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Thursday, November 29, 2001
Agrahayana 8, 1923 (Saka)

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(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 29, 2001/Agrahayana 8, 1923 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Unproductive Investment in Railway Zones

*161. + SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether seven new railway zones are proving to be unproductive investment *vis-a-vis* operational efficiency;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said new Railway Zones were created without conducting any detailed examination; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

Statement

(a) The seven new Railway zones are yet to become operational. The expenditure incurred so far on creation of these seven zones has been meagre in view of the resource crunch being faced by the Railways. Therefore, the question of it being unproductive investment vis-a-vis operational efficiency does not arise.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Hon. Speaker, my question is regarding an unproductive investment with regard to the creation of the seven new railway zones. This has been done without proper estimation or preparation but the answer given now does not contain any reply as to whether proper preparation was done or any survey was conducted to create these seven new zones. There is no answer to that. This is my first point.

Secondly, these seven zones were ordered to be created in the year 1996, not under your regime. But the estimated cost was about Rs. 784 crore. This should have been come into operation in the last January, 2000. So far it has not taken off, rather the amount spent so far is only Rs. 49.53 crore which is almost not even five per cent of the estimated cost. It is very meager.

Thirdly, the Railway Convention Committee has come out very clearly in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. If I am permitted, I would quote the Committee's Report. It opined that 'the creation of more divisions, instead of creating zones, should have been given weightage to the growth and volume of freight and passenger traffic.' Now, the Comptroller and Auditor-General (C&AG) had come out heavily and criticised the creation of seven new zones saying that zone is only an administrative unit on railway system and division is the actual functioning unit which runs the system. Therefore, the mind was not applied at all in creating these seven zones. It was purely political. Now, there has been a news. Also in reply to a Parliament Question, the Minister of State for Railways said 'reorganisation of these seven railway zones is under review.'

Firstly, my question is this. I want to know whether you are going to give up these seven zones, the whole project, or you are going to continue with that. Secondly, either the Ministry must be wrong or the C&AG must be wrong. Without any preparation, these zones are created. For what purpose these zones are created when you are already facing financial crunch and you are in the strain of even giving up the whole project? I would like to know this. In view of the Railway Convention Committee's Report, instead of creating Zones, will you really go in for creating more divisions which would increase the efficiency of Railways with respect to the increase in freight and passengers traffic.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: So far as part 'b' is concerned, its reply has been given as No, Sir, if we go into historical background it will be seen that it was properly examined. A Railway Reforms Committee had been constituted in 1984 which made a recommendation for four zones. Later the Government appointed an Advisors Committee which also recommended for four zones.

A proposal was sent to the Cabinet for a decision but it was deferred in 1995. Then a decision to create four more zones besides the existing four zones *i.e.* to create a total of six zones was taken and it was also decided to create a zone, the seventh one at Bilaspur in 1998. So it cannot be said that it was not properly examined. However due to resource crunch required funds could not be provided for the zones. Not a single zone has become functional so far as the observation of the Committee are concerned. No action has been taken on them so far. There are different sets of observation and suggestions by the Committee. There have always been different opinions in regard to zones. No further zones should be created in States where two or three zones already exists. In case of States where there is no zone at all, a newly created zone starts functioning soon. Though zones are not formed according to State boundary but according to their utility, however it is often seen that generally different people have different opinion about them. Due to paucity of funds the work on zone is not taken up at the expected speed. So far as question of creating eight new divisions is concerned, the work in this direction is going on. Our Government do not intend to close down any of the existing seven zones and eight divisions. The progress is slow due to paucity of funds.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister. But the fact is that a zone is only an administrative unit. It has nothing to do with efficiency or with regard to the increase in freight or passenger traffic. The Committee had said, 'Why do you create zones instead of creating divisions, which are primarily responsible for the efficiency of the entire Railways, for running trains and for taking on the freight movement and the increase in the passenger movement.

The fact is that the proposal to create four zones was deferred by the Government. It was already deferred; so, what was the need for creating seven zones? When it was deferred for the creation of four zones, what was the necessity for the creation of seven zones? There is no rationale why while it was deferred subsequently seven new zones were created. It is not answered properly.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your Supplementary?

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the hon. Minister consider creating more divisions as there are more demands in various States for divisions to be created instead of zones. By abolishing these zones, the expenditure could be spent for creation of divisions.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good Supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am not in a position to accept half of his suggestion wherein the closure of work in zone has been suggested but it is not possible Consecutive Governments have taken decision in this review. Now it can not be altered irrespective of the suggestions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is particular about divisions, not zones.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is not possible for the Government to accept his suggestion in regard to Zones. So for as the newly created eight divisions are concerned, the work on these divisions will be pursued.

[English]

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: In reply to a Question on the 2nd August, 2001, the hon. Minister of Railways has stated that Rs. 41.66 crore were required to create and set up zones. Will the hon. Minister now say that the allocation made for creating the zones would be utilised for pending projects? For instance, there is a project pending in Vijayawada for renewal of Satyanarayanapuram railway line in Vijayawada. Will the hon. Minister take up this work during this year out of the allocation made for the railway zones? It requires Rs. 29 crore for renewal of the Satyanarayanapuram railway line.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Only a nominal provision has been made for the creation of zones as far as the second thing is concerned talks have been held in this regard and we are trying for that.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the whole House knows that the Railways is facing a severe financial crunch. After seeing this severe situation, I do not understand why the Minister has taken this proposal to the Cabinet and taken the approval of the Cabinet for creating seven new zones.

Will the hon. Minister agree with me that this has only mere political considerations? I would like to know whether the seven zones were sanctioned by the Cabinet or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is not possible for me to accept his observation as regard to the Cabinet decision of the previous Government. The governments are a continuous process. The United Front Government had taken a decision to create six zones. Later the NDA Government also decided to create a zone at Bilaspur and so far as parliamentary sanction is concerned, it has not been possible to pursue it of desired pace owing to paucity of funds. Still it is also difficult for me to accept this observation.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a long-standing demand of shifting of Western Railway Zonal Headquarters from Mumbai to Ahmedabad, as Ahmedabad is the centre of the Western Railway.

I would also like to know about the opening of a new Division at Ahmedabad for which land has already been allotted. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister when this Headquarters of the Western Railway will be shifted and when new Division will be opened at Ahmedabad.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the hon. Member was asking question then Ram Naikji was staring at him...*(Interruptions)*. He said that the headquarters of Western Railway has been shifted. These are emotional issues and different people want it differently. But so far as the question of Ahmedabad division is concerned, its work will be further proceeded.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The reorganisation of zones and divisions was examined by Railway Reforms Committee. That Committee recommended for creation of only new four zones. Subsequently, a Committee of Advisors—presently they are called Additional Members—was appointed. They also recommended for creation of only four new zones. I have seen both the reports and I have gone through both the reports.

Sir, the Standing Committee in its First Report in 1996, of which Shri Ram Naik was also a Member, also recommended against reorganisation of zones and divisions because that decision was not in the interest of the Railways. So, two wrong policies have ruined the Railways—one is Project Unigauge on which we have spent Rs. 14,000 crore without any return and another is reorganisation of zones and divisions. The hon. Minister has stated that the Cabinet made a detailed examination before taking a decision. But what we have seen is that suddenly the proposal to create six zones came before the Cabinet and the Cabinet took a decision. So, no detailed examination was done in this regard. The Railway Reforms Committee, which had gone into the various aspects of the Indian Railways in detail, has recommended for creation of four new zones.

Subsequently, a Committee of Advisors also recommended for creation of four new zones. How did the Ministry of Railways take the decision to increase the number from four to seven?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It was already asked by Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, that question—about the increase in the number of zones from four to seven—has not been asked and the hon. Minister has not answered. A number of OSDs were appointed and subsequently they were downgraded. In view of the resource crunch and the fact that there is no time limit, will the Ministry look into it?

Sir, when will all these zones be functional? I would like to know whether the Ministry of Railways proposes to have a review in regard to these seven new zones.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is delivering a speech. Is this Question Hour or debate...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Basu Deb Acharia is acquainted with many things. He has also been the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways and he supported the decisions of the government at that time and now he is posing many questions. However when the Government has taken a decision then the next Government will further proceed by accepting the decisions. I have already said that seven new zones will be made functional but adequate funds could not be provided due to resource crunch.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, we have a peculiar problem in Waltair division at Visakhapatnam. This is one of the richest divisions in the whole of Railways.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Murthi, next week we are discussing the Supplementary Demands for Grants on Railways. If you have a peculiar problem you can raise it at that time.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, I am asking about the zones. I am not talking about anything else.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask a point about the zones.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, Waltair Division is in South-Eastern Railway. It is adjacent to the South-Central Railway. The headquarters of the South-Eastern Railway is at Calcutta. In between, there is another railway zone which was created recently with Bhubaneshwar as headquarters. I do not remember even the name of it because the new zones are not functional. This is one of those seven zones. There is a persistent demand that the Waltair Division is to be tagged to the South-Central Railway with its headquarters in Secunderabad. This demand has been there for a very long time. Even our Chief Minister has written letters in this regard. So many letters have been written. But there has been no action.

This Division has been isolated. To reach the zonal headquarters, we have to cross another zone in between and go to the headquarters of the zone. Waltair is not interested to join in that new zone which is created. That has been agreed to.

Now, will the hon. Minister kindly consider tagging this Waltair Division to the South-Central Railway with headquarters at Secunderabad because of the cohesiveness, the geographical nearness and the operational efficiency. This division has to be tagged to the South-Central Railway at the earliest. This is the demand being made. Will the hon. Minister consider this demand?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, please allow me also.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it on the same question?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am also on the same subject. Please let me put my question also and then the hon. Minister can combine them together and give the answer.

MR. SPEAKER; No, that is not the practice.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I also want to ask the same question....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: No, No. Sir, that could be asked and answered separately. Let us have two answers.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am also going to ask the same question. Originally it was decided that Waltair Division will be included in the East Coast Railway.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: How can the hon. Member ask that a resolution be passed that this Division should go to the South Central Railway? It was the Railways, the Central Government which decided that Waltair Division will come to East Coast Railway....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: No, Sir. Let it be answered separately.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, it was decided earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, it cannot be done on the demand of somebody else.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Murthi, what is this? The hon. Minister is replying. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Eastern Coast Railway zone is among these seven new zones but its jurisdiction is yet to be finalised and when it is done difference of opinion will be reduced and abridged and any decision in this regard will only be taken after holding decisions with the concerned parties....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this thing by the hon. Minister....*(Interruptions)*. You see at that time also it was declared. It is not that its jurisdiction was not decided....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We will take up Q. No. 162. Shri Savshibhai Makwana to ask the question.

[Translation]

SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri George Fernandes has no right to become the Minister....*(Interruptions)* Hence I do not want to ask my question....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, you have to decide on this issue. Last week also we asked this question....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Makwana, are you putting your question?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: He is not asking his question?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Makwana, are you asking your question?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: No, Sir, he is not asking the question.

[Translation]

SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Sir, he has talked morality throughout his life. Hence I don't want to ask him any question....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Makwana, since you are not asking your question, the question is withdrawn.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, in the last meeting you said that you would decide the matter....*(Interruptions)* You have done nothing about it for the last one week....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is already withdrawn. Please take you seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, what have you done with our notice? Nothing has happened so far.

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mandal, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, what is your decision on the matter?

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, last week you had assured the House and we were hoping that you may take it up with the Government....*(Interruptions)* What is the decision?

MR. SPEAKER: It is already under my consideration. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Are you assuring the House that you are going to take up with the Government?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is already under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing other Members to ask questions.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, you are the custodian of the Rules, morals and ethics in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to raise anything, you can raise it during 'zero hour', and not now please.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mandal, take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

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*Not Recorded.

[Translation]

Impact of Devaluation of Money on Oil Pool Account

*163. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the devaluation of Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* American dollar is likely to have an adverse impact on our petroleum industry;

(b) if so, the details of assessment made by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether appreciation of rupee against dollar also affects the amount of oil pool account deficit;

(d) if so, the extent to which oil pool account deficit increased due to devaluation of rupee during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(e) the extent to which it is likely to increase during 2001-2002?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The devaluation of Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* US dollar would have an adverse impact on our petroleum industry because of the following reasons:

(i) Increase in the cost of imports of crude oil;

(ii) Increase in the cost of project imports;

(iii) Increase in the oil pool account deficit resulting in increase in the receivables of the oil companies from the account;

(iv) Increase in the cost of borrowings of oil companies due to the higher borrowing requirement to maintain their liquidity.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) On account of the devaluation of rupee, the increase in oil pool deficit is estimated to be around Rs. 1,000 crore and Rs. 3,300 crore during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, respectively.

(e) The increase in oil pool deficit is estimated to be around Rs. 650 crore during the period from April, 2001 to November, 2001 on account of the devaluation of rupee.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the oil pool deficit has increased owing to devaluation of Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* American dollar.

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday all the people did a good job, but what happened to the House today.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, the hon. Minister of Petroleum has accepted that oil pool deficit has increased to 1000 crore and Rs. 3300 crore in the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively due to devaluation of Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* American dollar. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what concerted efforts have been made by the Government to reduce their deficit? Besides to what extent the cost of crude oil import has increased/likely to increase and also the total increase in the cost of project imports?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member has said, the oil pool deficit in 2000-2001 has gone to the extent of Rs. 12,599 crore and out of that the deficit of Rs. 3300 crore was attributed to exchange variation. Now the year has progressed and if you read the reply of part "e" then from April, 2001 to November, 2001 *i.e.* during these eight months, the deficit has increased only by Rs. 650 crore due to exchange variation. The main reasons for the same is that the rate of exchange rate variation has been very low between April, 2001 and November, 2001. Hence the oil pool deficit due to variation in exchange to this year has been reduced to Rs. 650 crore from Rs. 3300 crore.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the deficit has been increasing owing to devaluation of rupee *vis-a-vis* dollar. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have considered over the option of making payment in rupee or any kind instead of in dollar? I would also like to know whether discussion has been held with an exporting country in this regard. If so, what are the details thereof?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, all business in international oil market are done in dollars only. The border exchange against food is being done on a very small rate with a country like Iraq.

Therefore, if we have to procure oil from the international market, then payment will have to be made

in dollars, because in this present international oil market there cannot be any barter system.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: May I ask the hon. Minister whether his Government is considering to dismantle the Administered Price Mechanism? Is there any time frame is fixed for that? If so, may I know whether his Ministry has ascertained facts about adverse impacts on the weaker sections of our society?

SHRI RAM NAIK: In 1997, the then Government had decided that after 1st April, 2002, the Administered Price Mechanism would be dismantled. We are working in that direction; and while working in that direction, the subsidy regime would also be changed. But we have decided—in the interest of people in the weaker section and middle class—that even after 1st of April, 2002, there would be subsidy on kerosene to the extent of 33 per cent, and on LPG—that is being used by weaker section and middle class—to the extent of 15 per cent. If I have to convert that 15 per cent into rupees as of now, it would nearly amount to Rs. 92 per cylinder. That cannot be done obviously at one stroke. So, we will try to phase it out in such a way that the middle class, the lower middle class and the poorer sections are not burdened heavily; and that decision would be taken—in terms of amount—when we present the Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The decline in the oil prices in the international market has proved beneficial for the oil pool account. I would like to know the extent thereof and whether Government have any proposal to pass on that benefit to the common consumer? Further, I want to know the impact of price mechanism, which has been discussed, on the petrol prices?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is correct that the price of crude oil has considerably gone down in the international market. At one time, after attack on America on 11th September, the price had gone upto $29 per cent but now it has steadily come down to $ 17-18 per barrel. We are now deriving benefits because our ever increasing oil pool deficit has now stabilized. During last March, the deficit was about Rs. 12,900 crores. It continues to hover around there even after about 8 months though the prices are continuously increasing. It is stable at Rs. 12,000 crore. It has benefited the country but this benefit can be passed on to the people only when the entire oil pool account deficit is wiped out. Certainly this benefit will be available only after 1st April.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per the statement of the hon. Minister, in the current year, the deficit in the oil pool account is Rs. 650 crore for the last eight months. My pointed supplementary is this. How much money has been collected from the market on account of Administered Price Mechanism last month to meet the deficit? May I also know whether the Government has any proposal to have the Administered Price Mechanism in future to meet the future deficit of oil pool account?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Probably, the hon. Member has not exactly followed the content of Rs. 650 crore. That is not the total deposit. It is the oil pool deficit because of this exchange rate variation. So, that is the position. As I have said earlier, all considerations will be taken into account when we will finally take the decision about dismantling the administered price mechanism.

[Translation]

Ongoing Power Projects in the Country

*165. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of the on-going power projects in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of progress made in this regard and capacity of each project;

(c) whether any review has been conducted in regard to investment and additional capacity of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) to (d) As on 1.11.2001, there are eighty (80) thermal power projects aggregating 42557.5 and forty seven (47) hydro power projects aggregating to 12940.65 MW which have been granted techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority.

23 thermal power projects with a total capacity of 9133.4 MW and 43 hydro power projects with a total

capacity of 12665.6 MW are presently under construction. The details are given in Annexe-I & II, respectively.

The Government of India is closely monitoring the ongoing projects through the Empowered Committee headed by Secretary (Power). For private sector projects, the Government has constituted a Crisis Resolution Group (CRG), chaired by the Minister of Power, to resolve the 'last mile' problems. The proposals regarding revised cost estimates in respect of ongoing projects are appraised by the Central Electricity Authority in consultation with other appraising agencies.

