was done for the first time ever. It is a big warning. A number of Members have asked that if that is so, then why Pakistan has not been declared a 'terrorist State'. Let me make it very clear that India has the ability, it has the determination—and there is no question of India asking for anyone's help—to meet the challenge that has been posed to us through terrorism. We need nobody's assistance, we covet nobody's help and we do not have to knock on anyone's door as to how we recognise the reality of what is happening in Pakistan. I did say already that we covet not in inch of Pakistan's territory.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of India held the basic position that unless cross-border terrorism is stopped, we will not have any talks with Pakistan. So, I would like to know as to whether the Government had any inkling or reason for changing that position.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I was just coming to that point in a minute or so because this is a question that has been asked by many.

Sir, the Government of India did not and has not changed its position in regard to terrorism. We will not change our position, but having internationally achieved what we set out to do after Kargil, which was to continuously bring the international community and as much of the totality of the international community to the point of accepting India's view point, a larger view point on terrorism, we took this decision. It was a conscious decision. I will address all the various descriptions that have been given about this decision like the sudden 'U' turn, change etc. It was a deliberate decision; it was a well thought-out decision; it was a decision that was part of the whole; it was a decision that was not a turn, it was a decision that was a continuity, it was a continuity of a total approach and policy; it was not a decision that was an aberration or a departure or indeed even a turn away. It was a continuation because, so far as terrorism is concerned, no quarter will be given to it, no quarter is ever going to be given now or in future and Pakistan will have to continue to answer for every action of the terrorists that it continues to promote.

In the approach to the sole issue, it was the Government of India's considered viewpoint—having achieved what we set out—to achieve internationally. Having addressed the question internally, let me share it with the hon. Members. No doubt the hon. Members have appreciated that we addressed the question of terrorism. It was simultaneously being addressed internationally and internally through security forces on the ground and through various actions that were initiated almost simultaneously. Otherwise, you may say: Why was that action taken? It was a deliberate step that was taken. It was thought out as a process of reconciliation, as a process of giving yet another opportunity for peace and normalcy to return. No doubt, the hon. Members recollect it. The first step internally was to release the people belonging to the All-Party Hurriyat Conference from confinement and let them go back to Jammu and Kashmir. For about four or five months thereafter, they were permitted to do what they wanted to do and to meet their people. It was a deliberate step. It was not in a fit of amnesia that the Government did it.

I am broadly categorising the chronology of how it went. If the hon. Members would recollect, thereafter there was the cease-fire—the cease-fire announced by Hizbul Mujahidin—which we encouraged. I would remind the hon. Members that the announcement of that cease-fire by Hizbul Mujahidin was very rapidly followed by statements

from Salahuddin sitting in Pak-occupied Kashmir induced and persuaded by Pakistan to give all kinds of conditions, to involve Pakistan, and to give your reply within eight days or this will happen or that will happen. That was again thwarted. We did not then give up. That was followed by the announcement—that was greeted by everybody—by the hon. Prime Minister on the eve of the holy month of Ramazan on 23rd November.

Starting from 28th of November last, we started a process of non-initiation of combat operations. We knew very well that each of these steps will be challenged and the process we endeavored towards peace will be thwarted and defeated at all steps. For six months, we let it continue. In all these six months, the international efforts continued. It is during these months that the international community's attention continued to be limited upon the aspects fo terrorism that India continued to contented with. Internally, we made these efforts. Continuously from Pakistan's side, efforts were made to defeat these efforts. We did not make any departure. Despite this, we came to conclusion about the logic of what the Government has done. Despite all this, not having succeeded entirely, it required that we carried the logic to its logical point. There was only one thing remaining thereafter. The logical point being that the President of Pakistan then as the Head of the Government — as its Chief Executive — made a constant reiteration: I am ready to talk at any time, at any place, etc., etc.

Consciously and deliberately we came to the conclusion. We wished to talk. We will talk. We will talk with civility. We will observe all norms. But in the process of talking, if it is your impression and it is the impression of anybody in Pakistan, including the President or the Government of Pakistan that India greed to talk because it was not out of any weakness, India agreed to talk it was not out of any fatigue, we agreed to talk, as has been suggested by somebody, because of the call—to my mind, it is completely an unsustainable call—that the *Jihadis* have now pressurised India that we are ready to have a talk.

These notions are so absurd, these notions themselves are so untenable that we said notwithstanding this kind of observation that will follow, let us give peace one more try. Let us give this try also because the objective is peace.

Let me share here itself, Mr. Chairman, with all the hon. Members. Firstly what was set in motion at Lahore was a process which was a continuation and it built up upon what had preceded earlier. We brought to the process of Lahore, the distillate of the experience of the past fifty years. We attempted to channelise that distillate into a process and the ultimate aim of that process is peace. The aim of that process of sustainable, amicable, good relations between India and Pakistan because as the Prime Minister has often said, 'you can change friends in life, indeed in politics, but you cannot change your neighbours'. Pakistan has come to learn to live in peace with India.

We said, 'we will give this also a try'. That is why, when I had occasion to meet people from Pakistan before Gen. Parvez Musharraf came, when I had the occasion to meet the Press, I continued to say, the decision that Pakistan has to take is as to what kind of long-term relationship it wants with India. The kind of long-term relationship that India wants with Pakistan is clear, we covet not in inch of territory of Pakistan.

We hope that Pakistan is able to so arrange its affairs that it is socially at ease, hopefully, politically, and democratically. But we are not going to dictate to Pakistan as to what you do with your internal arrangement. Indeed, we cannot dictate. You would wish that it were democratic. But if it chooses an alternative manner of governing itself, then good luck to them and good luck to the people of Pakistan.

We also said that if it is an economically viable Pakistan, then it is good for Pakistan, it is good for the relations between India and Pakistan and it is good for the region. But in achieving all these three, other than sitting with Pakistan and talking, I cannot do much more to help Pakistan move in the direction of coming to a determination of what kind of long-term relationship it wants. It is Pakistan that has to resolve the inner turmoil within its own society, the sectarian violence. It is Pakistan that has to realise that if it continues to promote the kind of fundamentalism that it is promoting, it is unleashing a variety of medieval benevolence that can only harm it. India will contend with it, it will confront it. I know, as a fact that India will redeem.

So, it was with this persuation that we said, 'all right, if now an effort towards continuing the process of Lahore requires, and I do believe it required, that we now sit with the Head of Government of Pakistan also. Let us sit and let us try and give this matter another chance because as was stated, the caravan of peace must continue.' But in the movement of caravan of peace, Lahore was followed by Kargil. It was followed by

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Kandahar also. We handled both Kargil and Kandhar. You could be filled with bitterness on that account and the Prime Minister could have said, 'on account of these I abandon all efforts at reconciliation.' But he did not. It was a mark, not simply of an individual commitment towards peace and reconciliation, but also a mark of the innate cultural and civilisation ethos of what India is all about.

That is why, I kept saying, 'We do not covet Pakistan's territory'. We mean no ill-will to their people. We do want them to come to the path of peace. That is why, we said, 'All right, we will meet'. It is in this background, Sir, that we went, the principles were cleared, the pillars around which the talks were to take place were absolutely clear, had been made repeatedly clear. We were the first ones to point out when the Chief Executive Gen. Pervez Musharraf Sahib continued to say, I do not believe in Simla and I do not believe in Lahore, when he continued to say and when he said it, we pointed it out to Pakistan.

[Translation]

You are sacrificing your own interest here. Think it over, what you are doing? After a few days a statement comes from Pakistan, wherein General Pervez Musharraf says, that we believe in both i.e. Shimla declaration and Lahore declaration. That is why we went fully prepared. We had full knowledge of this fact and it is only after this that we have initiated this step.

[English]

Now, Sir, I must address these four broad issues. About preparation, what were prepared and preceded with the invitation, I have just explained. In terms of hard preparation, I can tell you, Sir, that as the Ministry and as an individual, the Prime Minister, though he was convalescing in the hospital bed, he had demanded from the Ministry all the way-back from all UN Resolutions on the subject to all the talks that the country has ever had with Pakistan, full details; he would like to study even while he was in Bombay convalescing in the hospital bed. This is not a small preparation. I do not wish to go back and dig into history or dwell on it. In the process of what the Prime Minister had demanded of my Ministry, I had occasion, Sir, to study at great length and in great depth, for example the 1963 talks that late Sardar Swaran Singh had with late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

I am sure, my friend from the principal party in the Opposition would not like me to dwell on those tasks, what were offered and where they were leading up. I also studied at great length what my friends call preparations for Tashkent, for example. I do not want to dwell on that or Simla. These are parts of the movement of history in the matter of India Pakistan relations.

In assessing the course of events, yes, do your judgement. But when judging, please do not tamper and moderate your views, that in passing the kind of comments that you do, what purpose is being served. If you wish to find fault with me, my Ministry or with the Government, do find fault. In the process of finding fault, please do not find fault with the totality of the country's endeavour in this regard.

A great deal has been said that the talks were not accompanied by any agenda. Repeatedly there were four proposals for the agenda. They are already extant in India-Pakistan bilateral dialogue, the agenda that Shimla has bequeathed as a continuing process to both the countries. There was already, as a part of the continuing agenda, the Lahore Declaration between India and Pakistan.