Annexe-I

Thermal Projects cleared for Implementation in the Country (as on 01.11.2001)

Project Name, Imp Agency Sector and State	Unit No	Cap (MW)	Cap Addition During Balance Period of 9th Plan	Cap Addition During 10th Plan	Likely Date of Synchronisation	Project Status	Fuel	Estimated Cost
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PROJECTS WHERE CONSTRUCTION WORK HAS STARTED								
Central Sector								
AP								
Ramagundem TPS-III (NTPC)	U-7	500	—	500	8/2005	Order for Main Plant turnkey package placed to BHEL on 22.8.2001.	Coal	Rs. 1078.394 crore+US$ 184.93 M (Est. Comp. Cost)
Simhadri TPS (NTPC)	U-1	500	500	—	Mar-02	U-1: Turbo Generator boxed up in 9/2001	Coal	
	U-2	500	—	500	12/2002			Rs. 227806 lakhs+US$ 433.95 M (Est. Comp. Cost)
ORISSA								
Talcher STPP-II (NTPC)	U-3	500	—	500	11/2003	U-3: TG Erection commenced in 3/2001 U-4: Boiler Drum lifted in 7/2001 U-5: Boiler erection started in 8/2001	Coal	Rs. 664883 lakhs
	U-4	500	—	500	8/2004			
	U-5	500	—	500	5/2005			
	U-6	500	—	500	2/2006			
TN								
Neyveli FST Ext (NLC)	U-1	210	210	—	3/2002	U-1: Boiler Hydraulic Test completed. Boiler light up is expected in 1/2002. U-2 Condenser erection expected in 12/2001	Coal	
	U-2	210	—	210	8/2002			Rs. 1590.58 crs (3/95 price level)
UP								
Rihand St II (NTPC)	U-3	500		500	8/2005	Order for main plant placed to BHEL on 14.8.2001	Coal	US $ 433.191 Mn.+Rs. 220843 lakhs
	U-4	500	—	500	5/2006			
Sub-Total (Central Sector)		4920.0	710.0	4210.0				
State Sector								
Delhi								
Pragati CCGT (DVB)	GT-1	104.6	104.6	—	1/2003	GT-1: Alignment of Gas Turbine & Generator is in progress GT-2: Gas turbine has been despatched from BHEL ST: Foundation work completed.	NG-Naphtha	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	GT-2	104.6	—	104.6	4/2002			US $ 59.888 Mn.+Rs. 819.30 crores
	ST	121.18	—	121.18	11/2002			
Gujarat								
Akrimota (GMDCL)	U-1	125	—	125	3/2003	U-1: Drum lifted in 9/2001 U-2: All foundations have been completed.	Lignite	US$ (M) 47.914+DM (M) 47.929+Rs. 102215.8 lakhs
	U-2	125	—	125	9/2003			
Hazira CCPP (GSEGL)	ST	52.1	52.1	—	2/2002	Two gas turbine units have been commissioned in 10/2001. Steam turbine is expected to be commissioned by 2/2002.	Natural Gas/HSD	US$ 3.6 Mn+CHF (M) 73.48 +Rs. 31005.1 lakhs (Est. Corm. Cost)
Karnataka								
Raichur TPS (KPCL)	U-7	210	—	210	4/2003	Boiler Drum lifting has been achieved.	Coal	Rs. 61300 lakhs (Est. Comp. Cost)
Manipur								
Leimakhong DG (Govt. of Manipur)	DG-1	6	6	—	12/2001	Units are under advanced stage of commissioning. Fuel Oil is under transportation to site.	Heavy Fuel Oil	Rs. 11335 laksh
	DG-2	6	6	—	12/2001			
	DG-3	6	6	—	12/2001			
	DG-4	6	6	—	12/2001			
	DG-5	6	6	—	1/2001			
	DG-6	6	6	—	1/2001			
Rajasthan								
Ramgarh CCGT St.II (RRVUNL)	GT-2	37.5	—	37.5	11/2002	Order for main plant and equipments placed on BHEL in 5/2001. Erection of Gas Turbine is under progress.	Natural Gas	Rs. 30010 lakhs (Est. Completed Cost)
	ST	37.825	—	37.825	5/2003			
Suratgarh TPP St-II (RRVUNL)	U-4	250	—	250	5/2002	Commissioning of the Unit is likely to get advanced by two months.	Coal	Rs. 205762 lakhs
Suratgarh TPP St-III (RRVUNL)	U-5	250	—	250	11/2003	Order for main plant and equipments placed on BHEL in 2/2001. Civil works are in progress.	Coal	Rs. 75273.8 lakhs (Est. Comp. Cost)
TN								
Valuthur (Perungularm) CCGT (TNEB)	GT+ST	95	—	95	6/2002	Gas Turbine erection commenced in 8/2001. Drum lifting of WHRB is expected in 12/2000.	Natural Gas	Rs. 35000 lakhs
Tripura								
Baramura GT (Power Deptt, Govt. of Tripura)	GT	21	—	21	9/2002	Order for main plant placed on BHEL. Other contracts are under finalisation.	Natural Gas	Rs. 9536 lakhs
Rokhia GT Ext. Ph.-II (Govt. of Tripura)	GT-7	21	21	—	2/2002	Gas turbine and generator are available at site. Erection is about to commence.	Gas	Rs. 8517 lakhs
Sub-Total (State Sector):		1590.8	213.7	1377.1				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Private Sector								
A&N Islands								
Bambooflat DG (Suryachakra Power)	DG-1	5	5	—	Mar-02	All the four engines and alternators has been aligned and grouted. Auxiliaries are nearing completion.	HSD	Rs. 6314 lakhs
	DG-2	5	5	—	Mar-02			
	DG-3	5	5	—	Mar-02			
	DG-4	5	5	—	Mar-02			
AP								
Peddapuram CCGT (BSES Andhra Power Ltd.)	GT	142	142	—	11/2001	Gas turbine erection has been completed. Steam turbine erection is in progress.	Naphtha/NG	
	ST	78	78	—	2/2002			
Ramagundem TPP (BPL Power Project)	U-1	260	—	260	33 months from FC (COD)	Foundations for TG building, boiler, bunker and chimney has been completed. Work at site is discontinued due to non-resolution of critical areas.	Coal	Rs. 1228.92 crores+US$ 326.8 M (Est. Comp. Cost)
	U-2	260	—	260	39 months from FC (COD)			
Karnataka								
Tanir Bavi CCGT (Tanir Bavi Power Co.)	ST	50	50	—	11/2001	Capacity test was completed. Commissioning expected in 12/2001	Naphtha	
Mah.								
Dabhol CCGT-II (Dabhol Power Co.)	Block-I	722	—	722	Uncertain	Commissioning of the project is uncertain due to the dispute between MSEB and Dabhol Power Co.	Naphtha/LNG	
	Block-II	722	—	722	Uncertain			
MP								
Ratlam DG (GVK Power Ltd.)	DGs	118.632	—	118.632	14-17 Months from effective date of FC	Initially civil works had started but work got held up due to non-issuance of standing instructions to SBI by MPEB.	LSHS/Furnace Oil	US$ 73.88 M+Rs. 16316.2 Lakhs (Est. Comp. Cost)
TN								
Neyveli Zero TPS (ST-CMS Electric Co.)	U-1	250	—	250	8/2002	Hydraulic Test is expected in 11/2001.	Lignite	Rs. 1325.11 crs.
Sub-Total (Private Sector)		2622.6	290.0	2332.6				
Total		9133.4	1213.7	7919.7				

Annexe-II

Status of Hydro Power Projects (As on 01.11.2001)

Sl. No.	Name of project/ State/ Inst. Cap. (MW) Date of Sanction	Cost (Rs. Cr.) Latest	Comm. Sch. Latest	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5
CENTRAL SECTOR				
1.	Nathpa Jakri (NJPC) H.P./6x250 05.04.89	7666.31	2003-04	60.43% of converting has been completed. HRT heading excavation has been completed and 98% benching excavation has been completed. 41% invert and 60% overt concerting has been completed. Erection work of TG eqipment for Unit I to Unit VI is at various stages. Erection work of GIS-I and GIS-II is in progress. Erection and drying out after oil filling of 16 generator transformers completed.
2.	Dulhasti (NHPC) J&K/3x130 12.7.89 (Bilateral)	3559.77	2003-04	Diversion Tunnel completed. Excavation and concerting of Dam and PH is completed. Works of Desilting Basin, HRT and Tail Race Tunnel are in progress. 70% excavation completed in U/S HRT. Erection of 130T capacity EOT crane completed. Excavation of pressure shaft, expansion gallery, surge tank and draft tubes completed. 79.14% erection and 99.59% supply of hydro electro-mechanical equipment has been completed.
3.	Chamera St. II (NHPC) H.P./3x100 18.05.99	1684.02	2004-05	Adit I & II excavation of HRT completed. Excavation of HRT 97% and TRT excavation 91% completed.
4.	Teesta St.-V (NHPC) Sikkim/3x170 11.02.2000	2198.04	2006-07	Both diversion tunnel have been completed. Various adits to Dam, HRT and Power House are under excavation.
5.	Tehri St. I (THDC) U.P./4x250 02.06.72 (4x150 MW) PIB-23.01.92 CCEA 15.03.94	5690.64	2002-03	Order for supply of generator transformer, erection of 2 Nos. EOT cranes 375/75T completed. Erection of spiral casing for unit-4 is in progress. Erection of Draft tube Elbow Liner for Unit-3 is in progress.
6.	Koteshwar Dam and Power Project (THDC) U.P./4x100 10.04.2000	1301.56 (Incl. IDC)	2005-06	Govt. sanction accorded on 10.04.2000. Infrastructural works are in progress. Construction of diversion tunnel is in progress. Pre-qualification tender for Civil, Hydro-Mechanical and Electro-Mechanical works have been invited and are in process.
7.	Dhauliganga-I (NHPC) U.P./4x70 08.04.91	1578.31	2004-05	Forest and defence land acquired. Private land is under acquisition. All major works awarded. River divided through diversion tunnel on 21.04.2001. 54% spillway excavation completed. 37.20% U/S (Lot-I), 14.49 (Lot-II) and 28.69% D/S (Lot-III) and 47.42 D/S from ss excavation of HRT completed. 15.21% tail race excavation completed.

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Indira Sagar (NHDC) M.P./8x125 06.09.89 (Joint sector Project of NHDC-51%)	3381.32	2003-06	Project being executed by Narmada Hydro Electric Development Corpn. a joint venture of Govt. of MP and NHPC with effect from 01.09.2001. Civil works in progress.
9.	Loktak D/S (NHPC) Manipur/3x30 30.12.99	578.62 (incl. IDC)	2006-07	Development of infrastructure facilities at the project was in progress. The desired progress at working site is not possible unless the State Govt. provides requisite security. Govt. of Manipur following the stay order by the Honourable High court of Manipur has constituted a joint inquiry Team which includes a member from NHPC for assessment of land/corps compensation.
10.	Ranganadi (NEEPCO) Ar.P./3x135 04/87 April, 87 (CCEA)	1446.09 (inc. IDC)	2001-02	Diversion tunnel, Dam, HRT, surge shaft including steel liner completed. Civil works in progress. Unit erection work in progress. Supply of equipment and erection in switchyard in progress.
11.	Tuirial (NEEPCO) Mizoram/2x30 07.07.98 (CCEA)	448.19	2005-07	Pre construction work completed. Jnfrastructure work in progress. Construction of 132 KV SC transmission line is in progress.
12.	Kopili Stage-II (NEEPCO) Assam/1x25 06.07.99 (CCEA)	76.09	2003-04	Pre-construction & infrastructural works are being taken up. The works under packages-I & II orders are in progress. For package-III, TG sets have been ordered on BHEL and 100/25T EOT crane ordered on M/s WMI, Mumbai: Supply is in progress. Tenders for package III are under preparation.
	STATE SECTOR			
	NORTHERN REGION			
13.	WYC-II Har/2x7.2 04.02.2000 (State Govt.)	94.00	10th Plan	The scheme was approved Techno-economically by CEA in 3/90, however the work of the project could not be taken up due to non-settlement of Inter-State dispute about sharing of Yamuna water, which was resolved on 12.05.1994. The scheme was sanctioned by State Govt. on 04.02.2000. Works of Hathnikund barrage has been completed. PFC has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 56 crores to HPGCL. Civil work in progress. The excavation of silt ejector has been completed & lean concerting work has also been completed.

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Larji H.P./3x42 14.01.2000 (CEA)	796.98	2003-05	HPSEB had proposed some changes in the scope of this scheme and revised DPR was submitted to CEA in March 1999. Fresh TEC has been accorded by CEA on 14.01.2000. Excavation of Diversion tunnel completed.
15.	Upper Sindh Ext. J&K/1x35 26.06.89	42.27	2001-02	Stay order for fabrication & erection of penstock has been vacated and works are awarded to M/s TSL. Generator barrel has been concerted. Rotor has been assembled, in service bay and is ready for lowering. The assembly of stator is in progress.
16.	Sewa St. III J&K 3x3 (Sanctioned by State Govt.)	60.00	2001-02	Civil works almost completed. There was flooding of PH on 16th June, 2000 submersing the E&M equipments.
17.	Lakhwar Vyasi $ Uttaranchal/3x100+2 x60 Jan. 1976 $ Works of the project are held up	1446.00	2004-06	The works have been at stand still due to fund constraints. MOU has been signed on 25.02.2000 between Ministry of Power, GOI & Govt. of UP to complete the project as joint venture between NHPC & UPJVNL.
18.	Maneri Bhali-II $ Uttaranchal/4x76 21.02.2000 (TEC)	1249.18	2003-05	
WESTERN REGION				
19.	Sardar Sarovar Guj./M.P./Mah. (6x200+5x50) (Joint project of Guj/MP/Mah. In ratio of 16:57:27) 05.10.88	3267.25	10th Plan	87.27% concerting of main dam completed. Supply of TG Sets for unit 1&2 completed and for unit-3 turbine components like runner, shaft and head cover received at site from Sumitomo Corporation Japan. Order for erection of TG Sets placed on M/S PES Engineering Hyderabad in December 1999. Erection of embedded piping lower draft tube of Unit-I & II completed and IInd stage concerting is under progress.
20.	Bansagar Tons, II & III (M.P.) 2x15+3x20 30.06.84	301.17 incl. PH-1 966.81 incl. PH-I	1989-91 PH-II 2002-03 PH-III 2000-02	The Bansagar Dam has been completed upto crest level. Works of common water conductor nearing completion. PH-II:- Civil works of PH in progress. PH-III:- Civil works are in advanced stage of completion. Unit-1 & 2 commissioned on 18.07.2001 and 25.08.2001 respectively. Unit-3: Stator assembly almost completed. Rotor assembly is being taken up.
21.	Bansagar Tons PH IV M.P./2x10 31.07.92	84.97	2002-03	Jhinna head regulator works have been completed. Order for PH civil works & fabrication and erection of penstock awarded and fabrication of shells commenced. Excavation of PH pit & TRC have been almost completed and balance works will be taken up along with raising of Bansagar Dam to its full height. (TBL 347m)

*Works of the projects are held up.

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Marhikheda, MP, 2x20+1x20 11.05.01	177.38	2004-05	The project has been sanctioned by State Govt. on 11.05.2001. Infrastructure works are being taken up.
23.	Ghatghar PSS Mah./2x125 11.08.92	830.00	2005-06	Works of approach tunnel to TRT, Approach tunnel, Link tunnel, Verification Tunnel, Construction of adit, Central drift to machine Hall and Transformer Hall completed. Excavation of TRT completed and for Tail Surge is in progress. Civil works of upper intake structure, pressure shaft of power house awarded to M/s Patel Eng. and PES (Joint Venture) On 06.06.2000. Excavation of Pressure shaft is also in progress.
SOUTHERN REGION				
24.	Srisailam LBPH A.P./6x150 01.09.86	2482.00	2000-03	Unit-1: Rolled on 30.03.2001 and commissioned on 26.04.2001. Unit-2: Unit Rolled on 29.10.2001. Unit-3: Assembly and welding of spiral segments completed. Hydraulic testing of spiral is programmed for 05.10.2001 and will be released for concreting on 09.10.2001. Unit-4: Assembly and welding of Lower D/T liner completed and released for concerting. Units-5 & 6: Erection of pier nose liner completed. Concerting is in progress. Inlet valves for units 5 & 6 installed.
25.	Sharavathi T.R. ktk.4x60 (MW) 06.05.87	420.00	2000-02	U-1 Commissioned on 20.02.2001. U-2 Commissioned on 15.05.2001. U-3 Unit mechanically spun on 25.10.2001. Commission is in progress. U-4 Concerting of Gen. Barrel is in progress. Stator segments are being transported to service bay.
26.	Malankara (Muvathupuzha) Ker./3x3.5 Aug., 1986 (for 1x6 MW)	41.57	2002-03	The dam constructed by PWD. Part excavation of P.H. completed. Due to heavy rain a portion of ring band has breached and the entire power house pit is flooded. Damages to earth mat and other damaged can be ascertained only after dewatering. Erection of tower crane completed on 20.07.2001. 3 Nos main inlet valve with spairs received at site. The supply of balance items is in progress.
27.	Kuttiyadi Tail Race Ker/3x1.25 (MW) May, 1989 For 2x1.25 MW	12.92	10th Plan	Construction of channel and allied works completed. Works of Forebay, P.H. and Penstock are in progress and 5.9% progress achieved.

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Pykara Ultimate T.N./3x50 MW 01.08.88	373.06	10th Plan	Gate shaft, HRT, Surge shaft completed. P.H. & pressure shaft works in progress. TRT is through and 96% lining completed. Orders for Generator Transformers and 220 KV cables placed. EOT crane received at site. TG equipment for all the three units received at site.
EASTERN REGION				
29.	Chandil Jharkhand/2x4 14.04.87	32.49	2001-02	Dam completed. Out of 13 No. radial gates, 8 No. erected. PH building almost completed. For penstocks, fabrication and erection completed. Erection of escape channel & cross & head regulator gates in progress.
30.	North Koel $ Jharkhand/2x12 10.03.84	47.34	10th plan	At present civil works by NPCC are at standstill since August 1997 due to contractual and law & order problem. Dam completed upto crest level by Irrigation Deptt. of State Govt.
31.	Potteru Ori./1x3+1x3 30.07.84	18.83	2001-02	Intake works completed Power & TR channel 70%, 75% and 65%, 30% for power house I & II respectively completed, labyrinth work cross drainage work 40%, 40% and 90%, 100% completed respectively for PH-I & II. Civil works of both Power houses completed. Erection of penstock completed for both PH-I & II. Works of Labyrinth Weir, HRC/TRC and cross drainage were at standstill due to Law & Order Problem and contract failure.
32.	Balimela Dam Toe $ Ori./2x30 26.02.77	69.301	10th plan	Excavation of PH was held up since Nov, 84 due to objection from Govt. of Orissa. Govts. of AP & Orissa have now decided for execution of project by OPCL as an IPP.
33.	Purulia PSS W.B./4x225 09.02.94	3188.90	2004-06	OECF loan agreement signed in March, 95. Infrastructural works in progress. Techno-commercial evaluation completed. Evaluation of price part of Hydro-Mech. equipment completed.
NORTH-EASTERN REGION				
34.	Karbi Langpi $ (Lower Borpani) Asm/2x50 MW 24.09.79	267.27	2003-04	85.8% excavation, 19.4% conc. & 97% slush clearance for dam completed. Due to poor performance in joint sector the contract was cancelled and Govt. of Assam handed over the project to ASEB for execution as per Supreme Court's verdict of January, 1999. Preparation of inventory of the assets taken up. Execution of balance works has not been started. Funds are being tied up with PFC.

*Works of the projects are held up.