We had repeated this to Pakistan. They knew very well that this was very much a part of it. Thirdly, the Composite Dialogue process that had set out and listed the issues on which subjects India and Pakistan will deliberate, was a fixed agenda. We had reiterated that agenda to Pakistan. And fourthly, despite Pakistan continuously saying we do not want any agenda — I will come to the details of it in a minute—in writing, the Ministry of External Affairs, the concerned Division, proposed an agenda point by point that let this be the agenda on which Pakistan and India when President visits, the talks should take place.

It is not a serious observation to make the country with this size, the maturity, the experience, finds fault with us — turned in the process of finding political fault with—finds with the systems of the country, and the systems and sub-served the country very well. These agendas were all there. What did the Pakistan establishment have? What did the President of Pakistan propose? The Pakistan establishment until the last was not clear itself because the establishment had not been taken into full confidence by the President of Pakistan himself. We had proposed that in addition to—this is normally what does happen—the one to one talks between the visiting Head of Government/State and the Prime Minister, there must be a full delegation level meeting. That was a prepared text which included all the points that India wanted to include in the Prime Minister's intervention.

I am not revealing any State secret. There was no prepared text on Pakistan side. The notes for the intervention by the visiting Head of Government/State by Pakistan were made on the table while the Indian Prime Minister was presenting. It was that kind of a situation. That was the kind of military simplicism if I might put it as politely as I can. The President of Pakistan never fights shy of extolling the virtues of soldierly qualities. He is not at all hesitant or inhibited in putting across that he has the attribute of soldierly directness. We all greatly admired the soldierly qualities.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: He forgot that you also have that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I do not wish to say that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not do cross talk.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: But as a country India too is not absent of soldierly qualities. What was required at that dialogue between the two Heads of State Government was not an exposition on soldierly qualities or soldierly directness. It was to address the intricate complex issues that involve not territory, not land because Jammu and Kashmir—let me repeat again—is not a territorial dispute. It involves the complex sentiments of the peoples. We have to address the complexities of the mistakes of history. It was made very clear in the statement that the Prime Minister gave. Not being the territorial dispute, what are we talking of?

Are we simply talking of the Valley of Srinagar or Valley of Kashmir? The State of Jammu and Kashmir is as defined in Article I, Scheduled I, which point I made clear in a Press Conference on the 11th of July, having made clear on the 14th of June. When I was asked, I said clearly, 'How do I negotiate? How do I compromise with the Constitution of India?' And, what does this Jammu and Kashmir comprise of? It comprises of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and all that is described in Schedule I including Shakshgam Valley. Shakshgam Valley is a land territory of 380 square kilometres that was illegally ceded by Pakistan to the People's Republic of China. China does not yet fully confirm it leaving it for final settlement of the issue. How, therefore, are we to treat this issue? Are we to treat this as a territorial dispute?

I pointed out, 'Are you referring to this as a dispute simply because in the Valley of Srinagar the percentage of population of the citizens of India that subscribe to the noble faith of Islam is say 80 per cent or more? Then, i can cite you today', I told the visiting dignitary, 'the number of districts in India where the citizens of India subscribing to the noble faith of Islam have a similar population. What am I to do with those districts? You will claim those districts simply on the grounds of population of those districts...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We all appreciate that you very rightly said that but why did you not react and tell it to the media when Mr. Pervez Musharraf insulted us by saying that the terrorists were freedom fighters? You too have soldierly qualities and all that. You could have said that to the media but you did not. Why did you not say that at that time? You allowed him to insult us.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have said that — if you permit me — there were three or four broad issues; preparation, agenda and also the media. I was going to come to the media. I will attempt to answer as best as God has given me the ability to answer the question on the media also but because I was on the question of agenda, I must set hon. Members' doubts at rest.

It is not a territorial dispute. I said, 'What am I to do with these districts of India if your proposition be at all a tenable proposition? I have such districts in the heart of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. I have them in West Bengal; I have them in Kerala; I have them in Tamil Nadu. If your thesis or if your theory is accepted ever by anybody, what will I have to do with these districts? Will I have to put those districts on railway rakes and transport them to West Pakistan? How am I to do it? How can I?' It was almost in these words that I said it. It is totally unacceptable. This thesis or this theory that the Jammu and Kashmir is in a kind of a territorial dispute is not acceptable. There was no ambiguity about this; there is not ambiguity; there would be no ambiguity. But we are ready to sit with them. We will sit with them...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a claim was putforth over the Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already clarified the point raised by the hon. Member. You have asked this question in haste but I would not answer in haste and would give a preper reply. I had just now said very clearly that when Kashmir issue was raised, the hon. Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Sattar Saheb, stated that Kashmir is the core issue and then

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Hon. Atal ji had affirmed that if it is core issue then we shall have to go into such a core issue and you will have to clarify about Pakistan occupied Kashmir apart of unified Jammu and Kashmir till 1947 and subsequent events like Sakhagam valley, chitral, Lhasa and all such issues. He said that this is a historical fact. Infact we categorically putforth our viewpoint and did not hesitate a bit.

[English]

I will come to the point, I am sorry. But I have to respond because this is the first opportunity that the Government is taking to make it as explicit, still with propriety, still with the sense of the confidentiality that high affairs of State must always have — some exchanges must never be made public.

First, please understand that the nature of the Agra Summit was retreat. Normally, how retreat by its very worth is described is a meeting where the visiting Head of State/Government and the receiving Head of State/ Government meet in retreat quietly, away from Press, away from publicity so that complex and intricate issues are then enabled to be addressed by them in the privacy, and confidentiality of their dialogue quite often is maintained. This is the standard during such retreats and at one-to-one. At such retreats, even note-takers are not present when two Heads of Governments meet. The note-takers are not present so that the two Heads of Governments are then able to speak absolutely freely about things which they might not be able to say in public because naturally, on intricate issues, there are always high aspects not simply of State policy but public sentiments are also involved. This was the nature of the Agra Summit.

Sir, what preceded it? We suggested, and here again, I shall submit with due regard to confidentiality that it was suggested that for the sake of making this visit worthwhile, let us meet directly at Goa. It would be well away from the Capital. The Capital has its own convulsive dimensions, if I might so put it. In Goa, the two leaders then can be secluded and they can address themselves. Let us meet on 14th and 15th so that 16th is then available as a reserve. A direct request of the visiting dignitary, directly to the Prime Minister, was made 'I must come to Delhi.' It is not possible for the host, thereafter, to say, no, you cannot come to Delhi. With all due courteries to a visiting Head of State, Delhi was fixed. Again, it was decided that after the arrival of the visiting Head of State, after the due ceremonials, Guard of Honour, a luncheon by the President etc., immediately the two Heads of Governments would retreat, withdraw to Agra for that retreat, so that we would have the balance of 14th, 15th and 16th of July. A request was made.

[Translation]

It was necessary to stay one night in Delhi. He was a Guest here and if he says so, then should we refuse that no you cannot stay in Delhi.

[English]

Sir, what happened on the 14th July? We were not blind to what happened on the 14th, what was done with regard to All Party Hurriyat Conference. They have no claim at all, no representational identity with Jammu and Kashmir. If they wish to have a representational identity with Jammu and Kashmir, of course, like any citizen of Jammu and Kashmir, they are free to contest elections.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Then, why did you send Shri K.C. Pant to talk to them in Kashmir, if you do not recognise them?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The direction that has been given to Shri K.C. Pant is to not talk to only All Party Hurriyat Conference but to talk to any element and all elements in Jammu and Kashmir who wish to now come back to the path of normalcy and abandon violence, and a great many have come forward. It is the APHC which is under pressure from Pakistan. The nature of APHC is not hidden either from you or from us. They represent or speak for nobody but the APHC. They do not represent the will or the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We were aware of what was happening, but ultimately because of courtesy, as the host demands that the visiting guest dignitary be permitted all access. This country is a free country. It is a country that exemplifies courtesy and hospitality. I do not have to cite "Atithi Devo Bhava" It was that kind of an approach to a visiting dignitary.

Thereafter came the 15th July. I wish to dwell on the timings of it. The 15th started somewhat late because the arrivals etc. were late. It was only after 11 o'clock or so that the one-to-one started. The 15th afternoon ended with an agreed text of a joint statement between India and Pakistan giving an account of the discussions of then.

On the 15th evening, before the Banquet by the Governor of U.P., that Joint Statement was to be issued. It was our understanding that, that Joint Statement contained the essence of what had so far taken place and what the thrust of the discussions was, that there

would be no departure. The was a very big media team. The hon. Minister for information and Broadcasting, who is my valued colleague in the Cabinet, went to Agra because we in the External Affairs Ministry requested her to be there. I requested her. The Prime Minister advised her that she should be there. When she told the Press what she did, she told the Press what she was authorised to tell and she had the authority of the Union Cabinet to do so. To suggest otherwise at the behest of Pakistan that a member of the Union Cabinet had spoken out of turn is completely out of turn as they thought. It is not acceptable to us. There was no damage there. The damage is in your mind. There was absolutely no damage there.