1	2	3	4	5
35.	Dhansiri $ Asm.5x3x1.33 06.02.85	70.00	2002-03	Head works for irrigation project Barrage completed. Works are at standstill due to poor cash flow and Law & order problems since April, 1996.
36.	Likim-Ro Nagaland/3x8 18.10.89	215.88	2001-02	Civil works completed. Unit 1 & 2 rolled on 12.09.2001. Stator and TG of Unit-3 positioned. Rotor erection is in progress.
PRIVATE SECTOR				
37.	Baspa St. II HP./3x100 29.04.94 (CEA cl.) 16.01.98 (TEC revalidated)	949.23	2003-04	Infrastructure works are completed. Civil works are in progress. The works of the project which came to stand-still due to flood in river Sutluj on 31st July/1st August, 2000 have resumed since 4/2001 and are picking up. The project is expected to be commissioned in 2003-04.
38.	Dhamwari Sunda/H.P./2x35 06.07.2001 (TEC)	US$ 10.91m +393.04 crs	2006-07	H.P. Govt. signed IA with M/s Harza Engg. Company, USA on 17.10.96. Later on it was proposed to change the name of executing agency to M/s Dhamwari Power Company Ltd. The F.C.I. awaited. Forest clearance and environmental clearance obtained. Process of land acquisition is in progress.
39.	Neogal/H.P. 2x7.5/25.10.99 (TEC)	91.25 crs	54 months from F.C.	TEC to this scheme was accorded by HPSEB on 25.10.99 at an estimated basic cost of Rs. 6174 Lacs in favour of M/s Om Power Company Ltd., Delhi. Forest clearance obtained and environmental clearance awaited.
40.	Vishnu Prayag Uttaranchal/4x100 30.06.97 (TEC)	1614.66	10th plan	Infrastructure works are in progress.
41.	Srinagar $ Uttaranchal/4x82.5 14.06.2000	1699.12	2005-06	World Bank loan cancelled on 28.8.92. MOU was signed by Govt. of U.P. with M/s. Duncan Agro on 27.8.94 for execution in Private Sector. TEC accorded by CEA on 14.06.2000 to M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.
42.	Maheshwar M.P./10x40 30.12.96 (TEC)	1673.00	2003-05	Civil works awarded to M/s Southern Engg. Works Ltd. Hyderabad. Excavation of Dam, PH, TRT etc. are in progress. The basic infrastructure already in place. Land acquisition and R & R works are in progress.
43.	Boothathankettu $ Ker./4x4	47.26	10th plan	Agreement for implementation of the project was executed with M/s Silical Mettulergic Ltd. during 12/94. Civil works have been temporarily stopped due to problem in land acquisition from irrigation Deptt.

*Works of the projects are held up.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SHAKAL: The hon'ble Minister has stated in the reply that at present there are 23 thermal power project with a total capacity of 9133.4 Mw. and 43 hydropower projects with a total capacity of 12665.6 Mw. are under construction. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether compensation had been paid to the farmers, whose land was acquired for the construction of these projects and whether there is any scheme to provide jobs to atleast one member of each such family.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rehabilitation and reconstruction policy, compensation is paid to those whose land is acquired and at the same time efforts are to provide them jobs, if possible. But here it is not possible for me to reply because the hon'ble Member had not asked about the job or payment of compensation in the main question. If he wants to know specifically about it, a separate notice should be given.

SHRI RAM SHAKAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many schemes of NTPC and UPSEB in my Constituency are proposed but adequate compensation has not been paid and jobs have not been provided to atleast one member of each affected family in those villages whose land has been acquired. As a result of that those people have come on the road. I request the Hon'ble Minister that whether it is in district Sonebhadra where NTPC, Shakti Nagar or Rihand Thermal Power Project in UP are coming up or any other place, the survey should be conducted in regard to the land acquired and compensation should be paid to those who have not been already paid the compensation and one member of each family should be given employment.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question has been asked regarding the projects likely to be implemented in the country and it has not been asked as to whether compensation was paid and which family was given employment. So this information is not with me at present because it was not asked in the original question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can write a letter to this effect to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: The projects regarding which he sought information, had been completed many years ago. These are not new projects. These were completed at least 10 years ago. If the hon. Member wants any information separately, then he can write to me and I will provide the same.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what happened to the Navi Nagar Super Thermal Power Station project that was to come up in Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency in Bihar. Especially after the division of Bihar, we have no projects in Bihar which have taken off. Could you tell when it is going to be taken up in the near future?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, normally, the selection of the site for a particular thermal plant is determined by the National Thermal Power Corporation on consideration of various parameters which include availability of coal, its access to market, where the load centre is and tariffs as well as ability of the respective State Governments to buy power that is going to be generated by that power station. On the basis of that, NTPC prepares strategic perspective plan for the next few Five Year Plans.

Sir, I can recollect that in the Ninth Five Year Plan, this particular plan was not there. It was not even included in the perspective plan for the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, since she had drawn my attention not only now but even earlier, I have already asked NTPC to look at the possibility of setting up a power station in that area after all the criterion on which they normally select a site are properly met.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: May I know from the Minister how many of the atomic power stations are under construction in our country? What kind of precaution has been taken by the Government against radiation effects, if any?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, I have already given some information about various power plants which are under construction. This also includes the power plants which are going to use the nuclear source. Sir, the subject is not dealt with by me directly as there is a separate Ministry which deals with power projects. But, however, the policy of the Government is to encourage setting up of nuclear power stations. Today, our installed capacity for nuclear power is 2500 MW. The Nuclear Power Corporation has already planned to create about 20,000 MW of additional capacity in the next 20 years' time. We are also trying to tell them to increase it, maybe, by another 18,000 MW because we would like to have, at least, 2000 MW of additional capacity to be created through the nuclear sources. Therefore, we are really banking on this as a major source to generate power during the Eleventh Plan and the subsequent Five Year Plans.

However, we really need to keep in mind, as you have very kindly pointed out, the security angle. You must appreciate the fact that Indian nuclear power stations are one of the best in terms of nuclear safety. They are subjected to inspection not only by our own internal inspection team but even by international Atomic Energy Commission which visits it on and of. They never had any experience of any accident or any catastrophe that has really taken place. We have got a very good system in place. Our nuclear scientists are competent and capable. Therefore, we would like to encourage nuclear power station also because it does emit greenhouse gases. As you are aware, world-wide there is a growing concern about the emission of greenhouse gases which cause serious environmental damages. Therefore, we would like to encourage nuclear power stations to be built.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the projects under construction in the country include Akrimota in Gujarat and CCPP power project in Hazira. There is acute shortage of power in Gujarat because there had been drought for the last three years. The crops are dying and the farmers are facing lot of difficulties. It has been stated that Akrimota Project and Hazira Project would be completed by March, 2003 and Feb. 2002 respectively. These projects should be completed as soon as possible keeping in view the Gujarat situation and the difficulties of farmers so as to provide power to the farmers well in time.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some gestation period is there for completing the projects. Today, NTPC is on the way to implement certain projects and it is in a position to implement them in a very little time. The hon'ble Member has asked about the Hazira Project and this project will be completed within two months i.e. by Feb. 2002. At the same time efforts will be made to complete the other projects in the minimum possible time.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as power is concerned, the position of UP is worse in India. In 50% villages, there is no electricity and even in electrified cities the supply remains disturbed sometimes even upto 5 days. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would chalk out a special project for UP to provide electricity in villages. There is no power project except Rihand in UP. Earlier every MP was given quota for the electrification of 25 village but this system had been discontinued three years back.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you asking about ongoing projects?

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Sir, I want to know whether the Government propose to bring about some special projects for UP and whether electrification of villages will be carried out in consultation with MPs?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, power generation is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. Therefore, the State Governments should pay attention to the matter as to how electricity can be supplied in their respective States. But today the financial condition of State Governments and the Electricity Boards is not good enough so as to formulate better projects for future. Therefore, the Central Government is extending all help and efforts are being made to formulate new projects. An action plan has been prepared to enhance electrification in rural areas of UP so as to ensure electrification of all the villages and to the situation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of associating MPs in the matter of providing electricity in their constituency is concerned, more and more emphasis will be laid on their suggestions and I am going to put up a note in this regard to the Cabinet.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: There is a lot of potential in our country for the non-conventional energy. Through non-conventional energy we can generate 5000 MW to 10,000 MW of power. But there is no common policy in the country for the non-conventional power generation. Each State has its own policy. Andhra Pradesh is taking advantage of this source and is generating more power. In Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other States also there is a potential. I would like to know why the Government is not evolving a common policy for this sector. I would like the Minister to inform this House if there is a policy.

MR. SPEAKER: This question relates to the on-going projects.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: On-going power projects mean non-conventional energy, hydro-electricity, everything. The Minister is ready to answer this question.

MR. SPEAKER: So, you interpret it in whatever way you like!

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I wish I was dealing with this subject of non-conventional energy which is under a specialised Ministry and a specialised Minister. However, as a part of the holistic policy that the Government of India has evolved, we would like to generate power from non-conventional sources also which include solar, mini-hydro, oceanic energy and also bio-mass energy. We

have a policy for that. The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy is trying to add 10,000 MW capacity during the next ten years on the basis of this plan. We want them to increase that further. The Government of India is already in the process of formulating a policy for the renewable sources of energy.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: In the Ninth Five Year Plan the Government wanted to establish the capacity to produce 48,000 MW of electricity. This target was reduced to 28,000 MW of electricity. Then again, this target was reduced to 20,000 MW of electricity. That means, we are not trying to meet the original target and not trying to meet the reduced target also.

And electricity is something which is the most important infrastructure for development in all fields like agriculture, industry and transport. Now, if this is the state of affairs, how will we meet the requirement of electricity in our country and how does the Government want to see that this most important infrastructural element is provided for the development of agriculture, industry and transport?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, this is one of the pertinent and valid points which the hon. Member has raised. During the Ninth Five Year Plan and even during the Eighth Five Year Plan, we have not been able to add to the capacity to the desired level. Even in the Eighth Five Year Plan, we have failed very miserably towards attaining the target to meet our Power Capacity Addition Programme. In the Ninth Five Year Plan, till October, 2001, the capacity that has been added is about 16,833 MW and probably, some other projects are under construction. Of course, the Ninth Five Year Plan will end only in March.

Sir, you are right that we were not able to add substantial capacity to the extent to which we desired. This is on account of various reasons. One of them is the poor financial state of the State Electricity Boards and as a result of that, there is not enough escrowable capacities available now in the State Electricity Boards and so, even the private sector is not coming up. When we prepared the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans, we had anticipated a very big role for the private sector and the public investment was not contemplated to the extent to which it would have been, had it not been contemplated for the private sector. As a result of this poor state of affairs of the State Electricity Boards, we have seen that the private sector has not come to the extent to which we really expected them to come. The Tenth Plan is now under preparation. We have actually started working on it and I am happy to say that the NTPC is already implementing the projects which will be commissioned in the Tenth Plan almost to the extent of 80 per cent of what they are required to do. The work has already started. It has never happened in the past that NTPC has done so much of preparatory work. They have done a good amount of preparatory work which will ensure that, in the Tenth Plan, we will be able to meet our target fully for the first time after several years. And this is because of the preparatory work and also because they are trying to make some structural changes in the power sector which will, in itself, ensure a good flow of investment to the power sector, which is a long-term solution to the yields of the power sector which you have very correctly pointed out.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know the number of power projects lying pending in Uttaranchal State, the time by when they are likely to be completed; the time by when the Tehri project is likely to be completed and the total power generation through it?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, this information has been given in the reply.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has stated that this is an approved project with a capacity of 42557 megawatt which has already been approved by the Central Electricity Authority and Techno-economic Committee Work has already started on the ongoing project with a capacity of 9000 megawatt, but power generation of 33 thousand megawatt is still to be attained. One lakh twenty thousand crores of rupees are required to be spent on this project. When this sanctioned project is likely to get a start? Out of the power generation project of 42,000 megawatt, Work has started only for production of 9000 megawatt. Rest is pending. It also includes Muzaffarpur extension, and even Barh is also included in it. The foundation stone has been laid there but work has not yet started. Therefore, I would like to know specifically from the Government regarding the steps taken by the Government to arrange for more than 1,20,000 required for the ongoing project of generation of 33,000 megawatt of electricity. I would also like to know about the action being taken by the Government for the backward areas of Muzaffarpur, Barh, Nabinagar and the policy of coal pithead and for early completion of the project.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, some projects are started by the State Governments with the funds available with them. After obtaining information about such projects from the State Governments, funds can be provided to them. Provisions have been there for the Centre sector so that the States get their benefits. A committee has

been constituted to make available the funds to the States. The ex-chairman of the Power Finance Corporation Shri Kohli is the Chairman of the Committee. We have urged the Power Finance Corporation very seriously that power funds should be set up so that the Power Finance Corporation is able to raise funds and allocate it to the States. The extension work in Barh can be started because all permissions have been given and all arrangements have been made. Techno economic clearance and no objection certificate from the Ministry of Environment have been obtained. The work is likely to start. Please do not think that we do not pay attention towards Bihar.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It should have been stated that we would take proper care regarding Bihar.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that it has been stated that the target of power generation was set as 30,000 megawatt but we could achieve only the target of 15,000 megawatt. A target was set for the generation of 40,000 megawatt while only twenty thousand could be generated. It means we could attain only a target of fifty per cent during Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan. Even at that time it was stated that preparation was full. Many foreign countries were ready to invest their money in it. This was projected I would like to know through you whether the Government would like to tap its own resources or will depend on foreign countries only to achieve a target of one lakh megawatt power generation during the next ten years. It has been stated that the achievement level is low because many foreign countries could not invest their money under the M.O.U.'s signed there. I would like to know whether we are dependent on foreign countries only or whether we are ready to tap our own resources too so as to ensure that we do not reach the same fate in coming Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan. What has the Government planned in this regard?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: It is correct that we had set a target during the previous Five Year Plans for investment to be made by the private sector so that we can complete our projects. We have not been able to receive the same capital from private sector as we wished, it is correct. So stress would be given on public investment during Tenth Five Year Plan. We would encourage public investment. Shri N.K. Sengupta was then in Planning Commission. From that time he has been stressing that unless we tap public sector investment and develop power sector, we cannot achieve our target. So we will have to tap our own resources from public investment onwards and step it up. Till then structural reform programme would not be completed.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, will the hon. Minister be kind enough to intimate the House on one point? We have one CMD in both the major organisations, namely, the NHPC and the NJPC, the Naphtha Jhakri Project which is in Himachal Pradesh. Recently, we had been there. I want to know whether you are going to change the CMDs of the institutions for revamping the work with more initiatives, particularly for the Purulia Project which has been mentioned in the list? It is a project enlisted under Item No. 33 as Purulia PSS at the cost of Rs. 3188.90 crore and supposed to be commissioned by 2004-2006. Not even any MD has been deployed to look after the above project. I would like to know whether the Government is cautious enough to take care of these projects and when are they going to deploy the officials and make arrangements like infrastructure for these projects and Purulia PSS, which has been mentioned, in particular?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, Purulia Hydro Development Project is a State Sector Project, as of now. It was expected that the project would be commissioned by the State Government of West Bengal. However, the State Government of West Bengal has requested the Government of India to take over that project. We will be completing the formalities very soon and the State Government will be supported by the Central Government to implement this project through a joint venture which will be formed between the State Government of West Bengal and the Central Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, electricity is very important from the point of view of progress of the country. I would like to know about the total requirement of power in megawatt and whether the Government would be able to attain this target?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think he has already answered that.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Central Electricity Authority has released power survey report and according to it in coming ten years there will be requirement of 1 lakh megawatt of power and to achieve this target we will have to generate this much power.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Funding of Elections

*164. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:
SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR:

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

(a) whether the Committee constituted in regard to Government funding on elections has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the recommendations of this Committee;

(c) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the said Committee;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the aspects of various electoral reforms have been examined by the Government; and

(f) if so, the details of electoral reforms the Government is likely to implement before the next general election?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Committee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee), which was constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of late Shri Indrajit Gupta, M.P. pursuant to a decision taken in the meeting of leaders of political parties held on 22.5.1998, submitted its report to the Government on 14.1.1999 and the same has also been laid on the Table of the House on 25.8.2000. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government is continuously exploring ways and means of bringing about reforms in electoral laws. In this connection, it may be stated that the Government has before it the recommendations made by different bodies/individuals like the Dinesh Goswami Committee, the Indrajit Gupta Committee, the Election Commission of India, the Law Commission of India, etc. and various proposals based on their recommendations are discussed with the political parties from time to time and concretized. The Government has already given notice for introduction of a new Bill, namely, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2001, in the current session of the Council of States seeking to substitute open ballot system in place of the existing secret ballot system in elections to the Council of States and to do away with the requirement of residence of a particular State/Union territory for contesting election to the Council of States from that State/Union territory. Further, consequent to the passing of the Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Bill, 2001, seeking to extend the constitutional embargo on undertaking readjustment of electoral constituencies up to the year 2026 as also rationalization of the territorial constituencies, including those reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, based on the population census for the year 1991, without altering the number of seats allocated to States in the legislative bodies, which is awaiting ratification from the State legislatures before being assented to by the Hon'ble President, the Government will also bring forward a Delimitation Bill enabling setting up of an authority for carrying out the purposes of the said Bill. The process of reform of electoral laws is, however, a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties, which is a time consuming process and, therefore, no time frame can be suggested in this regard. The Government, however, intends to continue interaction with the political parties on various proposals to carry forward the process of electoral reforms.

[English]

Crash in International Crude Oil Prices

*166. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the crash in international oil prices of crude below $ 21 per barrel mark has given boost to the Indian Oil economy;

(b) if so, whether it has helped in reducing the oil import bill;

(c) if so, the extent to which it has reduced the import bill of oil; and

(d) the extent to which Indian Oil Pool deficit has been recovered?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Decline in the crude oil prices in the international market helps in reducing the oil import bill, the oil pool deficit and the consumer prices of decontrolled products.

(b) and (c) Decline in the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market has a favourable impact on the oil import bill. The decrease in crude prices by one US doller per barrel for a month reduces the oil import bill by around Rs. 260 crore.

(d) The decrease in the crude price by one US doller per barrel for a month reduces the oil pool deficit by around Rs. 200 crore.

Integrated Gas Pipeline Trunk System

*167. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to include various States in the list of projects for Integrating Gas Pipeline Trunk System including Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be commenced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Currently, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has a pipeline network of about 4,436 km length of different capacities, including 2,760 km. long Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur (HBJ) pipeline, for transportation of natural gas through pipeline covering various States, namely, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. Apart from the existing pipeline network, GAIL has plans to set up a pipeline of about 849 km from Kochi (Kerala) to Bangalore (Karnataka) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,787 crore (approximately) for distribution of 10 million standard cubic meter per day (MMSCMD) of re-gasified liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the LNG terminal proposed to be set up by Petronet LNG Limited aqt Kochi (Kerala). As per the proposal, this pipeline will be passing through Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. The pipeline project completion will be synchronized with the availability of re-gasified LNG at Kochi, which is expected to be ready by 2005.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

[Translation]

Projects Completed by ONGC

*168. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

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

(a) the details of projects completed by ONGC during the last three years in foreign countries; and

(b) the benefits accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) does not execute any project abroad. ONGC-Videsh Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC undertakes such projects abroad, however, no project has been completed during the last three years.

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

[English]

Safety Measures in Ordnance Factories

*169. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 60 per cent of ammunitions from Ordnance factories are stored in the open;

(b) if so, whether the Army inventories are incapable of handling and storing ammunitions in a safe place;

(c) whether the Government propose to declare high alert in the ordnance factories to avoid any mishaps; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Ordnance Factories normally do not store ammunitions as these are issued to the indentors immediately on acceptance. However, when required, the ammunitions in the Ordnance Factories are stored in the specified buildings of the Factory which have been approved by the Centre for Environment & Explosive Safety (CEES).

2. The ammunitions for the Army are normally stored in Ammunition Depots. Presently, about 75% of the ammunition is held under covered accommodation and balance 25% of the ammunition is stored in the open protected by tarpaulin/temporary structure. Adequate funds have been provided and works for the construction of Explosive Store-Houses have been initiated and are under progress. It is envisaged that by the year 2003-2004, all ammunition presently stored in the open will be accommodated in the Explosive Store-House.

3. The Army is competent to handle and store ammunitions in adequate safety. Norms for the Store House specification, safety distances and requirement of fire precautions laid down by the Centre for Environment and Explosive Safety are being followed while storing the ammunition in the Store Houses.

4. The security in Ordnance Factories and Depots is with the Defence Security Corps and the Security Officers are from the Army. A system of constant interaction with the Intelligence Agencies exists for taking additional precautionary measures.

Freight Subsidy After Dismantling of APM

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

(a) whether his Ministry is working out a strategy to continue freight subsidy even after the dismantling of administered price mechanism on petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether this is likely to avoid fluctuation in the prices of petroleum products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Government Resolution of 21st November 1997 on the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism, envisages freight subsidy on supplies to the far-flung areas to be met from the fiscal budget of the Government with effect from 1.4.2002.

(b) The objective of providing freight subsidy is to absorb the impact of freight in the consumer prices in far flung areas.

(c) The details in this regard are being finalized.

Under Trial Prisoners

*171. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2822 dated March 13, 2000 regarding NHRC directive to Chief Justice of High Courts and state:

(a) the details of steps being taken by the State High Courts to tackle overcrowding in jails and long pendency of trial cases;

(b) the total number of under-trial prisoners as on March 31, 2001;

(c) the amount being incurred annually in the maintenance of such undertrials;

(d) the cases of prisoners disposed of till date; and

(e) the time by which the remaining cases will be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) According to available information, the High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Punjab and Haryana and Sikkim have issued instructions to take up the cases of the undertrial prisoners who are involved in petty cases on priority basis. As per further information made available by State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Goa, Rajasthan and West Bengal the respective High Courts have instituted measures for tackling overcrowding in jails and early disposal of long pending trial cases. These, *inter alia*, include holding courts in jails, holding Lok Adalats, providing legal assistance to the prisoners and setting up of Coordination Committees to review the cases of undertrial prisoners.

(b) According to the information made available by the National Crime Records Bureau, the total number of undertrial prisoners, as at the end of 1999 was 2,04,480; their State-wise break up is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Eleventh Finance Commission in its Report of June, 2000 estimated that an amount of Rs. 55 was being spent per day on each undertrial by the State Governments. This comes to an amount of Rs. 410.49 crore being incurred annually on the maintenance of 2,04,480 undertrials.

(d) No separate figures regarding cases of undertrial prisoners are being maintained.

(e) It is not possible to fix the time frame for disposal of the pending cases as this falls within the purview of the courts.

Statement

Number of Undertrials in Different Jails at the end of 1999

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Undertrials
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8557
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	4390
4.	Bihar	39449
5.	Goa	288
6.	Gujarat	4879
7.	Haryana	6015
8.	Himachal Pradesh	392
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1189
10.	Karnataka	6780
11.	Kerala	3390
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18501
13.	Maharashtra	13960
14.	Manipur	323
15.	Meghalaya	574
16.	Mizoram	486
17	Nagaland	775
18.	Orissa	8009
19.	Punjab	7430
20.	Rajasthan	6772
21.	Sikkim	85
22.	Tamilnadu	9289
23.	Tripura	672
24.	Uttar Pradesh	44269
25.	West Bengal	8529
	Total (States)	195003
26.	A&N Islands	211
27.	Chandigarh	291
28.	D&N Haveli	39
29.	Daman & Diu	28
30.	Delhi	8776
31.	Lakshadweep	0
32.	Pondicherry	132
	Total (UTs)	9477
	Total (All India)	204480

Source: Prison Statistics in India 1999.

Inadequate Gas Supply to Trombay Thermal Station by ONGC/GAIL

*172. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Trombay Thermal Station continues to get inadequate gas supplies from Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL);

(b) if so, whether contract for gas supplies exists between Tata Electric Companies (TEC) and GAIL for supply of 1.5 million cubic metres of gas per day (MMCMD);

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government propose to direct GAIL to honour the existing contract and supply adequate quantity of gas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Tata Electric Company (TEC) originally signed a contract with Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited on 19.12.91 for supply of 1.5 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas for a period of 5 years, which was later transferred to Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). The validity of the gas supply agreement between TEC and GAIL, as extended from time to time, expired on 30.09.2001. Both the parties are in the process of extending the contract through a side letter upto 31.12.2003.

(d) Due to low availability of natural gas ex-Uran, TEC is being supplied gas around 1 MMSCMD against the allocation of 1.5 MMSCMD as per Action Plan worked out in 2000-01. The current gas availability ex-Uran is

around 9 MMSCMD only, while allocations already committed to various consumers in the region are of the order of 16.6 MMSCMD.

Procurement of Spare Parts from Foreign Countries

*173. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any strategy to lessen the dependence of Indian Air Force on supply of spare parts by foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to get rid of such problems; and

(d) the measures adopted to achieve self reliance in this field?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) With a view to reducing the dependence of the Indian Air Force on foreign countries for the supply of spare parts, a Committee with representatives of the Indian Air Force (IAF), the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Inspection and Certification agencies like Centre for Military Air Worthiness Certification (CEMILAC) & Director General Aeronautics Quality & Assurance (DGAQA), as members, has been constituted to look into the requirement of spares for IAF and the feasibility of their indigenous development.

2. The Indian Air Force has also taken an initiative to collaborate with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Society of Indian Aerospace Technology and Industries (SIATI) and Small Scale Industries (SSI) in organising indigenisation seminars in various parts of the country so as to include private sector industries for indigenous development, production & supply of requisite items. The vendor base for the supply of indigenous items to the IAF has risen during the last about four years from 151 to 1500. While a dent has been made in terms of low value/low quantum items like nuts, bolts, screws, washers, some electronic items rubberized items etc, efforts are underway to include medium/high-tech and high volume items. This is a continuous process and as new systems get inducted, parallel action towards indigenisation also keeps getting initiated.

Telephone Facility in Siachen

*174. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that lack of telephone facility in Siachen, is causing considerable distress to the troops as they remain cut off; and

(b) if so, the action taken for immediate restoration of telephone by BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) For the welfare of the troops in Siachen Glaciers, Army have arranged STD PCOs of Department of Telecommunication at the following places:-

(a)	Siachen	1
(b)	Chalunka Post	1
(c)	Thoise	1
(d)	Khalsar	1
(e)	Paratapur	3

2. Department of Telecommunication have subsidized the call charges applicable to all STD PCOs run by the Army in Leh, Nobra and Kargil Sectors which includes Siachen. As a result, only 25% of the actual charges are being paid by the users for all STD calls and ISD calls (to Nepal only).

3. Two normal STD telephones were functioning in HQ 102 Mountain Brigade. Since these did not fall in the category of STD PCOs, the concessional tariffs were not applicable and the users were required to pay the actual STD charges. Hence, the two telephones were surrendered in June, 2001. In lieu of the surrendered STD telephones, two STD PCOs with concessional tariff have been provided at Paratapur. The total number of STD PCOs at Paratapur now is three.

4. With the existing arrangement there is no complaint from soldiers regarding communication facilities provided to them.

Dismantling of APM in Petroleum Sector

*175. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

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

(a) whether an Inter-Ministerial Group has been set by the Government for dismantling APM (Administered Price Mechanism) in petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the details along with its findings; and

(c) the extent to which the interest of consumers is likely to be safeguarded after dismantling of A.P.M.?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) With a view to expediting inter-ministerial consultations on the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), four Sub Groups were set up under the chairmanship of Finance Secretary, Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (Expenditure) and Secretary (Petroleum & Natural Gas). The details regarding the dismantling of the APM have not been finalized as yet.

(c) The Government is committed to safeguard the interests of the consumers after the dismantling of the APM.

[Translation]

Hydel Power Generation

*176. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual income of State Governments can go up by Rs. 1.6 crore on generation of 1 KW electricity based on 60 per cent plant load factor in the hydel power sector;

(b) if not, the estimate of the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the estimated annual income of each State Government from the power generation in the hydel power sector; and

(d) the potential of each State to increase its income in hydel power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) The cost of power generation from hydroelectric projects is project-specific and depends upon the cost of the project, its date of completion, and its designed load factor. The average load factor of hydrolectric project in operation in the country is about 38%.

The annual energy generation from one KW at 60% load factor would be 5256 units of electricity. The revenue from the sale of this energy is derived from the sale rate of energy, which varies from State of State. The actual income would depend upon generation, transmission and distribution costs as well as T&D losses.

(c) The annual energy generation from hydroelectric projects during the year 2000-01 (utility-wise) is given in the enclosed statement-I. An estimation of annual revenue in different States/SEBs considering the energy generation during 2000-01 from the hydroelectric projects owned by State utilities, average tariff for sale of electricity and T&D losses is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) The State-wise details of hydroelectric potential presently under development/unexploited are given in the enclosed statement-III. Exploitation of this potential would further increase the income of the concerned States.

Statement-I

Generation from Hydro Power Stations in the Country during the year 2000-2001

Sector	Generation [MU]
1	2
Central Sector	
BBMB	10424
NHPC	8771
DVC	282
NEEPCO	899
Total	20376
Private Sector	
Tata Hydro [Mah.]	1152
Shivpur [Kar.]	105
Shahapur [Kar.]	14
Narayanpur [Kar.]	—
Harangi [Kar.]	—
Manniyar [Ker.]	31
Kuthungal [Ker.]	—
Total PS	1302
State Sector	
J&K	559
HPSEB	1165
HSEB	244
RSEB	376

1	2
PSEB	3141
UPSEB	5301
GEB	439
MSEB	3661
MPSEB	1820
APSEB	7729
KPCL	10536
KEB	237
KSEB	6190
TNEB	5441
BSEB	144
OSEB	4612
WBSEB	446
Sikkim	21
Meghalaya	658
Tripura	70
Ar. Pradesh	13
Total SS	52803
Total All India	74481

Statement-II

Estimate of Annual Revenue from Sale of Hydoelectric Energy Generation During the year 2000-2001—State Sector schemes

State/ Utility	Hydro Generation (MU)	Average tafiff@ (2000-2001) (Paisa/Kwh.)	T&D Losses@ (%)	Estimate of Annual Revenue (Lac Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
J&K	559	194.16	46.5%	5806.65
HPSEB	1165	203.04	17.3%	19561.99
HSEB	244	214.91	25.0%	3932.85
RSEB	376	195.79	22.0%	5742.13
PSEB	3141	176.42	16.9%	46048.64
UPSEB	5301	183.35	25.0%	72895.38
GEB	439	225.00	19.4%	7961.27
MSEB	3661	231.18	16.7%	70500.95
MPSEB	1820	166.74	20.5%	24125.61
APSEB	7729	182.00	31.0%	97060.78
KPCL	10536	252.88	30.0%	186504.06
KEB	237	252.88	30.0%	4195.28

1	2	3	4	5
KSEB	6190	236.66	20.8%	116022.09
TNEB	5441	233.49	16.5%	106079.99
BSEB	144	200.14	22.0%	2247.97
OSEB	4612	157.87	6.0%	68441.07
WBSEB	446	240.72	28.0%	7730.00
Sikkim	21	115.00	20.0%	193.20
Meghalaya	658	174.18	20.3%	9134.45
Tripura	70	97.00	28.0%	488.88
Ar. Pradesh	13	200.00	18.0%	213.20
Total	52803			854886.44

@**Source:** Annual Report of Planning Commission on the Working of State Electricity Boards & Electricity Departments dated June 2001-Annual Plan.

Statement-III

Status of Hydro Electric Potential Development

(State-Wise)

(As on 01.11.2001)

Region/State	Potential assessed at 60% LF (MW)	Potential developed at 60% LF (MW)	% developed	Potential yet to be developed at 60% LF (MW)	% Yet to be developed
1	2	3	4	5	6
NORTHERN					
Jammu & Kashmir	7487.00	508.33	6.79	6978.67	93.21
Himachal Pradesh	11647.00	2036.73	17.49	9610.27	82.51
Punjab	922.00	656.33	71.19	265.67	28.81
Haryana	64.00	51.67	80.73	12.33	19.27
Rajasthan	291.00	192.67	66.21	98.33	33.79
Uttaranchal	7453.00	831.68	11.16	6621.32	88.84
Uttar Pradesh	2291.00	313.65	13.69	1977.35	86.31
Sub Total (NR)	30155.00	4591.07	15.22	25563.93	84.78

1	2	3	4	5	6
WESTERN					
Madhya Pradesh	2774.00	600.00	21.63	2174.00	78.37
Gujarat	409.00	138.67	33.90	270.33	66.10
Maharashtra	2460.00	1118.83	45.48	1341.17	54.52
Goa	36.00	0.00	0.00	36.00	100.00
Sub Total (WR)	5679.00	1857.50	32.71	3821.50	67.29
SOUTHERN					
Andhra Pradesh	2909.00	1402.25	48.20	1506.75	51.80
Karnataka	4347.00	2322.83	53.44	2024.17	46.56
Kerala	2301.00	1125.50	48.91	1175.50	51.09
Tamilnadu	1206.00	946.50	78.48	259.50	21.52
Sub Total (SR)	10763.00	5797.08	53.86	4965.92	46.14
EASTERN					
Jharkhand	478.00	75.17	15.73	402.83	84.27
Bihar	60.00	44.78	74.64	15.22	25.36
Orissa	1983.00	1100.50	55.50	882.50	44.50
West Bengal	1786.00	91.33	5.11	1694.67	94.89
Sikkim	1283.00	57.50	4.48	1225.50	95.52
Sub Total (ER)	5590.00	1369.28	24.50	4220.72	75.50
NORTH EASTERN					
Meghalaya	1070.00	121.67	11.37	948.33	88.63
Tripura	9.00	8.50	94.44	0.50	5.56
Manipur	1176.00	73.17	6.22	1102.83	93.78
Assam	351.00	111.67	31.81	239.33	68.19
Nagaland	1040.00	56.00	5.38	984.00	94.62
Arunachal Pradesh	26756.00	16.50	0.06	26739.50	99.94
Mizoram	1455.00	1.00	0.07	1454.00	99.93
Sub Total (NER)	31857.00	388.50	1.22	31468.50	98.78
All India	84044.00	14003.43	16.66	70040.57	83.34

Pilferage of Coal

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment at any stage about the quantity of coal pilferred during transportation from coal mines to its destination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such pilferage;

(d) the preventive steps taken by the Government to reduce the loss suffered on account of such pilferage of coal;

(e) the extent to which railway employees and Railway Protection Force (R.P.F.) personnel are involved; and

(f) the action taken against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Approximately 426 tonnes of Coal worth Rupees 2.13 Lakhs was reported pilferred during transportation in the year 2000-2001.

(c) Mainly the villagers located near the railway tracks pilfer coal for domestic use and small scale business.

(d) The following preventive steps have been taken by the Government to reduce the loss suffered on account of pilferage of coal.

1. Coal carrying trains are escorted by RPF personnels in vulnerable sections.

2. Track patrolling by RPF personnel is done near notorious villages.

3. Frequent raids are conducted against receivers.

(e) 5 Railways Employees were arrested during the year under reference. There was no RPF personnel involved in any of these cases.

(f) All the 5 Railway Employees were prosecuted under the provisions of the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966.

[English]

Telecast time of Prasar Bharati

*178. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

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

(a) the existing policy of Prasar Bharati regarding total telecast time spent on different types of programmes;

(b) whether the Prasar Bharati is spending only 18 percent of its telecast time on education;

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide more time on education;

(d) whether Prasar Bharati has been asked to devise a policy to raise revenues without affecting the quality of programmes and other than through advertisements; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Prasar Bharati in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BRAODCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The primary duty of Prasar Bharati is to organize and conduct public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public. Average percentage of information, education and entertainment programmes on the National Network during the year 2000 was as under:-

Information	37%
Education	13%
Entertainment (including sports)	50%

In addition, a separate 24 hours educational channel known as "Gyan Darshan" is in operation since January 2000.

(d) and (e) A Resource Centre has been set up in AIR with a view to generating revenue by providing consultancy services as well as by hiring out AIR transmitters and towers on licence fee basis to interested parties.

Gauge Conversion

*179. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lot of work relating to conversion of rail lines from meter gauge to broad gauge is yet to be completed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present status of ongoing gauge conversion projects in different States along with allocation made therefor;

(d) the time by which the conversion work is likely to be completed; and

(e) the details of the rail lines which have been converted during the last three years along with the expenditure incurred thereon?

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

(b) Due to constraint of resources.

(c) A statement-I is enclosed.

(d) No time-frame has been fixed. The progress of ongoing works would depend upon availability of resources in the coming years.

(e) A statement-II is enclosed.

Statement-I

Status of Gauge Conversion projects in Progress

(Rs. in cr.)