The Joint Statement was the outcome of the 15th. It was decided that on the 15th we would attempt to produce a Joint Document. The proposals were either a Joint Statement or a Declaration. The proposal came, "Why not a Declaration?" India had prepared — we had drafts of a Statement, which were a Press Statement, and a Declaration. To say that there was no such preparation, I am really amazed at the irony of it. If there was preparation, the preparation was actually from India's side. We had a possible draft, if it was only to be a Press Statement or a joint statement. We had a possible draft, if it was to be a Declaration. We had possible drafts ready, if it was to be something more than that. It all depended on how the visiting dignitary chose to address this task. We said, "Please let your officers be deputed to sit with our officers so that work can proceed on a draft." They were supposed to sit at 4.30 p.m. If my memory serves me right, it was either at 4.30 or 5.00 on the afternoon of the 15th. I am now talking of 15th ....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: This discussion could have been held in Delhi also....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas, please take your seat.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It was suggested to the officials of the Pakistan team that let officials from the two sides sit together and start working on the document so that before the banquet by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, some progress is made on the document. I do not find fault with them. But this is a fact. The officials from the Pakistan side would just not sit with our officials because they had no directions; they had no instructions and they had no document. It was after the banquet was over — by now we have reached 11 o'clock at night on the 15th — finally, at 11 o'clock at night, Pakistan officials said that they were then ready to sit with us. This was on the 15th evening. There was only half a day left.

[Translation]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: After the banquet.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We will not make any comment on it.

[English]

The officials, I commend their dedication to duty, I commend their hard work, they worked till 4.30 a.m. in the morning jointly. The possible outline was prepared. Yes, in that outline Draft there were, what in diplomatic parlance is called, a number of square brackets. Square brackets are areas where there is no agreement. That document was referred to the Heads of Governments on the morning on the 16th. Now, please reflect on this. The original schedule is that the visiting dignitary would depart Agra at 2.30 p.m. on the 16th so that he was able to fly to Jaipur, thereafter be heli-lifted to Ajmer so as to be able to visit the *Dargah Sharif* at Khawaja Moinuddin Chisti. So, we knew that we were now already very closely pressed for time. It was already 11 o'clock in the morning.

Sir, a number of questions have been raised. My friend, colleague and a distinguished member of the Congress Party asked me, was there any draft in which I made any corrections with my hands? I must tell you, Sir, there must not have been just one piece of paper. There must have been many pieces of paper on which I attempted to correct all kinds of things from the quality of Punjabi English and grammer to punctuation.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: To Jodhpuri English...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No. Therefore, I think, finding fault with me would not be a right thing.

Sir, I must also go and add little further because I must satisfy all the hon. Members. I am again sharing no State secret here. But I must share this with the hon. Members because it is the background in which the question of media management has come. The visiting Head of Government undertakes to start a drafting

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

exercise with the Prime Minister. This, Sir, is not ever done. Not because the visiting Head of Government or State has subsequently in Islamabad made it clear—he said, 'what is a Declaration? It is after all only an exercise in English composition. I can do it in half-an-hour'. I am not saying this after and after thought. This is the statement he made after he had reached Islamabad and said that this is all that a Declaration is. So, when effort was being made by the visiting Head of State, of course, no doubt, he was inspired by military directness to correct or attempt to do a drafting exercise...*(Interruptions)* Then I suggested that this is not how it should be done.

But, the Prime Minister had said that even though it was a one-to-one, I had better go along because there were so many square brackets and that I would be better able to explain those square brackets. Then it was suggested that my counterpart, His Excellency Sattar *Sahab*, should also be present. That was when it was suggested that the Heads of Government should not engage in any drafting. Even Foreign Ministers do not engage in drafting exercise. It is left to officials for very good reasons.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Minister are only to sign.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: absolutely. The Foreign Ministers or the Heads of Government just simply do not do it. But if the visiting side says, 'this is how it should be done', we continue gently say 'this is not how this is done'. And if the visiting side says, 'this is how we will do it', to the extent possible you guide them and say.

[Translation]

Not in this way. It would be better if it is done like this. What else we could have done more than this.

[English]

It was not possible beyond that. So, the drafting exercise went on. In the drafting exercise that went on between my distinguished counterpart His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Pakisten and I, just as I made pencilled corrections, no doubt the also made pencilled corrections. I have never up till now said, or produced, or pointed out to the press.

[Translation]

The hon. Foreign Minister of Pakistan wrote these words with his own Pencil:

[English]

As my very good friend and senior, the habited Barrister, Shri Somnath Chatterjee knows, lawyers have to correct to many things. He goes on correcting and changing until he, in his distinguished legal career, settles a brief that he puts his initial on. In the process of consultations and discussions, how can something be taken as 'the document? There is no 'the document' until there is a document on which signatures of the two Heads of Government are put.

The rest is now history. The 12:30 deadline could not be met. It kept on prolonging. Every effort was made. What was holding it up? What was holding it up was what the Prime Minister had clearly said - Pakistan's continued emphasis and preoccupation that everything is dependent on Jammu and Kashmir.

A number of friends asked as to what were those nine items. They were all aspects and issues that were part of the composite dialogue process. It included nuclear confidence-building measures; it included nuclear risk reduction; it included discussions on Siachen, on Wullar, on Sir Creek, on commercial relations, on all kinds of things. I am not citing it because hon. Members would recognise it. We had said that on the 4th, on the 6th on the 9th of July the Government had unilaterally announced a number of steps — economic, nuclear confidence-building talks between Directors-General of Military Operations, 50 lines to be identified even though Pakistan does not give India the most-favoured-nation status, etc. All that had been done including opening Srinagar-Muzaffarabad highway, opening Monabau-Kokrabhar line, hopefully. This is not for any parochial reason that I recommended it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Opening those roads to terrorists?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Terrorists do not go by roads that are officially open. Terrorists follow other paths and my friend also know it.

These steps had already been taken. It is in this background that the question of media has been addressed to us, and a fault is found with us that we did not sufficiently keep the media informed. I have said what has happened. I must share with the hon. Members that whenever I felt it necessary that I must go to the press and make clear India's position, I did so.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: With the help of Sushmaji.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Yes, of course, she was obviously there. Without the help of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, how can I clear?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did she clear the speech?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No, that she did not.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do not blame my sister.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am very glad that she is not blamed...*(Interruptions)* It was found necessary that I meet the Press on the 14th of June which was well before the date of the visit because soon after the visit had been announced we were witnessing that His Excellency, General Parvez Musharraf went into a spree of interviews giving—two, three, four. He went up to four a day. I really, in my judgement, did not think that it was necessary—of course, the Prime Minister can simply not do it—that I also engage in four interviews a day. It was not necessary. We are not preoccupied, as I said earlier, with Pakistan. I recognise that Pakistan's policy is Indo-centric. We have a lot of other things to do. The country is moving. A lot of things were happening. So, I did not do so.

Thereafter, a lot of things were happening. We had come to the eve of the visit and I felt it necessary, on behalf of the Government, to restate the position and to make explicit that 'this is very unjust.' So, I went to the Press again on 11th of July. I had a full conference for one hour.

During the conference, I did not consider it right on my part to engage in exactly what Pakistan was doing. We do not follow the examples set by Pakistan. No doubt, they judge and choose what they do after deliberate reflection. We are not impressed that is the path to follow.

I must also tell you, Sir, that on the 17th of July, the hon. General Parvez Musharraf left around midnight of 16th, and I did not think it proper that I do to the Press because there was nothing so catastrophic that it happened that I go to the Press at midnight. I chose to go on the morning of the 17th and I did explicitly, clearly re-enuniciate India's position and exactly what had taken place. Now, the fault that has been found is that that while Pakistan was doing all this, why did we not do likewise. I will explain, Sir, why it was not possible to do so. India has to deal not simply with Pakistan but with the entire international community.

It is a matter of some regret to me that my friends from the Media were disappointed. The friends from the Media had, in their own persuasion, arrived at certain conclusions about this meeting between General Parvez Musharraf and the Prime Minister of India, and when conclusions, other than what they thought should be reached, were arrived at, we were informed that it was not a success. I beg to differ.

I must also share with you that what India has done is not because we work on that basis, it has been, in fact, so lauded by Capitals of the world because of the sense of responsibility and restraint we showed. That is not why we did it. Even during post 1998, these very Capitals...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Before coming to India, General Parvez Musharraf started saying that he is going to India for setting Kashmir issue which is the core issue, but in India even five days before his visit, it was being mentioned that, he is coming to Delhi to see his "Nahar wali Haveli". Why didn't you tell us ten days in advance?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, how much time will you take now?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am concluding within five six minutes. I am feeling sorry that Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has raised the issue of India not making the statement ten days before the talks in response to the statement of Pakistan.

19.00 hrs.

Sir, I have stated just two three minutes back, that we had made the position of India over terrorism, Jammu-Kashmir and other issues quite clear on 11th July itself. It is possible that the hon. Member somehow missed my statement.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: But the world could not get the message.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It would not be justice with me as well as the reality, if they do not even listen to

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what I have said right now and I feel that this way, they are not doing justice with India also.