Rly.	Project	kms	State	Exp. up to Mar 2001	Budget Outlay 2001-02	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CR	Miraj-Latur	359	Maharashtra	105.3	20	The work is being progressed in phases. In the phase-I, Gauge conversion work from Kuruduwadi to Pandharpur (52 km) has been completed and commissioned in March, 2001. In Phase-II from Latur Road to Latur (33 km) earthwork, major and minor bridges have been completed. Efforts are being made to expedite work in this section. Work is also in progress on Kuruduwadi to Latur.
NER	Kashipur-Lalkuan	60	UP	55.43	2	Work completed and commissioned.
NER	Samastipur-Darbhanga	37	Bihar	37.88	0.1	Work completed and commissioned.
NER	Chhapra-Aunrihar	169	UP, Bihar	169.91	0.1	Work completed and commissioned.
NER	Muzaffarpur-Raxaul (Raxaul-Birganj)	130	Bihar	121.76	0.1	Work completed and commissioned.
NER	Narkatiaganj-Valmikinagar	50	Bihar	61.88	5	Work completed and commissioned.
NER	Mathura-Achnera	35	UP	0.1	2	It is planned to do this work alongwith Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura. Detailed estimate for the same is being updated.
NER	Khadda-Gorakhpur	86	UP	93.49	9	Work completed and commissioned.
NER	Mansi-Saharsa incl. MM for extension upto Dauram Madhepur	176	Bihar	23.51	3	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress. The work would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
NER	Hajipur-Bachwara	71.45	Bihar	74.33	0.1	Work completed and commissioned.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NER	Indara-Phephana	51	UP	34.48	0.1	Work completed and commissioned.
NER	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand Nagar Nautanwa	250	UP	0	1	The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained, action for which has been initiated.
NER	Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow PH-I	60	UP	0	1	Requisite clearances have been obtained. Preparation of Plans & Estimtates have been taken up.
NER	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura-Bareilly incl. MM for extenstion from Bareilly to Lalkuan	545	UP, Uttaranchal	52.44	26	Work is planned to be completed in phases. Earthwork and bridgework are in progress.
NER	Samstipur-Khagaria	86	Bihar	0	5	Requisite clearances have been obtained. Preparation of Plans & Estimtates have been taken up.
NER	Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	268	Bihar	8.55	10	Earth work and bridge work are in progress in Jayanagar-Darbhanga and Darbhanga-Sitamarhi sections. Work would progress as per availability of resources.
NER	Kaptanganj-Thawe-Siwan-Chhapra	233.5	Bihar, UP	0	1.1	Requisite clearances have been obtained. Preparation of Plans & Estimtates have been taken up.
NFR	New Guwahati-Lumding	208.61	Assam and North East Region	192.49	1.61	Work completed and commissioned.
NFR	Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingers	628	Assam and North East Region	687.34	2	Gauge conversion of Lumding-Tinsukia-Dibrugarh/ Ledo and branch lines from Furkating to Mariani and Simalguri-Moranhat have been completed and commissioned. Gauge Conversion work on Amguri-Tuli and Makum-Dangri is in progress and will be completed during 2001-02.
NFR	Lumding-Silchar with MM to extension from Badarpur to Bhariagram	248	Assam and North East Region	69.77	40	Final location survey completed. Geotechnical investigations are in Progress. Earthwork and bridgework are in progress on Lumding-Silchar section except the ghat section between Lungting and Ditokcherra. In the ghat section, land acquisiton has been taken up.
NFR	Katihar-Jogbani (including Katihar-Radhikapur)	108	Bihar	10	15	Requisite clearances have been obtained. Tenders for earthwork and bridgework invited.
NFR	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon	280	Assam and North East Region	128.74	80	Earthwork & bridges are in progress in full length. Work is being planned for completion by March, 2003.
NFR	Katakhal-Bairabhai	84	Assam and North East Region	0.1	5	The work would be taken up once Lumding-Silchar is in advance stage of completion.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NR	Bhildi-Samdri	223	Rajasthan	3.69	4.5	Preliminary arrangements are being made to take up the work.
NR	Phulera-Jodhpur, Pipar Road-Bilara	41	Rajsthan	0	0.1	The work from Phulera-Jodhpur has been completed and commissioned. Pipar Road-Bilara, however, is being regulated as per availability of resources.
NR	Luni-Marwar & Jodhpur-Luni	100	Rajasthan	111.76	0.6	The work has been completed.
NR	Sriganganagar-Sarupsar	116	Rajasthan	0.08	0.1	Work will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances, action for which has been initiated.
NR	Luni-Barmer-Munabao	297	Rajasthan	42.14	25.4	Work is in progress on entire length. The project is proposed to be commissioned in phases. In the first phase, work on Luni-Samdari section is being expedited and efforts are being made to complete the same during 2001-02
NR	Rewari-Sadulpur including MM from Sadulpur-Hissar	211	Haryana, Rajasthan	0.01	2	Requisite clearances have been obtained. Preparation of Plans & Estiamtes have been taken up.
SCR	Mudkhed-Adilabad	167	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh	37.6	20	This work is being taken up under BOLT. The contractor is, however, not able to progress the work. Further possibilities of completing the work are being explored.
SCR	Secunderabad-Dronachellam	331	Andhra Pradesh	334.45	0.55	Work completed and commissioned.
SCR	Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati	104	Andhra Pradesh	41.69	20	Work is in progress.
SCR	Guntur-Guntakal & Guntakal-Kalluru New line from Pendekallu of Gooty	471	Andhra Pradesh	440.05	20	Guntur to Guntakal completed. Work is in progress on new line portion from Pendekallu-Gooty (29 km) hwihc is targeted for compeltion during 2001-02.
SCR	Solapur-Gadag	330	Maharashtra, Karnataka	130.04	10	The work is being done in phases. The work on Solapur-Hotgi (16 km) and Hotgi to Bijapur (94 km) has been completed. Work is in progress on rest of section from Bijapur to Gadag which will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
SCR	Secundrabad-Mudkhed & Jankhampet-Bodhan	269	Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra	35	19.87	Earthwork and bridgework are in progress. The work is being expedited and effort is being made to complete Mudkhed-Dharmabad during 2001-02.
SCR	Dharmavaram-Pakala	227	Andhra Pradesh	0.1	1	Requisite clearances have been obtained. Preparation of Plans & Estimates have been taken up.
SCR	Akola-Purna	210	Maharashtra	10	10	Final Location Survey is in progress.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SER	Gondia-Chandafort	242	Maharashtra	242.32	0.1	Work completed and commissioned.
SER	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katanji	285	Madhya Pradesh	16.02	15	In Ph I, work has been taken up on Gondia-Balaghat (42 km) section. Earthwork and bridgework are in progress. Ph II work on Jabalpur-Balaghat section is being planned to be taken up.
SER	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Ton	113	Chhattisgarh	15.97	4	The work for widening of formation is in progress between Ranchi-Lohardaga section.
SER	Rupsa-Banganposi	89	Orissa	9.64	4	In Ph-I, gauge conversion of Rupsa-Baripada section (51 km) is planned. Earthwork and bridges are in progress.
SER	Naupada-Gunupur**	90	Andhra Pradesh, Orissa	5.14	0.1	Work will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances, action for which has been initiated.
SER	Bankura-Damodar River Project including MM for extension of New line from Bowaichandi to Khanna	118	West Bengal	40.45	50	Earthwork and bridges are in progress.
SR	Bangalore-Hubli-Birur-Shimoga	630	Karnataka	397.66	0.5.	The work on the line from Bangalore-Hubli & between Birur & Shimoga has been completed. Work is in progress on Shimoga-Talguppa (97 km) as per availability of resources.
SR	Dindigul-Tnchy	93	Tamil Nadu	95.85	0.5	Work completed and commissioned.
SR	Chennai Beach-Tiruchchirapalli and Arakonnam-Chengalpattu	340	Tamil Nadu	409.52	0.5	Work completed and commissioned.
SR	Yelahanka-Chickballapur and Kolar-Bangarpet	61.9	Karnataka	57.44	0.1	Work completed and commissioned.
SR	Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore	236	Karnataka	136.38	58.1	Arsikere-Hassan-Sakleshpur has been completed & commissioned. Earthwork bridges, ballast collection in Kankanadi-Kabakaputtur (44 km) have been completed and is in various stages in other sections.
SR	Yeshwantpur-Salem	197	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka	175.34	0.5	Work has been completed. However Baiyyappanahalli-Yeshwantpur is not getting commissioned due to public agitation to get ROB at Hebbal and Lingarajpuram. State Govt. has been approached for its early commissioning.
SR	Mysore-Hassan	119	Karnataka	184.39	0.5	Work completed and commissioned.
SR	Tiruchchirappali-Nagore-Karaikal	200	Tamil Nadu	81.23	13	The section from Trichy to Thanjavur (50 km) has been completed and commissioned. Work on rest of the section is in progress as per availability of resources.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SR	Madurai-Rameswaram	161	Tamil Nadu	5.39	10	Earthwork and bridges have been taken up between Madurai & Manamadurai.
SR	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudunagar	357	Kerala, Tamil Nadu	21.97	20	In Virudunagar-Tenkasi and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur, bridge work and earthwork has been taken up. Final location survey completed in ghat section.
SR	Villupuram-Pondicherry	37	Tamil Nadu	0.9	5	Preliminary arrangements are being made for starting the work.
SR	Mysore-Chamarajanagar	148	Karnataka	0.01	1	Requisite clearances have been obtained. Preparation of Plans & Estimates have been taken up.
SR	Thanjavur-Villupuram main line	192	Tamil Nadu	6.03	10	Requisite clearances have been obtained. Preparation of Plans & Estimates have been taken up.
SR	Cuddalore-Salem via Virddachalam	191	Tamil Nadu	1	6	The work is to be done on cost sharing basis with State Govt. (50:50). The work on Virdhhahalam-Vaddalore section is being taken up in the first phase.
SR	Villupuram-Katpadi	161	Tamil Nadu	2.23	5	Final Location Survey is in progress. Detailed planning has been taken up.
SR	Trichy-Manmadurai	150	Tamil Nadu	4	10	Detailed planning has been taken up.
WR	Bhildi (Mehesana-Patan)-Viramgam	157	Gujarat	15.4	15	In Ist phase on Viramgam-Mehesana section (65 km), earthwork and bridgework are in progress. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
WR	Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad	572	Gujarat, Rajasthan	618.85	13.5	Work has been completed and commissioned. Residual works are in progress.
WR	Neemuch-Ratlam	135	MP	14.81	15	Earthwork and bridgework have been taken up.
WR	Rajkot-Veraval including MM for extension from Wansjalia to Jetalsar.	275	Gujarat	25.58	20	Earthwork and bridges are in progress. Formation on Rajkot-Veraval section is expected to be ready by June, 2002.
WR	Agra-Bandikui	152	UP, Rajasthan	20.6	10	Earthwork and bridges are in progress. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
WR	Gandhidham-Bhuj	58	Gujarat	43.32	1	Work completed and commissioned.
WR	Wankaner-Malia Miyana	97	Gujarat	88.42	5.5	Work completed and commissioned.
WR	Ajmer-Udaipur-Chittaurgarh including MM for extn. from Udaipur to Umra	311	Rajasthan	19.18	15	The work is progress between Udaipur and Chittaurgarh (114 km) in the first phase.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
WR	Surendranagar-Bhavnagar-Rajula-Mahuwa with the extn. upto Pipavav & Sihor-Palitana	385	Gujarat	46.66	34.4	The work of conversion of main line from Surendranagar to Rajula (251 km) with connectivity to Pipavav (18 km) is being done through SPV consisting of Ministry of Railways and M/s GPPL. Earthwork, bridgework and ballast supply has been taken up. Work likely to be completed in 2002-03.
WR	Dharangadhara-Kuda siding	22	Gujarat	0.01	2	This work is being done on 1/3rd cost sharing basis with Co-sharers as Ministry of Railways, Gujarat Government and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. Work is targeted for completion during 2001-02.
WR	Gandhidham-Palanpur	313	Gujarat	0.05	15	Government of Gujarat has shown willingness to share part cost of the project along with other beneficiaries. MOU in this connection is being prepared.

Statement-II

Details of converted NG/MG lines into BG during last three years

(Rs. in crores)

1998-99			1999-2000			2000-2001		
Name of section/project	Kms	Expenditure* upto 31.3.01	Name of section/project	Kms	Expenditure* upto 31.3.01	Name of section/project	kms	Expenditure* upto 31.3.01
Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur as a part of Khadda-Gorakhpur project	159	252	Pandharpur-Kurduwadi as a part of Miraj-latur project	52	105.3	Nonera-Bhind as a part of Guna-Etawah project	26	275.33
Tambaram-Trichy as a part of Chennai-Trichy project	303	409.53	Kashipur-Lalkuan	60	55.43	Raxaul-Birganj as a part of Muzaffarpur-Raxaul project	8	121.76
Trichy-Dindigul	93	95.84	Arakkonam-Chengalpattu as a part of Chennai-Trichy project	63	409.53	Gandhidham-Bhuj	58	43.32
Bebupet-Bellarshah as a part of Gondia-Chandafort project	11	242.32	Yellahanka-Yeshwantpur as a part of Yeshwantpur-Salem Project	17	175.34			
Sholapur-Hotgi as a part of Sholapur-Hotgi-Gadag project	15	130.04	Morbi to Maliya Miyana and Dahisara-Navlakhi as a part of Wankaner-Maliya Miyana project	68	88.42			
Manani-Jorhat & Shivsagar-Moranhat as a part of Lumding-Dibrugarh project	57	667.34						
Indara-Phephana	55	33.47						

*Anticipated expenditure given for entire project

Proposal for Rural Electrification

*180. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals regarding rural electrification received from different States during 2000-2001;

(b) whether any such proposal has been received from Bihar;

(c) if so, the details of grants/loans given to each State; and

(d) the time by which rural electrification in the country is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) State-wise number of projects regarding Rural Electrification sanctioned by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and the loan assistance drawn during 2000-01 is given in the enclosed statement-I. Details of the funds released under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) for village electrification during 2000-01 are given in the enclosed statement-II. In addition to these, schemes for electrification of 165 tribal villages in North-Eastern States were sanctioned as part of the Prime Minister's Special Package.

(d) In the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 3rd March, 2001, it has been resolved to complete rural electrification by the end of 10th Plan *i.e.* by the year 2007 and the coverage of all households has been targeted by the end of 11th Plan *i.e.* by the year 2012.

Statement-I

State-wise sanctions and disbursement during 2000-01 under REC Financed Projects

Sl. No.	State	No. of projects sanctioned	Loan amount sanctioned	Loan drawn by SEBs/State Govts./State Power Utilities
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	272	1133.40	506.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0.34	7.54
3.	Assam	0	0.00	0
4.	Bihar	0	0.00	0
5.	Delhi	2	8.17	0.00
6.	Goa	2	2.47	1.04
7.	Gujarat	60	702.19	535.72
8.	Haryana	100	246.54	92.12
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	30.00	44.09
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	43	165.71	31.33
11.	Karnataka	308	670.62	270.86
12.	Kerala	93	611.71	469.82
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0.00	1.31
14.	Maharashtra	193	1187.67	752.23
15.	Manipur	8	19.37	4.99

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	0
17	Mizoram	0	0.00	5.65
18.	Nagaland	1	0.64	2.46
19.	Orissa	0	0.00	18.07
20.	Punjab	28	651.68	589.59
21.	Rajasthan	179	832.01	708.98
22.	Sikkim	0	0.00	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	0	0.00	9.24
24.	Tripura	7	12.32	6.43
25.	Uttar Pradesh	4	33.25	0
26.	West Bengal	0	0.00	0.43
	Total	1301	6308.09	4058.13

Statement-II

Loan Released by Ministry of Finance under Rural Electrification Programme (MNP) during 2000-2001

(Rs. in Lakh)

S. No.	States	Loan
1	2	3
1	Arunachal Pradesh	961.00
2.	Assam	2652.00
3.	Bihar	3767.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	72.00
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	77.00
6.	Karnataka	7.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	549.00
8.	Manipur	131.00
9.	Meghalaya	1872.00
10.	Mizoram	16.00
11.	Nagaland	38.00
12.	Orissa	1133.00
13.	Rajasthan	507.00
14.	Tripura	14.00
15.	Uttar Pradesh	4547.00
16.	West Bengal	1157.00
	Total	17500.00

Rs. 175.00 Crores

Auction of DD Metro Time Slot

1805. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati has contravened the recommendations of an Expert Committee set up by the Ministry in the matter of auction of a whopping 330 minute per day on DD Metro for three years to private producers as per news-item captioned, "Auction of DD Metro time slot kicks up a row" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated June 12, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for auctioning the time slot in violation of the recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether there is any proposal to review it; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati is a statutory organisation and is fully empowered to take decisions relating to its programme management. It had taken a decision to allot bulk airtime on auction basis, to bring the DD-Metro channel in line with the prevailing market situation. Prasar Bharati have informed that on account of the poor response from the market, the slots on DD Metro are now being offered on sponsorship basis.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Dismantling of APM

1806. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been on-going brand war between Petroleum Companies in the wake of dismantling of 'administered prices mechanism' by April, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

Non-working of Video Compression System

1807. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 5 channel video compression system supplied by M/s. Gujarat Communication and Electronics Limited in 1995 at a cost of more that 3 crore did not work;

(b) whether R&DS Wing of Doordarshan upgraded this system;

(c) if so, the details of upgradation cost;

(d) whether the liquidated charges amounting to Rs. 16.52 lakh have not been realised; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to realise the charges from the firm?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) Order for supply, installation & commissioning of 5 channel video compression system for an experimental project of R&D wing of Doordarshan at a cost of Rs. 3.30 crores was placed on M/s GCEL in January, 1995. As per terms of the order, the MPEG-I system was to be supplied by 15.1.95 and to be later upgraded to MPEG-II system by 30th June, 1995. MPEG-I compression system was installed & commissioned on 15.1.95 and later upgraded to MPEG-II system in April, 2000 by the firm at no extra cost. As per terms of the supply order, penalty to a maximum of 5% of the cost of equipment can be imposed on the supplier for delay in supply of equipment. 10% payment to the firm has been withheld and out of this, liquidated charges are to be realized.

Tri-Service Command in Andaman and Nicobar

1808. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tri-service command is being built up in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and an air base is to be set up at the Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government have issued orders on 1.10.2001 for setting up of Andaman and Nicobar unified Command by placing all force components of the three Services and Coast Guard located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands under the operational command of C-in-C, Andaman and Nicobar Command. The Command has become operational on 8.10.2001.

[Translation]

Conversion of Residents of National Leaders into Monument/Museum/Memorial

1809. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2881 dated August 9, 2001 re. conversion of residents of National Leaders into Monument/Museum/Memorial and to state:

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

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) All State Governments, Union Territories, Archaeological Survey of India and Ministry of Urban Development have been requested to send the information in detail. Information is still awaited from eleven State Governments. They have been reminded.