[English]

I believe, amongst all the things, that we do live in a world of what is very broadly, but not inaccurately, called as 'information age'. Above all, I have had a great deal to do with the informatics, softwares and such other developments. I do also believe that this is an age of 'instant-everything'. I recognise that the factor of time in the sense of news particularly — because of the preponderance of visual media — has got to redefine. It is instantaneous and the whole sense of visual media gets defused, if it is not instantly transmitted. Therefore, when you combine that with 24-hour news or when you combine that with the kind of build-up that had preceded General Pervez Musharraf's visit, then the compulsion was self-induced — that there must be some news all the time — all the 24-hours; otherwise, there is a failure. I submit to you, Sir, that in matters of 'High State Policy', where such issues are involved, it is simply not possible.

There are just one or two thoughts. Knowing all this— given the fact that we are a democracy, we are a free country, we respect and we will take into account what our visiting guest does — if the visiting guest violates the established conventions and norms of conduct of diplomatic behaviour, we, because of our openness and access to Press, will continue to permit him to do so because that, in a very real sense, is also India's strength. India is not diminished in the least of it, by what General Pervez Musharraf chooses to do here. We are not diminished because in fact, in substance, what after all, he has said here when he met our distinguished editors, without the knowledge certainly of some of them who went subsequently,—he had that broadcast—is against the canons of diplomatic conduct, particularly when it is a one-to-one meeting, it is a meeting of high importance, and when it is taking place at a 'retreat'. This was about media. Could we have done something better? Yes, no doubt we could have. Were we perfect in the media management? No. We were not. Whose fault is the failure of media management? It is my fault. As the Minister of External Affairs, it is my responsibility. The total meeting was my responsibility. How can you possibly put the blame on my dear colleague, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting or on anybody else? If there is any fault to be found, any deficiencies or shortcomings to be found there, of course, they are my shortcomings and I will address them.

We analyse every event of this nature in the Ministry of External Affairs, no matter what the outcome is. And from every event, we carry out an analysis and see what should have been done differently. In a similarly fashion, we will do so here also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Knowing his capacity, capability, his wide knowledge in diplomacy and media management, which is generally one of best projections of media in our country, I am sure he is right. But I could not follow it as I was also waiting for some news about the outcome. It was known that the talks had not succeeded. While our spokesperson gave a brief report on that night, I do not think we had behaved like a mature nation. What were you trying to keep away from the people? Nobody knew anything. It is right that in the next day morning you held a Press Conference. But you must understand and appreciate that the instant news has a value. The media hype was created on his visit not only all over the country but outside also. As I said, in my intervention that even getting an invitation to the tea party or the dinner was treated as the status symbol. Why could not the news be given little more explicitly than the briefest of the brief that was given? I know it was the handiwork of the Foreign Minister. I have no doubt about it. I could not understand it at all as to how that could be so brief. Not brevity has always the virtue, every time remedy has lurched you, Mr. Foreign Minister.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I always take seriously what my senior and distinguished barrister, such a distinguished Parliamentarian, Shri Somnath Chatterjee says. I have taken note of this observation of yours, in any event, even if you have not repeated it. I know, Sir, that in your intervention you attributed the authorship, of what the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said, to me. But you were right. Of course, as the Minister I had help her to say what she or any spokesperson had to say. What was being said was my responsibility. The only point remains is that instead of meeting the Press at 10 o'clock in the morning why did, at midnight, I not say more than just that one line? Yes, it was possible and we could have done it. In retrospect, I think that instead of meeting the Press at 10 o'clock and instead of just one line statement at midnight, had I said something more, perhaps the hunger...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There was an impression that the Government had not made up its mind what to say.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: But that impression was not correct. I can understand that inadvertently that impression was created. The only difference that remains and I prefer to be wiser...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There is some nodding of heads behind you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Perhaps, if you go through the facts and the situation of the matter, I have in my hands a departing dignitary...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I give you the benefit of doubt.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Thank you. I will take only a minute or two to conclude. There were detailed observations and I must cover them. Otherwise, I have spoken on the schedule and programme—of the foreign pressure. A number of hon. Members have said about it. I am disappointed that my distinguished friend and colleague Shri R.L. Bhatia also say that. There is no question. It goes to 1998. Through conduct we have demonstrated that the Government of India has not deviated from the path of central purpose, path of national interest no matter what country, which country. It cannot. Please believe me that in this particular instance there is no question of any foreign pressure. There will be no question of foreign pressure, foreign intervention, mediation, facilitation, no matter which country and how many countries wish to get into or to intervene or to facilitate or to help, or to mediate. It will just not work. It is clear, unambiguous and full stop.

Let this debate rest here because it is not a debate that is befitting the high status of this House. I have spoken on the issue of dispute. I have addressed the issue of I&B Minister speaking on TV. A question was also asked as to why General Musharraf spoke in the manner that he did about the Prime Minister and myself, and not about others. He did not have that much occasion to interact with the rest of the Indian delegation. The Indian delegation was chosen on deliberate purpose knowing that Pakistan delegation was limited. Even then the Prime Minister said that we have a delegation comprising of the Minister of Home Minister because terrorism is to be dealt with. Finance because we wish to talk economic issues, Commerce because we wish to talk trade and 'Your Truly', because foreign relations were involved. It was a full delegation.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But the others had no work to do.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, on the question whether an agreement was almost reached, this is a statement somewhat like saying so and so is half pregnant. You cannot be half pregnant. You cannot almost reach. You can either reach or you do not reach. Either an agreement is reached or an agreement is not reached. In this case, an agreement was not reached. An agreement about what? An agreement that Jammu and Kashmir as the factor around which India-Pakistan relations must be held hostage to. We do not agree to that. That is why, we continue to say and we said then and we can say now that it is a broad based relationship that should guide us.

A question was asked whether the Government was willing to concede on the issue of centrality of Kashmir. Of course, we did not. Did we agree to abandon Shimla and Lahore? No, we did not. Were we willing to give our insistance about cross border terrorism? Of course, we did not. I made it quite explicit. What was the agreement over the eight items? I have explained them. Did the Minister of External Affairs correct a draft? Yes, of course, I corrected many drafts. My pencil notes must be there on many drafts which are with the Pakistan foreign office. But these are not things that are then subsequently presented.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Were they all in square bracket?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: They were in square bracket. In all, there were six square brackets. I do not want to go into all those square brackets. But with your sharp legal acumen, you will find fault with me that no, they were not six, they were only five. The whole purpose of negotiations then becomes a process to try and eliminate the square brackets by talking. Did I correct a draft? Yes, I corrected many pieces of paper. Some say that Kashmir has been put on top of the agenda. Even in the composite dialogue process, it is one of eight issue for discussion. It is listed at several place. I do not know how much more top you can get to. It is already there. It is existing. It is an issue that we have never been shy of addressing with Pakistan. We are ready to continue to address this. But it is not an issue which, in our view, should or can or will hold India-Pakistan relations as hostage.

A question was asked about SAARC. We had even before Agra Summit agreed that the SAARC meet should take place. The Foreign Secretaries were to meet. The process of SAARC is to continue. I believe on the 9th or the 10th, the Foreign Secretaries are due to meet and it

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is hoped that SAARC will continue. It was suggested that MEA remained silent. I had just explained that MEA was not silent. MEA was observing all due propriety. Yes, there are negotiations that the invitation goes to the Prime Minister or an invitation to me. The invitation had been accepted. It is a suggestion here that visits take place to Islamabad. These visits will take place.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, by virtue of your magnanimity, General Musharraf has got recognition...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I will answer what the hon. Member is asking. If I do not answer anything, then I am told that I am not answering anything. The hon. Member has asked whether we conferred any kind of legitimacy on His Excellency, the President of Pakistan. Please let me make it very clear. Sir, we do not confer legitimacy on the system of governance of Pakistan. It is Pakistan's soveriegn decision. It is their determination. As the Prime Minister has said, we have to deal with the reality of Pakistan.

They are our neighbours. You can change your friends. You can scarcely change the neighbours. I have explained that for two years we did not change for very good reason. We did not change but we altered the road again for a very good reason because when we proceed down this path in quest of peace, it is not as if that quest must be pursued...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't respond to the questions raised by Members while sitting. Please conclude now.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The meetings will take place. These meetings will take place on days and at venues that will be decided upon diplomatic convenience and calendars of the respective parties.