[English]

Gas Production at Ravva Oil Fields in K.G. Basin

1810. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas produced at Ravva oil fields in Krishna Godavari basin is likely to be piped to down stream consumers;

(b) if so, whether an agreement was signed between the GAIL and Videocon Petroleum and other petroleum companies with the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it is likely to benefit the consumers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) signed two long term gas sale purchase agreements with the gas producing consortium, comprising Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Videocon Petroleum, Cairn Energy India Limited and Ravva Oil, Singapore in Ravva field on 27.6.1997 and 9.4.2001 for a total quantity of 1.90 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) of gas, both from the existing and new discovery (satellite) field. GAIL is supplying this gas to the various gas based industrial consumers in the State of Andhra Pradesh itself.

Vehicle Research Development Establishment

1811. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (VRDE) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation carrying out R&D activity on wheeled and tracked vehicles primarily for the Army has completed 18 projects after spending crores of rupees in the last decade;

(b) if so, whether only four projects out of them finally have started production;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to check the mismanagement and haphazard planning in Defence sector?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. VRDE has completed 18 projects successfully for the Army during 1988-1998, which involved an outlay of Rs. 9.72 Crore.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Expenditure on R&D projects is not considered wasteful as all technologies developed and experience gained are utilized in future programmes. VRDE has completed all 18 projects while 4 went into bulk production during 1988-1998, the fifth one namely, 'Operation Theatre (OT) complex on wheels' was productionised in the year 2000 and yet another one, namely kitchen lorry is under process of productionisation. However R&D projects go in for production based on objectives of the project and users' immediate and futuristic requirements.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply at parts (b) & (c).

Pending Projects in J&K

1812. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made regarding completion of on-going projects in Jammu and Kashmir, project-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the total amount required to complete these pending projects; and

(d) the steps taken to mobilise resources so as to complete these projects within the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) For Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla project, competent authority has been approached to provide additional project specific budgetary support to expedite progress.

Statement

The project-wise details of on-going projects falling partly/fully in Jammu and Kashmir is as under:—

S.No.	Name of Project	Estimated cost	Expenditure	Outlay upto 31.3.2001	Target date 2001-02	Progress
1.	Jammu-Udhampur (53.6 Kms.)	Rs. 425 crores	Rs. 346.79 crores	Rs. 40 crores	31.3.2003	Section from Jammu Tawi to Bajalta (11.75 Kms.) completed and commissioned. On the remaining section *i.e.* Bajalta-Udhampur, the earthwork, tunneling and bridge works are in progress.
2.	Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla	Rs. 3244 crores	Rs. 264.98 crores	Rs. 100 crores	31.3.2005 for Udhampur-Katra	The work is being done in phases. In first phase, Work on Udhampur-Katra (26 Kms.) is in progress where earthwork, tunneling and bridge works are in progress. In phase-II, Quazigund-Baramulla has been taken up where land acquisition, earthwork and bridge work has been taken up. Construction of Srinagar Station Building is also in progress.
3.	Jallandhar-Pathankot-Jammu Tawi doubling (212 Kms.)	Rs. 459.95 crores	Rs. 5.10 crores	Rs. 8 crores	No target date has yet been fixed.	Work would be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances, action for which has already been initiated.

Public Interest Litigations

1813. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trade Unions have objected to the Courts entertaining public interest litigations against strikes and pronouncing anti labour judgements;

(b) whether the recent judgement of the Apex Court relaxing contract labour laws for public sector undertakings by quashing a 1976 notification by the Centre prohibiting use of contract labour in certain types of jobs;

(c) whether the Government propose to file any appeal reviewing petition against this judgement so as to protect the interest of the labour class; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No such information has come to the notice of the Department of Justice.

(b) The notification dated 9.12.1976 of the Central Government in the Ministry of Labour prohibiting employment of contract labour in the jobs of sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of buildings owned or occupied by establishments in respect of which the Central Government is the 'appropriate Government', has been quashed by a five Judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court vide their judgement dated 30.8.2001 in the case of SAIL & Others Vs. National Union of Waterfront Workers and Others.

(c) and (d) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1976 contains provisions for protecting the interests of contract labour in respect of working conditions, payment of wages and other amenities relating to their welfare and health.

Selection of SKO dealers by DSB's

1814. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government regarding award of SKO dealership to empanelled candidate selected by Dealer Selection Board;

(b) whether letter of intent can be issued to second empanelled candidate in case first empanelled candidate found ineligible due to some reasons;

(c) if so, whether the second candidate can also become eligible on account of the death of the first empanelled candidate; and

(d) if so, the details of such cases pending with the Government for consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As per the existing policy, after receipt of merit panel from Dealer Selection Boards by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for allotment of SKO-LDO dealerships, Field Investigation Report (FIR) is got completed and if the FIR is found to be in order, the Letter of Intent (LOI) is issued to the first empanelled candidate.

(b) and (c) In case after the FIR, the first empanelled candidate is not found suitable for any specific reasons (which may include his/her death), the concerned Oil Company will refer the matter to the Chairman of the concerned DSB who will take the decision for issue of the LOI to the second empanelled candidate.

(d) There is one such case pending for decision.

[Translation]

Copy Right Act

1815. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cable operators and film industry organizations of the country have drawn attention of the Government towards the loopholes in the present Copy-Right;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remove those loopholes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The representations received relate to facilitation for setting up institutional arrangements under the Copyright Act so that on the one hand piracy can be curbed and on the other, the legal exhibition of films, with the permission of Copyright owners, is facilitated. Government has set up a dialogue between the film producers, multi-system operators and cable operators so that they may resolve some problematic issues relating to film piracy.

[English]

Revision of Voters List

1816. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to revise the voters list in certain States;

(b) if so, the names of such States; and

(c) whether the Government have also taken final decision to introduce the voting machines system throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that it has already taken a decision to revise the electoral rolls of all States and Union territories, including the newly created States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal, with reference to 1.1.2002 as the qualifying date. The revision of rolls has already commenced in all States and Union territories.

(c) The Election Commission has informed that it has been taking steps to progressively introduce electronic voting machines at elections throughout the country. These have been successfully used in the recent past during the general elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Pondicherry. The question of using electronic voting machines in all future elections throughout the country will be considered by the Commission at the appropriate time taking into account all aspects of the matter.

On-going Projects and Surveys in Kerala

1817. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of on-going projects/surveys in Kerala;

(b) the progress achieved so far;

(c) the time by which these projects/surveys are likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala to construct Coastal Railway Lines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The status of on-going Railway Projects and Surveys in Kerala, including the progress

achieved and their target date of completion, wherever fixed, is given in the enclosed statement-I & II.

(d) No, Sir. No such request has been received in the recent past.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

On-going Railway Projects in Kerala

S.No.	Name of Project	Rly.	Latest Anticipated Cost (Rs. in Crs.)	Status
New Lines				
1	Kuttipuram-Guruvayur	SR	90.00	Work will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances.
2.	Angamali-Sabarimala	SR	550.00	Final Location Survey has been completed between Angamali and Erumeli. Land acquisition is being taken up.
3.	Kottayam-Erumeli	SR	200.00	Work will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances.
Gauge Conversion				
4.	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Trichendur & Tenkasi-Virudhnagar	SR	327.61	In Virudhnagar-Tenkasi and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur, bridge work and earthwork have been taken up. Final Location Survey completed in the ghat section.
Doubling				
5.	Quilon-Trivandrum	SR	156.65	This work has been completed and commissioned.
6.	Kuttipuram-Calicut	SR	179.68	The work of bridges and earthwork is in progress and 16 km section is likely to be completed during 2001-2002.
7.	Calicut-Mangalore	SR	462.10	136 Km out of 221 Km have been completed. Another 65 km will be completed in 2001-2002.
8.	Ernakulam-Ernakulam Marshelling Yard	SR	6.42	Work is in progress and targeted to be completed during 2001-2002.
9.	Ernakulam-Mulanturutti	SR	35.00	New work included in the Budget 2001-2002. Detailed plans and estimate are under preparation.
Railway Electrification				
10.	Erode-Palghat-Ernakulam	SR	220.09	Completed. Residual jobs in hand.
11.	Ernakulam-Trivandrum	SR	161.76	The work is in progress and targeted for completion by March, 2004.

Statement-II

On-going Railway Surveys in Kerala

S.No.	Name of Project	Kms.	Status
1.	New Line between Vaikam-Vaikam Road	10	To be taken up shortly.
2.	Bulb Rail Line at Shoranur	4	Completed, report under preparation.
3.	New Line between Madurai-Kottayam	285	In progress. Expected to be completed by 31.03.2002.
4.	New Line between Ernakulam-Punalur-Trivandrum	136	New survey, included in Budget 2001-02. Expected to be completed by 31.12.2002.
5.	New Line from Punalur to Erumeli	65	Yet to be taken up. Expected to be completed by 31.12.2002.

Generation of Revenue from Non-Traditional Resources

1818 SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways faced with a stagnant allocation from the exchequer and shortfall of plan requirement propose to raise revenue to Rs. 1000 crore to meet their plan investment from the non-traditional source of revenue such as from commercial exploitation of land, air space, commercial publicity and rolling stock and railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made so far to achieve target to Rs. 1000 crore from the non-traditional source;

(c) whether railways have chalked out any strategy to achieve this goal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the planned works of the railways is likely to suffer due to non-fulfilment of target of Rs. 1000 crore from the non-traditional source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) Railway Budget, 2001-02 inter alia envisaged an earning of Rs. 1000 crore from non-traditional sources in order to generate resources for Plan investments. These include (i) Rs. 200 crores from commercial utilisation of railway land and air space; (ii) Rs. 100 crores from commercial publicity and (iii) Rs. 700 crores from right of way for laying Optic Fibre Cable.

To end of August, 2001, an amount of Rs. 26 crores has been realised from various usage of land viz. leasing/licensing of land, shopping, plantation, pisciculture etc. The position in this regard is being monitored closely. From commercial publicity, an earning of Rs. 11 crores has materialised upto August, 2001. Efforts are being made to improve the earnings from this source, by reassessing the value of sites and identification of new locations, besides liaison with various agencies and industrial houses.

The projected earnings of Rs. 700 crores from right of way for laying optic fibre cable is not likely to materialise due to value of Right of Way coming down and Railways' plan to lease the right of way on long term annual lease basis.

Depending on the actual realisation against the budget amount, the plan expenditure will have to be regulated. The Govt. is also extending an additional budgetary support of Rs. 898 crores during 2001-02 to accelerate progress of selected projects under New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Railway Electrification. In addition, Govt. has also created a non-lapsable 'Special Railway Safety Fund' with a view to wipe out the arrears of asset renewal and replacements, through which Rs. 1400 crores is proposed to be spent on safety related works in the current financial year.

Inventory of NGMA

1819. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) is doing inventory of its assets and planning of offload some of its possessions;

(b) whether this is a part of disinvestment policy of the Government;

(c) if so, whether this work will be done in collaboration with the Ministry of Disinvestment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN). (a) Inventorisation, including physical verification of assets, is undertaken regularly and there is no plan to offload some of the art works in National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Wasteful Expenditure in Government Departments

1820. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Ministry of Finance has already identified some departments in which wasteful expenditure is maximum;

(b) if so, the details of such wasteful expenditure identified therein during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken so far by his Ministry to stop such wasteful expenditure?

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

Rail Link from Chennai to Kanchipuram

1821. SHRI A K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide rail link from Chennai to Kanchipuram via Poonamallee, Sriperumpudur; and

(b) if so, the time by which the link is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Survey for new line from Chennai to Katpadi via Poonamallee, Sriperumbudur and Kanchipuram has been conducted. Due to unremunerative nature of the proposal and heavy throwforward of ongoing works, it has not been considered feasible to take up the project.

Mining near Heritage Sites

1822. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the heritage sites in the country are under threat of destruction due to unmindful mining being carried out in its surrounding areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the 'Pandavan Para', in Idukki District (Kerala) is facing peril due to indiscriminate granite mining in the surrounding areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to protect these sites?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) As per available information, the number of centrally protected sites facing threat from mining activities in their vicinity are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The site in district Thiruvanathapuram is protected by the State Department of Archaeology The quarrying licences in the area surrounding the site were issued to a private party by the State Mining and Geology Department. On an objection by the State Department of Archaeology, the licence was cancelled. The private party has since obtained a stay from the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.

Statement

Details of Centrally Protected Monuments Threatened by Mining/Quarrying Activities in their Surrounding Areas

S.No.	Name of Monument	Locality/State
1.	Sapta Matrika Caves	Badoh Pathari, Madhya Pradesh
2.	Jain Temple	Badoh Pathari, Madhya Pradesh
3.	Dasavatar Temple	Badoh Pathari, Madhya Pradesh
4.	Eight Natural Caverns	Kulatur, Pudukkottai, Tamilnadu
5.	Pre-historic Burial Site	Ammachatram, Purukkottai, Tamilnadu
6.	Kadambarkoil, Narthamalai (Northern side of the hills)	Pudukkotai, Tamilandu
7.	Rock cut Siva and Vishnu Temple	Malayadipatti, Pudukkottai, Tamilnadu
8.	Sikkanathasamy Temple	Kudumianmalai, Pudukkottai, Tamilnadu
9.	Siva Temple	Thodaiyur, Pudukkottai, Tamilnadu
10.	Excavated Site	Udaigiri, Jajpur, Orissa

Gauge conversion of Kadur-Sakleshpur and Mysore-Chamarajanagar Rail Line

1823. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had requested the Union Government to include Kadur-Sakleshpur and Mysore-Chamarajanagar rail lines for gauge conversion;

(b) if so, the present status of these proposals; and

(c) the allocation made for the on-going gauge conversion between Mangalore and Hassan during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The work of new line from Kadur to Sakleshpur and gauge conversion of Mysore-Chamarajanagar are already included in the railway budget. On Kadur-Chikmagalur-Sakleshpur project, earthwork and bridges on part of the length between Kadur-Chikmagalur are in progress. For Mysore-Chamarajanagar project, requisite clearances have been obtained and preparation of plans and estimates have been taken up.

(c) Outlay during 2001-02 is Rs. 58.1 crore.

Stoppage of New Delhi-Mumbai Central Rajdhani Express at Vapi

1824. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Delhi-Mumbai Central Rajdhani Express covers a distance of around 450 kms. between Baroda and Mumbai virtually without any stoppage;

(b) whether the Government have been receiving representations from various quarters to give a stoppage to this train at Vapi which has been declared as a Super Station 'A' Grade and is conveniently located almost half way between Mumbai Central and Baroda; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government propose to provide a stoppage to this train at Vapi for the convenience of the travelling public of four Parliamentary Constituencies of Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Bulsar (Gujarat) and Dehanu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The distance between Vadodara and Mumbai Central is 392 Kms and the 2951/2952 Mumbai-New Delhi Rajdhani Express does not stop on this stretch.

(b) and (c) Some representations for stoppage of 2951/2952 Mumbai-New Delhi Rajdhani Express at Vapi have been received and examined but not found implementable at present for lack of commercial and operational feasibility as also to retain the exclusive and fast-transit character of the Rajdhani Express trains.

Hydro Electric Project in Uttaranchal

1825. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to set up any Hydro Power Project for Uttaranchal State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Details of ongoing hydro-electric power projects in Uttaranchal identified for commissioning during the 10th Plan are given below:

	MW	Commissioning Schedule
Central Sector		
Tehri Dam HPP (THDC)	1000	2002-04
Koteshwar Dam HPP (THDC)	400	2005-06
Tehri PSP (THDC)	1000	2005-07
Dhauli Ganga Stage-I (NHPC)	280	2004-05
State Sector		
Maneri Bhali Stage-II	304	2006-07
Private Sector		
Vishnu Prayag	400	2006-07
Srinagar	330	2005-06

[Translation]

Identification of Power Projects for Immediate Implementation

1826. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified some power projects for imediate implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on these projects; and

(d) the details of production likely to be increased after completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) There are 23 thermal power projects with a total capacity of 9133.4 MW and 43 hydro power projects with a total capacity of 12665.6 MW which are presently under construction.

The Working Group on Power for the 10th Plan has identified projects aggregating to 46939 MW of which projects aggregating to 5850.68 MW are to be commissioned in the 1st year of the 10th Plan. The Working Group has estimated that for commissioning of 10th Plan projects, on outlay of Rs. 323533 crore is required. This includes advance action for projects to be commissioned in the 11th Plan.

[English]

Purchasing of Loco and Spares

1827. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of loan utilised by the Indian Railway Finance Corporation for purchase of locomotives and spares from the General Motors, a Canada based diesel division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): The Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC) had availed export credit of US Dollar 42.4 million from Export Development Corporation (EDC), Canada during the period February 1999 to February 2001, which was utilized to finance the procurement of 21 numbers of high horse power diesel electric freight locomotives and spares along with transfer of technology from General Motors Corporation, USA. An amount of US Dollar 9.13 million has since been repaid to EDC, Canada, leaving a balance of US Dollar 33.28 million. IRFC has also availed an export credit of US Dollar 20.4 million to finance the procurement of 10 numbers high horse power diesel electric passenger locomotives and spares from General Motors Corporation, USA.

[Translation]

Land lease by ASI in Maharashtra

1828. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Archaeology has given the land adjacent to Ajanta caves in Maharashtra on lease to MTDC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the duration of lease for this land; and

(d) the total area of land of the Department of Archaeology that is lying vacant and the acreage of land in possession of the department?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India has not leased any land under its possession at Ajanta to the MTDC.

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

(d) Barring 19.24 acres of land transferred to the Archaeological Survey of India by the State Forest Department for water management above the caves, Archaeological Survey of India does not have any vacant land in its possession.

[English]

Sale of Intellectual Property Rights by IIP

1829. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:
SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR:

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

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) sold the intellectual property rights at a costing of Rs. 6.5 crores to only Rs. 1.5 crore;

(b) whether IIP also failed to realise Rs. 2.94 crore on account of royalty/licence fee due to against transfer of 16 technologies over the period 1994-2000;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to realise the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) sold the intellectual property rights on the processes for Adipic acid, Isophthalic acid, NMP and dehydrogenation of butanes for a total price of Rs. 5 crore of which the buyer has already paid Rs. 1.5 crore.