I must finally end by saying that I have given my best endeavour to answer all the questions put by the hon. Members. I do share with all the hon. Members that the caravan of peace is in motion. To cite a Shakespearean phrase, 'the dogs of war cannot deviate it from its path'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Amar Roy Pradhan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I would like to have a small clarification...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record except Shri Amar Roy Pradhan'

*...(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the confidence-building measures...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ahmed Saheb, why are you speaking without the permission of the chair?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ahamed, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED: The honour and dignity of a mature nation like India had been maintained in the Summit...*(Interruptions)* The Pakistan President had not responded to our unilateral announcement of confidence-building measures. What is the stand our Government in this regard?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: These are names of Many hon. Members in the list. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Ahamed has asked whether we are sticking to the

* Not recorded.

unilateral measures which we had announced on 4th, 6th and 9th July and whether we will be implementing them or not. Yes, we are sticking to it. We have said so. We have not rescinded from them. We can implement some of them only if Pakistan also can reciprocate. But the Government's position is very clear that having made the announcements, there is no withdrawing from them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): Sir, I have given a patient hearing to the long and sentimental speech of the External Affairs Minister...*(Interruptions)* I really thank him for giving the example of Tashkent, for speaking about the agenda, how it was happening and all those things, I do not want to go into the details of Tashkent. But it is clear from your version that you had a good exercise on the 15th and 16th regarding drafting. But the draft of the 16th did not see the light of the day. I must say that the Agra Summit is a miserable failure.

Mr. Bhatia is not present now. But I would like to tell him that it is Pakistan and the creation of Pakistan which is a curse on us. He said that today, Pakistan is saying we got Pakistan on a plater and we shall fight for Hindustan (Hans ke Pakistan Mila hai Aur Hindustan ke Liye Larenge).

[English]

But Mr. Bhatia has forgotten the role played by his party at the time of partition of India. It is definitely history. I must ask them to go through a book written not by other but by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi, in his last 100 days.

In *Harijan Patrika*, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi said that there are a few friends among his affectionate party colleagues who are very much for power hankering and for that reason India was divided. He was at Calcutta on the 15th of August, 1947. But my friends on the Ruling Party side now also should not forget that there was on BJP at that time, but there was the Hindu Mahasabha and RSS. What was the role of the Hindu Mahasabha and RSS? In 1946, under the leadership of Dr. Munje, they took the decision that partition of India is the only alternative and there is no other way for achieving independence. So, Pakistan is a curse and for that reason we are suffering a lot now. This is history. How can we forget that?

Sir, we did not have much expectation from the Agra Summit. It is one of the colleagues of the External Affairs Minister who expressed through the media on the 15th of July that we can expect more than the expectations. So, naturally the people thought that the Kashmir problem would be solved. We want friendship not only with Pakistan, but also with Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Sri Lanka and other neighbouring countries.

Sir, in the All Party Meeting that preceded the Summit, we said that we should move forward in such a manner that the relations between India and Pakistan would be better in future. When the Government invited the President of Pakistan, Gen. Pervez Musharraf for talks for the first time after the Kargil war, we, the Opposition parties, all welcomed that decision because we thought that it is essential to have good relations with Pakistan. The Government has stated through the media that they have provided good and palatable dishes for him in the breakfast, lunch and dinner. We have no grudge on that because it is customary in Indian culture to provide our guest with good food.

Sir, the External Affairs Minister has said that they had four agenda points before the meeting. But we have clearly said that the Kashmir problem would not be solved in the Agra Summit. We expected that cross-border terrorism would be stopped, cultural relations would be developed further, trade relations would be improved and the threat of nuclear war would be eliminated. But the Agra Summit did not achieve anything of this. The killings in Kashmir are going on and terrorism is rampant in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. In the All Party Meeting, we said that the dialogue with Pakistan must be there on the basis of Shimla Agreement and Lahore Declaration. In this connection, I would like to say one thing here.

General Musharraf, President of Pakistan, has invited our Prime Minister. The hon'ble Prime Minister has accepted that invitation. We thank him. We would like to have good friendly relations with our neighbours. So, you have to accept that sort of invitation. It is all right. I would like say one thing very clearly. Do not make haste. Do not say that tomorrow or day-after-tomorrow, you would go there. The Islamabad. Do not fix up the dates. You come forward with the dates. You fix up the dates diplomatically and not in a hasty manner. Before that, prepare properly. Have a concrete agenda as to what would be discussed in that meeting. Do not move without any agenda. It is not a friendly discussion. It is a diplomatic discussion. It is a country-to-country discussion. The agenda must be a concrete one. You must know properly whatever may be the agenda. You should have to make preparations for that purpose. You shall have to really with proper home work.

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

I think, whatever dialogue there might be, it cannot be without taking into considerations the decisions arrived at Shimla and Lahore. After that, you need not worry about the Agra Summit. Nothing has been produced there. It was zero. From the Government's side, some hon'ble Minister quoted the comment: "India is zero and Pakistan is hero." I do not like to name it in such a manner. But I would like to say that ultimately the Summit at Agra is zero. So, we need not take up this instance for our future discussions. Let there be a dialogue after dialogue. It is the only solution. We would like to have good friendship with the Pakistanis. We would like to solve the problem regarding Kashmir. It is an integral part of India. There should not be any discussions. I know about my friends from the Congress Party. You may be angry over this because you have surrendered to Pakistan long back. Go through the Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Act. After Supreme Court judgement on BERUBARI. It was an integral part of India. But with that Amendment, the then Government have separated it from the Indian Territory. At that time, Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was very much vocal when he was in the Opposition fought tooth and nail against 9th Amendment. In this connection, I must name Shri N.C. Chatterjee. I must name Shri Tridib Chaudhury. I must name Shri Arvind Ghosal, Professor N.G. Ranga, Shri Tyagi. Shir Subimau Ghosh who fought against this 9th Amendment. These stalwarts protested. They took a fight against this Amendment to the Constitution. At this juncture, whatever may have happened in the 50s, I must say that all the Members of this House should be consulted because Kashmir is an integral part of India. It cannot be separated from India. That should be the point. Just like BERUBARI the integral part of India, Kashmir could not be divided.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, I did not have any intention to speak after the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs has spoken. But I thought it my duty to speak and address the nation as I see the situation that will develop in October. I am on a totally different line as far as the Agra Summit is concerned. In fact, the Minister of Foreign Affairs was very candid in Accepting certain facts. With all the attempts that they made to prepare an agenda, they have failed.

Sir, I would not like to dwell on it but I will begin with what were the causes or reasons that the Hizbul Mujaheedin were the first to call for a cease-fire. Everybody accepted that the brain behind the Hizbul Mujaheedin is the Pakistan Government. May I ask the Government, and there they have failed to reply, as to what forced the Hizbul Mujaheedin, who have been leading, as they say a freedom movement in Jammu & Kashmir, to come around and say that we are ready for a cease-fire? What are those circumstances?

This House is entitled to know. The nation is entitled to know as to what forced the Hizbul Mujaheedin to come around and say that they are ready for a cease-fire unilaterally that they have declared. There lies the genesis of improvement of India-Pakistan relations. Had we waited for some time, I am of the opinion, that the relations we are witnessing of going down in the Agra Summit, would have a better prospect have we taken this exercise about four or five months later then today.

I would just to read one report, which has appeared in the Free Press Journal, Mumbai. This is not of today, but of 19th September 2000. This is very important because this has a bearing on the behaviour of President Musharraf during this visit to India. What does the report says? The report says:

"The country has to pay even more as foreign debt, which will increase by 100 million US dollars due to devaluation. Pakistan's external debt today stands at 29.5 billion dollars. The foreign exchange reserves are paltry and they are to the tune of 1.35 billion dollars against 1.72 billion dollars last year."

There is a further report, which says:

> "The remittance from the overseas during 1999-2000 were only 9.83 million dollars against 1.6 billion dollars for the previous year."

Sir, this is as far as the economy of Pakistan in the year 2000 is concerned.

Where is Pakistan's economic position today? Sir, the report further says:

> "Pakistan debt has increased to 62 billion dollars and a foreign exchange reserve today is only 0.8 billion dollars. Pakistan has to make the short-term loan payments during September round about 10 billion dollars."

So, this is Pakistan's position today as far as the economic and financial side is concerned.

Sir, I come down to other aspect, which is more important and that is the food conditions in Pakistan as far as they are concerned. Pakistan's total production of wheat — I will give only for one crop — is round about 20 metric million tonnes per year. But what is the condition today? The Dawn, 13th March 2001 and this is what it has to report:

"The Provincial Authority has made it crystal clear to that the Federal Government that irrigation water was set to damage approximately about 30 per cent to 40 per cent to the wheat crop due to drought conditions."

Sir, if we take into all this account, Pakistan has to import wheat this year, which they imported last year also.

Sir, there are other issues...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should come to the main point.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, coming to the other point, I am just laying down my views. This has not been spoken in the House. This is a line which has not been spoken in this House. Therefore, I request you that this is a situation which we are going to face in October. Sir, I just want to lay...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, I know that there is a constraint of time. Sir, if you would have restricted the original speakers of each Party, I think, the last speaker would have got the time. Before reminding the last speaker of the time, I think, the Chair should also remind the former speakers that they should also restrict the time. Otherwise, there will be a situation where a few will speak and other will watch. I think, this should not be a situation in the House.