(b) No, Sir. An amount of Rs. 2.94 crore is to accure to IIP from licensing of know-how for 16 technologies to different parties. This amount would accrue over a period of time on attainment of milestones and production as prescribed in contractual agreements.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

[Translation]

Special Power to Soldiers to Fight against Terrorism

1830. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special powers have been given to the soldiers to check the terrorism growing in the country;

(b) if so, whether any positive results have been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of soldiers died in fighting against the terrorists during the last three years;

(e) whether the Government are taking any suitable steps to check such attacks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Adequate special powers are already conferred upon members of the Armed Forces in 'disturbed areas' under The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, as applicable to North Eastern States and The Armed Forces (Jammu & Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1999, as applicable to Jammu & Kashmir to deal with the terrorists. Conferment of these special powers on the Armed Forces has brought positive results.

(d) to (f) A total number of 932 Army personnel have died due to terrorist attacks between November, 1998 and October, 2001. Adequate measures are being taken and utmost vigilance is being maintained to prevent

attacks by the terrorists. A multi-tiered counter infiltration posture has been adopted to check infiltration/ex-filtration along the Line of Control/International Border. In the North East, too, various steps have been taken to bring the militancy under control, including the deployment of Army and para military forces in the States and coordinated counter-militancy operations by the security forces.

[English]

Establishment of Science Cities

1831. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Science Cities established so far and the expenditure incurred on each city, location-wise/ State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have decided to establish more Science Cities in various parts of the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have received any proposal from various State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto, State-wise; and

(e) the expenditure proposed to be incurred thereon, State-wise and Science City-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) A Science City was developed at Kolkata, West Bengal, at a cost of Rs. 73.66 crores during 8th Five Year Plan and was inaugurated in July 1997.

(b) The Government have approved a proposal to set up Science City at Jalandhar (Punjab).

(c) to (e) The Government have received proposal for development of Science City from the States of Andhra Pradesh & Gujarat, which are yet to be approved.

[Translation]

Construction of New Rail Lines in Maharashtra

1832. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government for construction of new railway lines in Maharashtra;

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

(c) the details of railway lines given priority during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There are four requests pending with the Government which are as under:—

S.N.	Project	Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	Construction of New line between Manmad-Malegaon-Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur and Indore	Survey for construction of new line from Manmad-Malegaon-Dhule and Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur has been conducted It has revealed that the cost of construction of these lines would be Rs. 144.50 crore and Rs. 104 crores respectively both with negative rate of return. In view of the unremunerative nature and constraint of resources, the proposals could not be considered. The survey for new line from Shirpur to Mhow is in progress. Further consideration of the proposal would be possible after the survey report becomes available. Indore-Mhow is already connected by a railway line.
2.	Construction of new line from Baramati to Pandharpur	The proposed new line from Baramati to Pandharpur would be about 110 km long and would cost not less than Rs. 330 cr. In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing new line works and constraint of resources, it has not been found feasible to consider construction of the suggested new line for the present.

1	2	3
3.	Construction of railway line from Kalyan-Murbad via Malshejhat to Ahmednagar	A survey has recently been completed. The survey report revealed that the cost of the 204 km line would be Rs. 722 cr. with negative rate of return. Due to grossly unremunerative nature of the line and acute constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered.
4.	Bandra-Kurla Rail Link	Bandra-Kurla Rail Link, which is one of the projects included in Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II (MUTP-II), will be considered at the appropriate time.

Construction of Road over bridge at Maihar Nagar

1833. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has recommended construction of road over bridge at Maihar Nagar in Jabalpur Railway division under BOLT scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have agreed to construct road over bridge at the site under BOLT;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said bridge is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The State Government have yet to decide whether to construct the proposed Road Over Bridge on 'deposit' terms or on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) terms. There is no proposal under BOLT scheme. An estimate for Rs. 1.45 crores for construction of Bridge proper (portion over Railway tracks) by Railways on 'deposit' terms has, however, been accepted by Chief Engineer (NH) Division PWD, Bhopal but funds have not yet been deposited. Further action in this case can be taken only after State Government takes a decision & acts on it.

[English]

Power Projects in Tamil Nadu with help of Russia

1834. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed between India and Russia in the power sector to set up power plants in the country and specially at Kudamkulam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the agreement;

(c) the arrangements made for procuring raw material for its assured supply, capacity of the plant and likely date of commissioning;

(d) whether Russia has provided loan or aid or staked claim for share in the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India had accorded project financial sanction for setting up a Nuclear Power Plant at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu in co-operation with Russian federation. The Russian organisations will carry out the design of the plant and supply materials & equipment for plant. The Indian side is responsible for setting up of the infrastructure, construction, erection, commissioning, operation and maintenance of the plant. The capacity of the plant is 2 units of 1000 MW each. The targeted date of completion of the project is December 2007 for Unit-1 and December 2008 for Unit-2.

(d) and (e) A long term loan for about 50% of the cost of the project has been agreed. There is no claim by the Russians on share in the project on completion.

[Translation]

Constitution of ZRUCCs and DRUCCs

1835. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs) and Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committees (DRUCCs) have been constituted in all zones and divisions;

(b) if so, the number of Members nominated in each ZRUCC and DRUCC along with terms and reference, State-wise;

(c) the number of members out of that recommended by the MPs; and

(d) if not, the time by which the ZRUCCs and DRUCCs are likely to be constituted?

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

(b) and (c) The details of total number of members nominated on various DRUCCs and number of persons nominated on the recommendation of Members of Parliament on these Committees are given in the enclosed statement-I. The details of the total number of members nominated on various ZRUCCs are given in the enclosed statement-II. There is no provision in the constitution for giving representation to the nominees of Members of Parliament on ZRUCCs.

As regard terms and reference of ZRUCCs and DRUCCs, Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs) and Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committees (DRUCCs) are functioning on all the Zones and Divisions for a two year term from 01.01.2000 to 31.12.2001. The functions of these committees are given in the enclosed statement-III.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Railway	Division	Total number of members nominated	Number of members nominated on the recommendation of MPs
1	2	3	4
Central	Bhopal	21	3
	Jhansi	36	14
	Bhusawal	20	7
	Mumbai	27	9
	Nagpur	24	8
	Jabalpur	18	6
	Solapur	17	2
Eastern	Howrah	46	7
	Sealdah	60	7
	Asansol	24	2
	Malda	14	3
	Dhanbad	24	5
	Danapur	24	7
	Mughalsarai	15	2
Northern	Moradabad	25	9
	Bikaner	22	5

1	2	3	4
	Lucknow	26	10
	Jodhpur	22	2
	Delhi	49	20
	Ferozepur	32	11
	Allahabad	35	13
	Ambala	27	7
North Eastern	Izzatnagar	17	2
	Lucknow	43	12
	Varanasi	25	8
	Sonpur	20	8
	Samasthipur	31	10
Northeast Frontier	Katihar	33	5
	Alipurduar	20	3
	Lumding	32	8
	Tinsukia	17	2
Southern	Chennai	41	18
	Thiruchirappally	19	4
	Madurai	29	10
	Palghat	28	12
	Trivandrum	32	12
	Bangalore	26	11
	Mysore	17	4
South Central	Secunderabad	43	5
	Guntakal	34	7
	Hubli	22	8
	Vijayawada	28	11
	Hyderabad	38	14
South Eastern	Adra	28	1
	Bilaspur	38	4
	Chakradharpur	19	4
	Kharagpur	52	6
	Khurda Road	37	11

1	2	3	4
	Sambalpur	19	3
	Waltair	40	9
	Nagpur	18	4
Western	Mumbai	40	16
	Vadodara	23	4
	Ratlam	27	5
	Kota	28	8
	Ajmer	28	4
	Jaipur	26	6
	Rajkot	26	9
	Bhavnagar	19	1

Statement-II

Railway	Total number of members nominated
Central	48
Eastern	63
Northern	83
North Eastern	37
Northeast Frontier	67
Southern	62
South Central	59
South Eastern	77
Western	71

Statement-III

1. Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees (DRUCCs):

The Railway Users' Consultative Committees in the Divisions represent the local users in the territories served by the railway and consider matters relating to:

(i) Provision of amenities in the area within which the Committee is concerned.

(ii) Proposal regarding opening of new stations within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

(iii) Arrangements regarding time tables.

(iv) Improvement of the services and facilities provided by the Railways.

(v) Any subject of general public interest or public convenience or such matters affecting the services and facilities which has been the subject of representation by users, or which has been referred to them for consideration by the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee, the National Railway Users' Consultative Council or by the Administration.

2. Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs):

The Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee at the Headquarters of each railway represents the general railway users of the territory or zone served by the railway as a whole and considers:

(i) Such matters, from the point of view of the zone as a whole, as are referred to in Para 1 above.

(ii) Matters arising from the reports of the Divisional Committees, or such other matters relating to the subjects referred to Para 1 above, as may be specifically forwarded by the Divisional Committees for consideration; and

(iii) Matters referred for consideration and report by the Administration, Ministry of Railways or the National Railway Users' Consultative Council.

Increase in Commission

1836. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dealers of petroleum products have been demanding increase in their commission for quite a long time;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Government had constituted a Committee in October 2000 to examine different issues relating to the dealers' commission. Based on the recommendations of this Committee, the Government has revised the dealers' commission with effect from the midnight 9th/10th November, 2001.

Construction of Bridges and Doubling of Railway Lines

1837. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct bridges and doubling of lines at Bargarh Taba and Ghat Pindrai-Bailkhera sections on Itarsi-Katni rail line under the Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal for doubling of lines between Bagaratawa-Sontalai and Ghat Pindrai-Belkera.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Doubling of single line section is taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated. The traffic on this route has not yet reached the level to justify doubling of the sections between Bagaratawa-Sontalai and Ghat Pindrai-Belkera.

[English]

Manufacturing of 122 MM Grade Rockets

1838. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in their report No. 7 of 2000 (Defence Services) rendered a report on the Army HQ going ahead with indigenous production of 122 mm grade rockets etc. despite holding of inventory valuing Rs. 25 crores at Ordnance Factory;

(b) if so, the details of the points brought out in the report; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the report?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. CAG in their report No. 7 of 2000 (Defence Services) has raised questions on indigenisation of 122 mm GRAD rocket.

(b) 122 mm GRAD System alongwith rockets were initially procured from Russia by the Indian Army. Subsequently, DRDO was asked by the Army to indigenise the rocket by reverse engineering. After completion of development, indents were placed by Army on Ordnance Factories (OF) and Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL) in 1979 and 1982. Till 1991, a total of 12546 rockets were produced and issued to Army. However, in March 1990, the production was stopped by the Army due to the rockets giving higher dispersion than the Russian Range Table criteria.

(c) Action Taken Report (ATR) has already been submitted to the CAG stating the facts. OF had materials and components worth Rs. 25 crore of inventory at the time of stopping production. This inventory was essential as part of production planning. The inventory cost has reduced to Rs. 18.40 crore, now due to utilisation of components and materials in other production activities.

Discovery of Shiva Temple Near Amarnath Cave

1839. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a historic Shiva cave temple complex believed to be 1,500 years old has been discovered in Chandanwari near the holy cave of Amarnath in South Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details of the cave complex discovered; and

(c) the steps being taken to develop the new found caves into a pilgrimage and tourist attraction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. However the historicity of the site has been established.

(b) As per information furnished by the State Government, there is naturally-formed cave complex wherein two stone idols identified as Lord Shiva, have been found. More than a dozen of Shiva-lingas have also been found.

(c) The State Government have informed that the existence of these caves has been widely publicized. According to them, further development of the area would depend on the quantum of tourists visiting the site.

[Translation]

Activities in the Field of Anthropology/Ethnology

1840. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of activities and achievements made in field of Anthropology and Ethnology during the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred thereon during the said period;

(c) the details of research work done during the last three years till date and expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the details of future plans of the Government in these fields?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Anthropological Survey of India has undertaken nine national projects in the Ninth Plan in the field of anthropological and ethnological research among the various communities of our country. In order to achieve the goal, several teams completed fieldwork at various locations of the country.

(b) and (c) Expenditure incurred thereon during the said period is Rs. 652.82 lakhs. Anthropological information were generated from the various projects through fieldwork. Various collaborative projects were initiated between Anthropological Survey of India and various Universities/research institutes of India and abroad. Various national seminars/workshops were organised for exchange of views. 12 books and 226 scientific articles were published. The nine continuing projects relate to urban anthropology, scheduled castes, nutritional status, medical anthropology, documentation of our cultural history, upgradation of laboratories, strengthening of infrastructure, programme of training and orientation and publication programme.

(d) The Anthropological Survey of India has proposed to undertake five research projects in the Tenth Plan related to anthropological and ethnological research in India. These projects would have a direct relevance to the study of ancient skeletal remains at the molecular level, physical growth of adolescent, cultural dimension of tourism, documentation and dissemination of our cultural history, upgradation of laboratories, strengthening of infrastructure and programme of training and orientation, besides other continuing academic activities like collaboration with reputed research organisations and publication in the field of anthropological and ethnological studies.

[English]

Radar Surveillance

1841. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large parts of the country are not under radar surveillance causing security threat to the nation;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to have complete radar surveillance in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Air Force has adequate air-space surveillance capability along the frontiers. The resources of Indian Air Force and Civil Aviation are being optimally combined for effective air-space surveillance. Methods for improving the surveillance capability are further being addressed, keeping in view the fact that the radar surveillance of the entire air-space of the country requires immense resources.

(c) To improve the security of airspace, Government has constituted Government Committee on Airspace Management (GCAM) to look at all aspects of airspace surveillance and management. This Committee would also assess the needs to integrate civil and military radars, and the requirement for additional surveillance equipment.

Cash Deposit Works by ASI

1842. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Cash Deposit work currently undertaken by the ASI and the amount allocated for each work, location-wise and State-wise;

(b) the status of each work;

(c) whether there is an inordinate delay in the execution of some CD works; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the said CD works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The status of deposit works undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India, with funds provided by the concerned State Government/ autonomous bodies, for the conservation of unprotected/ State protected monuments is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Such cases are processed after observing prescribed codal formalities, and after obtaining such clarifications as may be required from the owner of the premises concerned, before works are taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Statement

Sl.No	Name of work	Location	State	Funds received (Rs. in lakhs)	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Conservation of Sreekovil of Koodalamanickam Temple	Irinjalakuda	Kerala	13.30	Estimates approved
2.	Victoria Memorial Hall	Kolkata	West Bengal	119.25	Work in progress
3.	Group of Temples	Boram	West Bengal	29.21	Work in progress
4.	Temple of Mansa Devi	Panchkula	Haryana	7.47	Work Completed
5.	Quila Mubarak (Ranvas portion)	Patiala	Punjab	49.45	Work in progress
6.	Kutchery Building	Kapurthala	Punjab	4.98	-do-
7.	Darbar Hall	Kapurthala	Punjab	4.92	-do-
8.	P.W.D. Guest House	-do-	-do-	1.95	-do-
9.	Clock Tower	-do-	-do-	3.29	Funds deposited by the Govt. of Punjab
10.	Connemara Library	Chennai	Tamilnadu	121.20	Revised estimates approved

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Narasimha Swamy Temple, Namagiri Thayar Shrine	Namakkal	Tamilnadu	2.22	Work completed
12.	Rampur Raza Library	Rampur	U.P.	10.00	-do-
13.	Sangameswara Temple	Kudalasangma	Karnataka	50.00	Work in pgoress
14.	Buddhist Temple	Bodhgaya	Bihar	-	Estimates approved
15.	Shifting of Mauryan pillar within Bhopal	Bhopal	M.P.	1.12	Work stalled due to local resistance

Train between Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Vasco-de Gama

1843. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have discontinued rail service between Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Vasco-De Gama;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received repeated requests from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to restore the service on daily basis to facilitate the Andhraties residing in Goa; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to acceed to the request of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) At present, 7227/7228 Amravati Express (biweekly) is available between Vijayawada and Vasco and four slip coaches are being attached by 7003/7004 Secunderabad-Dharmavaram Express and 7227/7228 Amravati Express between Secunderabad and Vasco. These services have neither been discontinued nor is there proposal to do so. Daily running of these services has not been found feasible at present due to operational constraints especially on Castle Rock-Kulem ghat section.

Inspection of DGQA in Ordnance Factory, Chanda

1844. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG in their report No. 7 of 1999 observed that the General Manager, Ordnance Factory, Chanda rejected 1624 units of stabilizer of 125 mm ammunition between April 1992 and March, 1993 out of 2709 units cleared by senior quality assurance establishment (Armament) Hastings as they failed in consistency proof and recovery proof;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into for carrying out faulty inspection of items by DGQA officials;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials who did not carry out proper inspection of stabilizer units causing loss of Rs. 23.17 lakhs;

(d) whether the supplier who supplied the items replaced the defective stabilizer; and

(e) if not, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The CAG in their report 7 of 2000 had made some observations regarding rejection of 1624 stabilizers of 125mm ammunition by Ordnance Factory, Chanda. The stabilizer units offered by the firm were inspected on sampling basis by Senior Quality Assurance Establishment (Armament) Hastings, Kolkata. The inspection by the Senior Quality Assurance Establishment (SQAE) include visual, dimensional, hardness, load test, and salt spray test and based on satisfactory test reports, the units were cleared. At the consignee end *i.e.* Ordnance Factory, Chanda, the stabilizers along with the shells are subjected to dynamic firing conditions which are not simulated during test at SQAE at Hastings. It was during such dynamic tests that the system fitted with the stabilizers failed. The entire quantity of 1624 stabilizers have subsequently been

utilised by Ordnance Factories in dummy rounds and for proof purposes. There is no loss to the State. Testing procedures for the stabilizers as independent units have been improved since then.

Launching of Freight Information System

1845. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have developed computerised Freight Operation Information System (FOIS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount incurred on it;

(d) the manner in which the FOIS would be useful to its consumers; and

(e) the names of the railway stations where this system would be installed?

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

(b) Indian Railways have launched a computerised Freight Operations Information System (FOIS) Phase-I covering all the zonal railways. It is a system to capture movement of goods traffic in rakes. The system has been designed around latest "state of art" Client Server Technology using Middleware and Relation Data Base Management System (RDBMS).

(c) The total project cost for the scope of work included in three phases has been estimated to be .Rs. 426.12 crores. So far, an investment amounting to Rs. 234.26 crores has already been made in the FOIS project by the end of 31.3.2001. An outlay of Rs. 26.50 crores has been earmarked for the project in the current financial year.

(d) FOIS will enable freight customers to have an instant access to information regarding the current status of their rakes/consignments in transit. It is a system for management and control of freight movement that also assists managers to optimize asset utilization.

Core functions of freight operations on Indian Railways would also include accepting customers' orders, their routing and scheduling, supply of rakes/wagons, planning and controlling movement of stock on the one hand and loading, unloading, delivery, billing and Accounting of cash on the other.