Sir, there is another important issue which we have to take into consideration. All of us consider China to be a friend of Pakistan...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, who is taking down the distinguished Member's views? There is no member in the Officer's Gallery. It is a mockery of the Parliament...*(Interruptions)* Is this the way you treat the Parliament?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is sitting here.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, I feel that all the hon. Members here can putforth their views...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, neither the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, nor the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. It is evident from this that the Government was not serious on this important issue during the Agra Summit...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Akhilesh ji, kindly sit down. Speech of no other Member will go on record except the speech of Shri Ambedkar.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is most unfortunate. The Government is treating the House in such an undignified manner. I protest and condemn it...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, the hon. Minister of External Affairs has just gone out and he will be back shortly...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You must have respect for the Member who is speaking...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: The hon. Minister of External Affairs has intervened and spoke for nearly two hours. It is his duty to hear what the other Members are saying...*(Interruptions)* We have great regard for you. There is no problem. This is adding insult to injury. This is such an important topic....*(Interruptions)* It is not an insult to any one political party...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I am taking the notes. The hon. Minister of External Affairs has just left and he will be back shortly...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion on a very important issue is being held in the House and the hon. Minister of External Affairs is not present. It seems that the Government are not serious on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The speech of any other Member would not go on record except that of Ambedkar ji.

...*(Interruptions)**

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* Not recorded.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, I feel that the hon. Ministers should maintain the dignity and decorum of the House. And if it so happens, they would say that if an hon. Member of the main party is speaking, then everyone else should leave the House. Sir, my question is that...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my belief that such situation should not crop up in the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ambedkar ji, you please conclude now.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not stop unless I putforth my points...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

This is what I am going to do now. There are only three speakers left...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can you say so?

SHRI PRAKAH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir.** I am the only Member of the party so it means that **

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ambedkar ji, you are an experienced Member. You cannot do like this.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have, earlier also, been a Member and that is why I know that the time in the House is allotted on the basis of the party strength and I protest over this. If I am the only Member from my party here, then it does not mean that I would not be given an opportunity to speak. The Chair had mentioned that.

[English]

Everyone will be allowed to speak and then the Minister will reply and not before that.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Being the only Member you cannot doubt the intention of the Chair.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Speaker had promised that I would be given the chance to speak.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are being given the opportunity.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you ask, I am ready to sit down without speaking. There is no problem. I will sit down if you order me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are getting a chance to speak. You please putforth your point.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion on this subject has been going on for a long time. You now come to the main point.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: I am only airing my views. If you say that I am repeating, then I will sit down. I am not repeating whatever I have said.

MR CHAIRMAN: You please express your viewpoint.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: I am coming over to the main point only.

[English]

Sir, China has been considered as a friend of Pakistan. In the year December, 2000, India USA, Russia, Kazakhstan and other had moved a Resolution of arm embargo in the Security Council. I just read out the news that had appeared in the *Hindustan Times.*

> "The Security Council Resolution co-sponsored by US, India, Russia, Kazakhstan called upon arm embargo against Taliban and a ban on import...Subsequently, the UN Security Council appointed a team for extensive control of arm embargo on Taliban."

Sir, China also joined this move. By remaining absent, in the security council on the date of voting and also by allowing their soil to be used by the United Nations' observers as far as implementing this Resolution is concerned. The IMF, world Bank, G-7 and P-5, all of them are not ready for either rescheduling the loans that have been given to Pakistan. So, Pakistan will land in a situation where either in September or in October, they are most likely to be defaulter. With the external balance of payment and just mentioned situation of food conditions, what is going to be the situation in Pakistan? When the world is moving in a direction of caging Pakistan to see that cross-border terrorism or terrorism that is sponsored by Pakistan with the help of Taliban is stopped, India is moving in a different direction by giving not only legitimacy

to General Musharraf but also making him the darling of the Generals and the hero of his country. The world is moving in one direction of caging Pakistan but on the other hand we are moving in a direction of giving legitimacy to General Musharraf. I would like to know this from the Government. Was it a proper time to call General Musharraf at this period when the Government of India is aware of the fact that during 90s, we were defaulter on the external balance of payment, the same situation is arriving for Pakistan some time in September or October when they are likely to be defaulter on the external balance of payment? Neither the IMF, neither the World Bank, neither the P-5 nor the G-7 nor anybody has agreed to the rescheduling of their loans. Within a short time, they have to pay 10 billion dollars by the end of September. A situation is arriving for Pakistan, which we faced in the 90s. When we were defaulters on external balance of payment we had to accept every condition put by the World Bank. As we know, along with China, along with US, when everybody is pressing Pakistan against terrorism, we are in a better position to bargain at that time. Why did we call it now? The point is, when requested, General Musharraf was not agreeing for an agenda, we could have easily postponed this Summit, and had it at a batter time when it was suitable to India. When this was known to Hizbi was not Government of India aware of the facts.

I visualise it, was and I think that the Government would agree with me — that there are nearly, about one crore of Afghan refugees in Pakistan who have to be fed by the Pakistan Government? 44 per cent of Pakistan's population is below the poverty line, that all imports to that country would be stopped after September for non-repayment of loans and that there is a drought condition in Pakistan? Is it not a case where we would be expecting refugees from Pakistan towards India? Is that situation not developing in Pakistan? If it is so developing, may I ask the Government what forced it to hold the Summit in July without waiting for a situation where Pakistan would be declared a defaulter and then ask them to sit down for the Summit?

Hon. Minister of External Affairs, would you let us know whether there was a hidden agenda? Would you let us know whether you had a situation where Pakistan would be forced to accept cross-border terrorism and stop cross-border terrorism? If they accepted the existence of cross-border terrorism and stopped it, we would have a situation where we would have normality in Jammu and Kashmir and a normalisation of relations with Pakistan. As you very well said, Pakistan's total identity and integrity depends on its anti-Hindu stand and anti-India stand and that is the unifying force of Pakistan. But is it not the same case as far as your party is concerned? Is it not that anti-Muslim stand and anti-Pakistan stands are the bases of political revival of your party? Do you visualise that by normalising relations with Pakistan those bases are going to be eroded? Did you therefore trap Pakistan in a situation where there would not be forced to have an understanding but where the Summit would fail?

Even if I might say that you have succeeded internationally, by meeting Mr. Talbott and putting across cross-border terrorism as the major issue as far as India is concerned, by the Agra Summit we have once again brought in Kashmir as the main issue. This, I say, has been the perception all around, of people I have met.

May I ask whether there was a local agenda before the Summit? If a local agenda was there why did you sacrifice the nation when as we know China is moving against Pakistan, the US has already started moving against Pakistan, G-7 has already started moving against Pakistan, P-5 has already started moving against Pakistan, the IMF and World Bank have started moving against Pakistan and they have all started squeezing Pakistan to accept the issue of cross-border terrorism? May I put it across that you had put your party agenda before the nation's as far as the Agra Summit was concerned?

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through his eloquent and inflated speech and charming personality, the hon'ble Minister has little bit assured but also confused the House for 1 hour and 45 minutes. On one hand he clarified some doubts but on the other he created some more doubts. However, on the whole nothing important came out from the verbose speech.

Through you, I would like to pass on some questions to the hon'ble Prime Minister via the hon. Minister but before that I would like to state that it is essential for India and the neighbouring countries to maintain peaceful and friendly relations with Pakistan and to adopt the path of dialogue. It is more important for India as it represents the Asian countries as a leader. However, I would like to submit that Shrimati Indira Gandhi very cautiously initiated the process of normalisation of relations with Pakistan but I am sorry to say that this time proper care has not been taken while making overtures to Pakistan.

It is because of this background that the newspapers and the intellectuals were doubtful about the success of

[Dr. Girija Vyas]

the talks. Even political parties were also not hopeful but these parties, including the congress underlined the necessity for such a dialogue. A little while ago the former Foreign Minister was present in the House. He termed the relations between India and Pakistan as accident prone. The hon'ble Minister has also mentioned the same thing in his speech. However, he has not shown sagacity in resolving the matter prudently and diplomatically, rather he has further complicated the matter. Pakistan's mentality became clear since 18th June. The hon'ble Minister stated that they expressed their views on 14th July. Since 18th June Pakistan was reiterating that Kashmir is the core issue and it will not be left out from the agenda. Talks will be held on Kashmir and other issues. The same messages was being conveyed to India through newspapers and electronic media. However, the union Government did not discuss that issue. We were surprised that the poet in the heart of the Hon. Prime Minister not only congratulated the Pakistani President but in haste invited him to visit India too.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: My first conference was held on 14th June, second 11th July and the third was held on 17th July.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: You had mentioned much about the conference which took place on 11th. Things were not made clear in the conference held on 17th. I agree that the issue was detailed in the conference held on 11th. The first conference was held on 11th, there was a long interval between 11th and 18th July. In between no clarification was made from our side but Pakistan continuously repeated its stand.

I would like the hon'ble Minister to remember the various points raised by Shri Manishankarji and other hon. Members. Shri Parthasarthiji had raised some issues before this summit. He had stated that unfortunately everytime we assume that the present ruler of Pakistan would be different from his predecessors and also repose faith in him ignoring the past happenings. Such a belief would have encouraged him to take such a step. However, this is not the only mistake committed by Vajpayee ji. Lahore bus diplomacy was also a mistake. I would like to remind him that Shariff Saheb and Chief of ISI, Shri Nasir Sahib, were the main accused in Mumbai Bomb blasts which took place in 1993. The hon. Prime Minister had forgotten all this. It was essential to talk to General Musharraf about the agenda before his visit to our country. Parathasarthi ji has further stated that Pakistan will avoid making any commitment to check the cross-border terrorism and will create such an atmosphere where it could blame India for not being serious to solve the Kashmir problem. This is what actually happened during the talks. Pakistan succeeded in its design and left us stunned. We had to pay dearly for our unpreparedness. To some extent, the hon'ble Minister has also accepted it.

On one hand the hon. Prime Minister announced unilateral ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir and on the other hand extended invitation to Pakistani President for talks. Government spokesmen time and again reiterated that they would not talk to the person responsible for Kargil war. They also stated that until the Pakistan stops the cross border terrorism and checks the infiltration of terrorists and supply of arms ammunition to the valley and firing from across the border, there should not be any talks between India and Pakistan. In such circumstances Shri Vajpayee ji invited General Musharraf which was strange not only for our country but also for other countries because neither our conditions were accepted nor the General Musharraf has changed his style as a military dictator.

The pains taking efforts made by Shri Pant ji also failed. Invitation was extended in haste and preparations for the talks were not up to the mark though hon'ble Minister had given clarifications also in this regard. Hon. Prime Minister was in hospital, hon. Home Minister was in Turkey and hon. Foreign Minister was perhaps in Australia. However, it is only the fantasy of the union Government that terrorism in Kashmir can be wiped out and normalacy can be restored and trade can get a fillip there without holding dialogue on this issue. Once more, I reiterate that even after the reply given by the hon. Minister the need for holding political discussions at the administrative level over a long period of time was felt. In future talks, such lacuna should be plugged. Pakistan succeeded in achieving its objective. A few lines of poet Neeraj are crossing my mind which aptly apply on this Government:—

> "Karavan Gujar gaya, Gubaar dekhtey rahey." The Government is trying to clarify that 'Gubaar'

It is clear that Pakistan did not come here for friendship. General Musharraf had come here for political gimmicks and went back after achieving success. He had come here to prove himself as a messiah of peace and to legitimise his presidentship. He succeeded in this too. Kashmir was the only issue in his mind and was totally successful. It was not possible for him to talk to Hurriyat leaders there in Pakistan. Therefore, he talked to them on our own land and went back. He was trying to internationalise the Kashmir issue. He got success in it

by manipulating media. Our failure on media front reflects lack of our preparedness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please lay it on the Table.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: We failed to communicate through media. People of both the countries were hopeful about the results of this summit but our country failed to disseminate the information clearly that we are not responsible for the failure of the talks, rather we made full efforts to reach the logical end. Unfortunately, we could not communicate this message to the people clearly. This argument also sounds logical that both the countries are emproiled in many problems. Perhaps this Summit was necessary for Government of both the countries to divert the attention of their people from various problems being faced by them. While the Government of India was reeling under the problem of Tehlaka disclosure, and UTI Scam, Pakistan was also willing to participate in this Summit owing to international pressure and economic depression. However, while Pakistan derived a lot of success from this Summit by its crafty manoeuvring, India drew a blank out of the same and the line 'Na Khuda Hi Mila Na Visaal-e-Sanam' is very apt in this context.

Hon. Minister belongs to Rajasthan and he is well aquainted with ISI activities. The Constituency from where the Hon. Minister hails is contiguous to Pakistan border and he himself is concerned about the ISI activities in his region. However, there is no indication as yet that talks on ISI could be held before the opportunity time comes. Cross border terrorism was the main issue during the talks, however the Government failed to make a statement in that regard. Nor the Government was able to raise the issue of scaling the border. The Union Government also failed to mobilise and seek the opinion of various state governments of those states which have a border with Pakistan. Whether it is Jammu Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan or Gujarat. A doubt could have arisen in Government's mind in respect of Rajasthan which presently is under Congress regime, but it could have consulted the remaining State Governments where either the BJP led or NDA Governments are in power.

Neither the Government raised the issue of cultural invasion earlier nor did they do so afterward. At least Sushmaji should have raised the issue of cultural invasion. Pakistan, very cunningly, dubbed the ongoing terrorism in Kashmir as a fight for freedom and the terrorists as freedom fighters. Still the Ministers of External Affairs from both the countries especially the Indian Minister of External Affairs kept on repeating that an understanding has been reached between both the countries through the Summit.

20.00 hrs.

Though some agreement might have been made yet it is clear that no understanding could be arrived at between both the countries.

I would like to raise two to three points about the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister. He said that the Summit started on the basis of Shimla Agreement and the Lahore declaration. However, the Hon. Minister just now clarified that right from the very beginning, Pakistan made a mockery of both the parts yet they said that before leaving the country the Pakistan President made his intents clear on terrorism, but it was not clear. The media remained totally in touched. It has been cleared that India and Pakistan how come close to an understanding on some areas of mutual concern, yet I would like to know the number of areas wherein such an understanding has been reached. I would also to know as the extent to which a mutual understanding has been reached over the issues like releasing Indian prisoners of war languishing in Pak jails, giving shelter to terrorists, preservation of various Gurudwaras and temples in Pakistan, matters relating to defence of India and mutual trade. It seems that the entire time of the Summit exhausted in dilemmas and paradoxes. Before the start of the Summit, there was a apprehension, there were dilemmas during the talks. And terrorism is still looming large on the Indian scene after the conclusion of the Summit. The latest massacre at Doda is the testimony to the fact that the Summit has been a complete failure though initially it was hoped that open mutual dialogue will prosper in the Summit to resolve the differences. Hon. Prime Minister is not present in the house, I would, in response to his statement that Pakistan use the language of peace whenever it wants to bargain something, know from him as to from whom Pakistan has taken this clue of using this language of peace and love simmerised in opportunism?

Lastly I would like to say that the blanket of mystery still shrouds the events that took place in the concluding day of the summit. The mystery should be resolved. I would also like to know as to why the summit took such a turn on the last day i.e. why a joint commenique could not be issued due to eleventh hour entanglement when it was very likely to be issued. The answers to all these questions should come before the House. I would once again like to make an appeal to the government to proceed with talks but with full preparations and keeping the dignity and prestige of the country intact. This is what I want to say.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak. I would like to register my objection in strongest words. The house had witnessed the regime of four non-Congress Prime Minister namely Shri Morarjibhai, Shri V.P. Singh, Devegowda and Shri Gujaral. The Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs have stated that all the parties were invited to assure at a consensus for the summit to take place. I read this news in the newspapers. Now I would like to relate it with some historical background. I am the descendants of Maharaja Shivaji. The saying "Hota Jiva Isliye Bacha Siva" has been very popular in my region. Perhaps Hon. Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs have forgotten this popular saying.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kashmir issue has been dragging along since 1940. India signed the Tashkant and Shimla Agreements with Pakistan. India lost some part of its land under these agreements. However this time India did not lose any part of its land with Agra Summit. While on one hand, Musharraf created self confidence among the Pakistani, government of India did the opposite. Self confidence is a very big thing which should not be lost at any cost. It is not right that India has lost her self confidence for it is the sign of weakness which may lead to ultimate down. How can an evil person like Duryudhana like Musharraf can listen to the lessons of Geeta. The Government of India lost and the Pakistan gained confidence at the Agra Summit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no problem in holding discussion over it but it should be done carefully. I would like to remind an incident that took place 375 years ago. Shivaji Maharaji was asked to meet the Mughal Sardar Afjal Khan at Pratapgarh. It was the cautious attitude and cleverness of Shivaji that shaved him and the conspirator Afzal Khan was killed. The political equations of modern times are entirely different from those that existed 375 year ago. The Prime Minister of India should handle Pakistan with utmost care and continue the dialogue with a view to restoring and increasing self confidence, self respect of the country.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, many thanks. I am very grateful and thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak and listen to my views so patiently. It is a very important debate. I rise to speak on the issue that was raised by hon. Mulayam Singhji who is a very Senior Member of the House. The Hon. Minister of External Affairs spoke by making an intervention and I wouldn't like to repeat what he said. I would like to present, in a nutshell, the view supressed by hon. Jaswant Singh on the Agra Summit. The following couplet by famour urdu poet Mirja Galib very aptly seems up it:

> "Na gule Nagma Hoon, Na Parda-a-Saaj, Main Hoon Apni Sikast Ki Aiwaj".

The Government must accept that it faced defeat in Agra and they can't deny it. I would also like to congratulate the Government for giving ligitimacy to the Presidentship of such a person who is responsible for but achieving more than 600 Indian jawans and rendering 1700 others handicapped.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am speaking on behalf of those 10 lakhs Punjabis also who faced the greatest ever human migration in the world during 1947 when lakhs of persons lost their nearer and dearer ones. Famous Punjabi writer Amirta Pritam has written 'Lakhan Dhiya Rondiya Taniu Waresha We Kahen Utt Dord Manaone Hain Dardiya Kithe Kabron Vicho Bol". Today, I am putting up the cause of those persons also who lost their lives during the 1962, 1965, 1971 and 1999 wars and whose dead bodies have been received in a mutilated condition after the resumption of talks in Agra that time when national song of India and the national song of Pakistan written by poet Habib Jalandhari were being recited in Rashtrapati Bhavan, dead bodies of soldiers covered by our national tricolour were being received at the Palam airport. In this way, recognition was given to this dictator.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to respond to what hon. Vijay Kumar Malhotra said. He talked of Congress party while Jaswantji was talking about Tashkant agreement and the 1965 war. However, I would like to remind here that bodies of two former Prime Ministers Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi were blown to pieces due to this cross border terrorism. They made a great sacrifice to keep the unity and integrity of this country intact.

Hon. Jaswant Singhji has mentioned about the caravan of peace. I would like to say that it is nothing but Caravan of dead bodies which is the consequence of cross border terrorism. Hundreds of Amarnath pilgrimes were killed, Charare Sharief was burnt and the Chhattisingpura massacre took place. What else is it other their terrorism? During his visit to India, Shri Clinton called Kashmir as a disputed territory however no one from outside objected to his remark. I would like to bring this thing in record. Though generally, we do not get an opportunity to meet VVIP's and heads of foreign countries, yet it was a matter of chance that I got an opportunity to wish Mr. Clinton. I took advantage of it and told him

that the Chhattisinghpura massacre took place, just one day before his visit and people belonging to a particular community were killed. Perhaps he comprehended the message I tried to convey through my reference, however no other Member protested on that occasion. It is indeed regrettable.

Hon. Jaswant Sighji while speaking, also talked about the soldierly virtues of people of the land from where he hails. He said that Haldighati is a source of inspiration for the country and he also said that the government of India have placed the mission of truth before the government of Pakistan. But I would like to recite this couplet in this regard "Kya Naam Puchate Ho Apne Karobar Ka, Hum Andhon Ke Sahar Main Aaina Bachate Hain'. Hon. Prime Minister said that Pervez Musharraf Saheb was in a very sad mood when he left India because none of his demands were conceded. However, the truth is that one entire country was in a gloomy mood after the conclusion of Agra Summit.

I would present the detailed analysis of four issues before the House. Pervez Musharraf explicitly stated four things in 15th July press conference. He wrongly accused India of adopting aggressive portions in Siachin. Secondly he dubbed Kashmir terrorists as freedom fighters. He claimed that it is a part of the Jehad. Referring to Jehad, none other than Balraj Madhok, former president of Jansangh wrote that so called Jehad would continue even if India inconditionally offer Kashmir to Pakistan. I would like to ask whether the contempt and rape of women, capturinng someone's property in the name of Jehad is right? This interpretation of Jehad is not in consonance with that one contained in Islam. Their leader has also written that India could proceed very cautiously and keep it in mind that war with Pakistan will be an everlasting one. Though I respect you, I would like to say that contrary to the sentiments of entire country, the government instead of opposing the dictatorship in Pakistan recognised it. The famous poet, former V.C. and Human activist of Pakistan Asima Jehangri visited India and said that the Pakistan government have even failed to honour poet like Faez Ahmed Faij. Do you know as to what did he write in jail. He wrote: He had no pen to write in the jail.

"Matoaye lok kalam chhin gayee to kya gam hai,
Ke khune dil main dubo li hain ungalien maine
Jaban per mohar lagi hai to kya rakh diye hain
Harek halkaye janjeer ko jooban per maine"

And the government of India gave recognisation to such a tyranical rule. This dictator of Pakistan even ordered for amputating the hands of the poet like Habeeb Jalab. Jaswant Singhji is saying that everything is right. Poet Habeen Jalab writes:

"Phool Shakhon per khilne lagen tum kaho,
Aur chak seeney ke silne lage tum kaho
Aise dastur ko aur subha ke noor ko"

In the morning poet Benoo was being referred to by the Members of treasury benches. I have heard the views of hon. Jaswant Singhji on Bofors during the tenure of Tenth Lok Sabha. Today he was clearly hiding the inefficiency of this Government. I have seen him launch aggressive attacks against former Prime Minister. We listened to the unsubstantiated charges which he made against the Congress regime. I don't accept his views claiming victory of the government of India during the Agra Summit. Each and every person of this country is of the view that the Indo-Pak Summit at Agra has proved derogatory for one hundred crore people of India and this thing has been reported in the newspaper of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude my point within five minutes. I am sorry to say one thing and I want Mr. Jaswant Singh to listen to it. I pay my heartiest reverence to those who have 45 years of experience in public life. I am not saying all this as my party's ideology. We bow before you because all of you have struggled for years and have been jailed and spent life in the democratic process. We had never thought that such capable people like Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri L.K. Advani and Shri Jaswant Singh will commit such a blunder. You said that we had not prepared for Tashkent and also not prepared for UNO meet when Shri Swarn Singh went there but why you are hiding your incapability? The country had never faced such a diplomatic setback in last 54 years. This is the biggest defeat the government had suffered.

While not taking much time of the House, I would like to tell one thing that BJP is in alliance with 24 other parties. Shri Omar Abdullah delivered speech in the House. He has made many sacrifices. He was attacked five times. We respect him. He is fighting for the country but he often forgets that he is supporting the policies of the party, whose senior leader Late Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was jailed in Srinagar and was poisoned to death for his announcement for opposing Article 370. Today, Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Shri Omar Abdullah are supporting BJP and its policies but I feel that they should know the facts of the history.

[Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have yet to mention two more points. First is that yesterday that statement of US President, Shri George Bush was published:

[English]

> "The MEA is not losing sleep over the reported statement of President George Bush, supporting "freedom" of people from "Kashmir to Kosovo".

[Translation]

He had said that they are supporting the freedom struggle from Kashmir to Kosovo. But we have not reacted to it. The people of this country understand that it is a serious setback on the diplomatic front. But they do not understand. Here, Mr. Clinton was saying:

[English]

> "In a speech to US troops in Kosovo yesterday Bush said, "We will pursue a world of tolerance and freedom from Kosovo to Kashmir."
>
> He repeated it again.

[Translation]

I would like to know from the Government as to whether the Ministry of External Affairs will take any action in this regard?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I would like to quote the National Anthem of Pakistan which I have retrieved from internet. The poet who composed it, is from Jallandhar. Ten thousands poets contributed to it. It was included in TV programme.

"Pak Sarjami shad baad, Kishwaar-e-shaad baad,

tu nishaan-e-azam-aalishaan, arz-e-Pakistan."

During last 54 years, it happened for the first time that the dictator of Pakistan is responsible for the killing of our people. Just now, it was being mentioned that badly mutilated bodies of our people were found. Their limbs were cut. Do you know what their widows had said?

[English]

Shrimati Vijay Kalia, mother of Capt. Saurab Kalia, Param Vir Chakra awardee, and Dr. N.K. Kalia, his father [illegible] despite frantic efforts, the [illegible] mitted by the Pakistan forces during the Kargil conflict was not raised by the Indian leadership with Pakistan.'

[Translation]

They are talking about the parents of Paramvir Chakra awardee, that they will be allotted petrol pumps but no one is ready to talk with them when they come to attend the functions meant to felicitate the Kargil Martyrs.

Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, here I would like to mention the name of Shrimati Jaya Jaitely, who was ex-Chairperson of Samata Party. Shrimati Asma Jehangir is the chairperson of National Human Rights Commission and there are many women who have the guts to fight and sacrifice their lives for the country. We were giving red carpet welcome to that person who had brutally murdered our soldiers. Here I would like to narrate that incident which took place when General Musharraf was holding press conference. When asked as to what action he will take against those who have spoken against him during their visit to India, he replied that he will wait for an opportunity to take action against those who have spoken against my country.

[English]

> "Jehangir's public reply to Musharraf can teach our democrats a thing or two. Her statement says, "General Musharraf does not have a monopoly on frankness and those who have struggled for democracy and the rights of civil society are equally entitled to air their views. I have struggled for a democratic system since the last 30 years and borne the brunt of four dictators."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is the Fifth Dictator whom we have recognised as a hero. I have severe objection to Indo-Pak Agra Summit. I do not know whether hon'ble Minister will give reply or not but tomorrow hon'ble Prime Minister will give reply. That is why I am saying that:

"Patta patta, buta buta haal hamara jane hai,
Jane na jane gul he jane bagh tho saara jane hai"

Hundred crore people of this country are of the opinion that in Agra talk, the BJP and its supporting parties got a serious setback on the diplomatic front.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, finally, while concluding I would like to say that the press has been manipulated by those who are talking about the freedom of press. Shri Jaswant Singh ji knows what happened to Shri Masud Mullick, who is the editor of Nawaye waqt, when he raised question regarding democracy and rights of people. Finally, I want to say that the Indo-Pak Summit is the biggest defeat of our country in the history of 54 years which is an insult to our country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the list of speakers is exhausted. The reply of the hon. Prime Minister will be tomorrow after Question Hour.

[Translation]

Eight Hours time was fixed but so far 12 hours have passed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I was to speak for 3 minutes, I do not know how the list has been manipulated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No Manipulation has taken place.

[English]

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 7th August, 2001 at 11.00 a.m.

2026 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 7, 2001/ Sravana 16, 1923 (Saka).

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