(e) 233 reporting locations (84 control offices and 149 others) across Indian Railways, have been networked upto June, 2001, as per the list enclosed as statement. The expansion of network to other locations will be considered after consolidation of Phase-I of FOIS.

Statement

Statewise list of FOIS locations

Locations

Secunderabad	Kakinda
Secunderabad (SC HQ)	Gudur
Bhadrachalam	Guntakal
Sanat Nagar	Tornagallu
Kazipet	Gooty
Ramagundam	Renigunta
Dornakal	Simhachalam
Gadchandur	Dharmavaram
Hyderabad	Guntur
Vijayawada	Waltair
Vijayawada Yard	Waltair Yard
Rajahmundhry	Vishkhapattanam Steel
Malegaon	
Lumding	
New Guwahati	
Tinsukhia	
Danapur	Gaya
Garwa Road	Gomoh
Sonpur	Dehri-on-sone
Samastipur	Narainpur Anant
Katihar	Muzzafarpur

Garhara	Chapra	Pakur	Chainpur
Jhajha	Barauni	Mysore	Satellite Goods
Raipur	Raigarh	Mysore Yard	Hubli
Bilaspur	Dallirajhara	Miraj	Hospet
Bilaspur Yard	Bijuri	Bangalore	Mangalore
Bhilai	Kirandul	Byappanahalli	
Bhilai Ex. Yard	Dongargarh	Thiruvananthapuram	
Korba		Eranakulam	
Railway Board		Palaghat	
Delhi (NR HQ)		Shoranur	
Delhi Division		Quilon	
CRIS, Delhi		Bhopal	Satna
Tulghakabad		Bina	Amla
Shakurbasti		Itarsi	Ratlam
Vasco-de-Gama		Nishatpura	Ujjain
Ahmedabad	Gandhidham	Jabalpur	Shahdol
Ahmedabad Yard	Valsad	New Katni	
Vadodara	Karchiya	Mumbai (CR HQ)	Daund
Rajkot	Godhra	Mumbai (WR HQ)	Wadi
Bhavnagar	Udhna	Mumbai Division (CR)	Nagpur
Ambala		Mumbai Division (WR)	Nanded
Ambala Lobby		Jassai Road	Ajni
Rewari		Kalyan	Nandurbar
Bhaoli		Bhusaval	Ghorpuri
Dhanbad	Chakradharpur	Bhusaval Yard	Ballarshah
Barkakana	Tatanagar	Manmad	Vasai Road
Pathardih	Adityapur	Sholapur	Itwari
Ranchi	Muri	Gondia	
Barwadih	Bokaro	Khurda Road	Sambhalpur
Katras	Chandil	Bhadrak	Bondamunda
Kiriburu	Garwa Road	Palasa	Brijrajnagar
Kusunda	Patratu	Paradip	Rayagada
Ray	Phusro	Talcher	Jharsuguda
Khalari	Chandrapura	Titlagarh	Banspani

Dongaposi	
Ferozepur	Ludhiana Lobby
Jallandhar	Bhatinda
Chandarikalan	Bhatinda NFL
Ludhiana	
Jaipur	Kota Lobby
Phulera Yard	Gangapur
Bikaner	Bayana
Jodhpur	Ajmer
Kota	
Chennai Division	Metturdam
Chennai (SR HQ)	Millavatan
Chennai Harbour	Erode
Tondiarpet	Madurai
Jollarpettai	Tiruchirapalli
Allahabad	Saharanpur
Jhansi	Khanalampura
Agra	Tundla
Mathura (bad)	Kanpur
Banda	Cheoki (Naini)
Gonda	Ghaziabad
Chopan	Gorakhpur
Luknow (NE)	Gorakhpur Yard
Lucknow (NR)	Mughalsarai
Lucknow Yard	Mughalsarai Yard
Moradabad	Panki
Varanasi	Moradabad Yard
Izzatnagar	Banaras Area
Kolkata (E HQ)	Jalpaiguri
Kolkatta (SE HQ)	Alipurdwar
Asansol	Kharagpur
Andal	Nimpura
Howrah	Andul
Burdwan	Adra
Dankuni	Bhojudih
Sealdah	Shalimar
Naihati	Anara
Chitpur	Haldia
Budge Budge	Sitarampur
Malda	Durgapur
Malda Yard	Mecheda

[Translation]

Strengthening of Judicial System

1846. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme formulated by the Government to provide justice to the people of the country at cheaper cost, easily and soon;

(b) the efforts made by the Government to strengthen the judicial system of the country along with the outcome thereof;

(c) the present position of the 'fast-track-courts' and 'Lok Adalats' in the country;

(d) whether sufficient funds have been provided and judicial staff appointed to serve the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The institution of Lok Adalats which is very popular in providing for expeditious system of administration of justice has been given a statutory status by enacting the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The provision of statutory support to Lok Adalats has helped in taking justice to the door-steps of the poor and needy and made justice quicker and less expensive.

(b) Various steps have been taken by the Government to strengthen the judicial system of the country. These include simplification of rules and procedure on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999, and the two proposed legislations, namely, the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000 and the Criminal Procedure Code

(Amendment) Bill, 1994, *inter alia*, contain provisions for cutting short the delays and for fixing a definite time frame at various stages of civil and criminal proceedings. The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been addressing the High Courts periodically for filling up of vacancies of judges in the High Court. The last such communication was sent in February, 2001. Efforts are also being made to adopt alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration, conciliation and settlement of cases through Lok Adalats.

(c) As per available information, 862 fast-track courts have been set up/notified, out of which 542 courts have started functioning. As many as 57,234 cases have been transferred to these courts so far, of which 16,066 cases have been disposed of. In addition, Lok Adalats are being successfully organized across the country.

(d) and (e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary is being implemented by the Department of Justice since 1993-94. The scheme includes construction of court buildings and residential quarters for judges/judicial officers covering High Courts and Subordinate Courts. From 1993-94 to 2000-2001 an amount of Rs. 404.15 crores has been released to various States/UTs as Central share under this scheme. Against this Rs. 834 crore has been spent by various States/UTs upto 2000-2001. Further, an amount of Rs. 168.02 crores has been released for setting up fast-track courts. Also, sufficient funds have been provided by the Government for organizing Lok Adalats.

[English]

Approval to Barh NTPC Project

1847. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has given their clearance to Barh NTPC project of 660 MW in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the likely time fixed to start this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Central Electricity Authority has accorded techno-economic clearance on 28.9.2001 for setting up of Barh Super Thermal Power Project (3x660 MW) by National Thermal Power Corporation in Patna district, Bihar. The project will be implemented as a Mega Power Project. The present estimated cost of the project is Rs. 7947.38 crore, including Interest during Construction and Working Capital Margin, at 2nd quarter, 2001 price level. The project is expected to be completed within 80 months from the date of investment approval with commercial operation date as follows:

Unit I	60 months
Unit II	70 months
Unit III	80 months

The 1st unit is identified for benefit in 10th Plan period.

Backlog of Vacancies of SC/ST

1848. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs are required to be treated as a 'separate and distinct group' as provided under Article 16(4) B of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in a year;

(b) if so, indicate 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' ascertained as per para 5 of the DOPT OM No. 36012/12/96-Estt. (Res) dated 2nd July, 1997 in respect of SCs, STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C and D categories of services as on 29th August 1997 in the Ministry of Power when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the details of vacancies filled during the last four years and those which remain unfilled; and

(d) the fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per 'post based rosters'?

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

(b) Position indicated below in respect of Ministry of Power (Proper):

Sl.No.	Group	Backlog vacancies		
		Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Other Backward Classes
1.	A	—	—	—
2.	B	Nil	12	27
3.	C	14	26	52
4.	D	Nil	03	Nil

(c) Vacancies filled during last four years:

Sl.No.	Group	Vacancies filled		
		Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Other Backward Classes
1.	A	—	—	—
2.	B	NA*	05	02
3.	C	10	04	21
4.	D	NA*	—	—

(*There was no backlog in Groups B and D as on 29.8.1997)

(d) Fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all grades:

Sl.No.	Group	Vacancies accrued since 29.08.1997		
		Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Other Backward Classes
1.	A	—	—	—
2.	B	13	12	07
3.	C	04	09	21
4.	D	02	—	—

Meeting of State Information Ministers

1849. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of State Information Ministers was held recently in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held and decisions arrived thereat;

(c) whether any discussion regarding cable TV operators has been discussed in the meeting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. On 7th November, 2001 Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry organized a meeting of the State Information Ministers in New Delhi.

(b) to (d) The meeting was organized as an Industry-Government interface where industry was given an opportunity to raise issues of concern before Information Ministers of States. Presentations were made on the following issues:—

(i) Uniform Entertainment Tax for Films

(ii) Uniform Entertainment Tax for Cable Industry

(iii) Organized Exhibition Infrastructure & Computerized Ticketing

(iv) Sales Tax for Music Industry

(v) Curbing Piracy for Music Industry

(vi) Curbing Piracy for Films

This meeting was not a forum to take on-the-spot decisions.

Construction of over bridges at Dhanbad

1850. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to extend Railway over bridge upto Purana Bazar over Dhanbad Station in Eastern Railway;

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

(c) whether the part of over bridge over Pradhan Khumte Station in Eastern Railway, Dhanbad has remained incomplete; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) This proposal could not be approved due to resource constraint and other relative priorities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

On-going Railway Projects and Surveys in Orissa

1851. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going railway projects and the surveys in Orissa along with the progress made thereof;

(b) the expenditure incurred on them till now along with estimated project-wise cost and the reasons for tardy progress in this regard;

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

(d) the amount provided for these projects during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The details of on-going Railway projects in Orissa along with their progress, expenditure incurred till March, 2001, the target date of completion, wherever fixed and amount provided for these projects during the last three years are given in enclosed statement-I. Reasons for slow progress, if any, are given in the status of the projects, wherever applicable.

The details of on-going surveys in Orissa are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

On-going Railway Projects in Orissa

Sl No	Name of Project	Rly.	Latest anticipated Cost	Budget Outlay for 1998-99	Budget Outlay for 1999-2000	Budget Outlay for 2000-2001	Outlay expected to end of 2000-01	Status
				(Rupees in Crore)				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
New Line								
1.	Koraput-Rayagada	SER	485.00.	11.00	2.00	8.00	483.00	The work has been completed and commissioned
2	Talcher-Sambalpur	SER	464.38	14.85	5.00	8.00	450.06	The project has been completed and commissioned Sambalpur bye pass work is in progress and same will be completed shortly.
3	Daitari-Banspani	SER	585.12	49.06	32.00	39.50	251.27	The Line from Banspani to Joruli (11 km) has been completed on 20.10.2000 and opened for Goods traffic The line is targeted for completion by Dec. 2003.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh	SER	105.08	2.00	2.00	2.00	15.22	In Phase-I, work has been taken up from Lanjigarh to Bhawanipatna (31 km).
5.	Khurda Road-Bolangir	SER	700.00	2.00	10.00	14.50	22.05	The work of final location survey is in progress. Work would be taken up once land is handed over by State Government.
6.	Haridaspur-Paradeep	SER	301.64	2.00	5.00	1.00	14.54	Final Location Survey completed. Land acquisition taken up.
7.	Angul-Sukinda Road	SER	245.58	2.00	2.00	23.00	1.18	Final Location Survey has been completed. The Railway has been advised to check up the detailed position of the Steel plants proposed to be served by this line.
Gauge Conversion								
8.	Rupsa-Bangariposi	SER	80.00	2.00	14.00	1.00	9.64	In Ph-I, gauge conversion of Rupsa-Baripada section (51 km) is planned. Earthwork and bridges are in progress.
9.	Naupada-Gunupur	SER	66.35	0.001	0.0001	5.10	5.14	Work will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances, action for which has been initiated.
Doubling								
10.	Raghunathpur-Rahama	SER	70.64	16.00	5.00	9.00	70.14	Project completed and commissioned. Rehabilitation of existing line is in progress and expected to be completed in June, 2002.
11.	Rajatgarh-Nargundi	SER	71.85	5.46	9.00	1.00	69.85	The section from Charbatia to Salegaon (5 km) and Rajathgarh to Charbatia (18 Km) has been opened. The balance section from Salegaon to Nargundi is targeted in 2001-02 (5 Km).
12.	Talcher-Cuttack Paradeep (2nd Bridges on Mahanadi & Birupa)	SER	104.26	17.18	10.00	10.00	14.09	The tender for Birupa bridge has been processed. For 2nd bridge on Mahanadi River, consultant has submitted the preliminary design and drawings and the detailed design is in progress.
13.	Nergundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur	SER	117.24	9.00	33.2055	30.00	55.78	Work is in Progress.
14	Rahama-Paradeep	SER	40.96	9.00	14.00	24.00	16.91	Detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Land acquisition has been completed except for last 4 km at Paradeep end.
15.	Titlagarh-Lanjigarh	SER	100.11	13.01	11.9490	15.00	21.40	Kandel Road-Norla Road and Kesinga-Kandel Road sections are targeted to be completed by Feb., 2002.
16.	Rajatgarh-Barang	SER	166.16	-	0.0010	0.10	0.11	Requisite clearances have been obtained. Preparation of Plans & Estimates have been taken up.

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	Khurda Road-Puri Phase-I (Khurda Road-Delang)	SER	48.00	-		5.00	5.00	Contract for earthwork and minord bridges for section I covering 6.5 km. from Khurda Road and major bridge no 17 awarded and work is in progress.
Railway Electrification								
18.	Bokaro Steel City-Muri-Hatia-Bondamunda-Bimlagarh-Kiriburu/Barsuan incl. Purila-Kotshila	SER	269.40	40.00	20.00	25.00	236.80	287 RKM have been electrified till March 2001. Failure of contractors and consequent re-fixing of new agencies. Entire work is targeted for completion by March, 2003.
19.	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep	SER	319.19	45.70	50.27	40.05	142.51	94 RKM have been electrified till March, 2001. This work was approved under BOLT Scheme in the year 1995-96, which did not succeed. It was, therefore, decided in February, 1997 to execute the work under Railway funding and the work taken up thereafte. Entire work is targeted for completion by March, 2003.
20.	Bhubaneshwar-Kottavalasa	SER	292.27	50.93	47.3000	40.89	239.77	386 RKM have been electrified till March, 2001. Entire work is targeted for completion by March, 2002.

Statement-II

On-going Railway Surveys in Orissa

S.No.	Name of Project	Kms.	Status
1	2	3	4
New Line			
1.	Joypore-Malkangiri	120	New Survey included in Budget 2001-02. Target date of completion is 31.3.2002.
2.	Pondura-Razam	20	Survey is in progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.12.2001.
3.	Kalinga Nagar/Daitari & Gopalpur complexes Augmentation of rail infrastructure for proposed steel plants		Survey is in progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.03.2002.
4.	Talcher/Hindol Road to Berhampur/Gopalpur	245	Survey is in prgress. Target Date of Completion is 30.06.2002.
5.	Phulbani to Barhampur	175	Survey is in progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.03.2002.
6.	Nawapara to Baragarh Road via Padamapur	120	Survey is in progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.12.2001.

1	2	3	4
7.	Jeypore to Navarangpur	45	Survey is in progress. Target Daate of Completion is 31.12.2001.
8.	Raipur-Jarsaguda via Khartapalan, Baloda Bazar Batgaon and Sarangarh	310	Survey is in progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.03.2002.
Doubling			
9.	Khurda Road-Puri	45	Survey is in progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.12.2001.
10.	Titlagarh-Jharsuguda	231	Survey is in progress. Target Date of Completion is 30.06.2002.
11.	Titlagarh-Raipur section on RV line	197	Survey is in progress. Target Date of Completion is 30.06.2002.
12.	Chakradharpur-Bandamunda 3rd Line	93	Survey is in progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.03.2002.
Traffic Facility Work			
13.	Rail facilities required on Eastern Coastal area of South Eastern Railway		Survey is in progress. Target Date of Completion is 30.06.2002.

[English]

Survey for Rozi Peir and Bedi Port Rail Line

1852. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Maritime had paid necessary charges for final survey of broad gauge line upto Rozi Peir and Bedi Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Gujarat Maritime Board had deposited Rs. 2,94,645/- for carrying out survey for providing siding from Windmill to Bedi Port and Rozi Pier. However, as Western Railway was not in a position to carry out the survey due to urgent surveys on hand, Gujarat Maritime Board were advised to get the survey done from M/s Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd. or any of the consultants approved by Western Railway. The money deposited have also been returned to the party.

[Translation]

Computerised Railway Ticket Booking Centres

1853. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had taken any decision to set up a computerised railway ticket booking centre in district headquarters Kullu or at Manali in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for not setting up such centre so far; and

(c) the time by which the centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Till date State Government could not provide suitable accommodation for setting up of computerised reservation centre at Manali. As soon as suitable accommodation is arranged by the State Government, Railway will commission this facility immediately.

[English]

Repair/Over Haul Facilities of Aero Engines

1854. SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether repair/over haul facilities of aero-engines for helicopter engineers are not available despite an expenditure of Rs. 47.57 crore, till March 2000;

(b) whether this facility was scheduled for completion by 1992 as the helicopters were introduced in 1985/1986;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which these facilities are likely to be available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Repair/overhaul facilities of helicopter aero engines are set up where the fleet strength makes it economically viable to set up the facilities.

The facilities for overhaul of TV3 engines of Mi-17 helicopters inducted in the Indian Air Force in 1985-86 were initially scheduled for completion by 1993-94. However, due to the break-up of the erstwhile Soviet Union, negotiations could be completed only between 1996-1999 for setting up the facilities. Thereafter, the facilities have been commissioned and egine overhaul started in January 2001.

Repair/overhaul facilities for engines of Chetak and Cheetah helicopters were established in the early sixties and these are fully operational.

Naval Base demanded by US on Western Coast

1855. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government has sought three naval bases on western coast of India for its war ships to anchor and use it for refueling etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) However, Government has received specific requests for assistance in connection with operation Enduring Freedom from certain friendly countries, including the United States. Those requests that conform to our existing policy guidelines for overflights and refuelling of aircraft and port calls by Naval ships have been approved.

Gauge Conversion of Quilon-Tenkasi-Tirunelveli Rail Line

1856. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made regarding Gauge conversion work of Quilon-Tenkasi-Tirunvelveli meter gauge line in Southern Railway;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon alongwith the estimated cost therefor;

(c) whether any gauge conversion work has been started in Quilon-Sihengotin section; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) On Virudhnagar-Tenkasi and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur bridge work and earthwork have been taken up. Final location survey in the ghat section between Quilon and Tenkasi has been recently completed.

(b) Anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 327.6 crore. The expenditure incurred upto March, 2001 is Rs 21.97 crores.

(c) and (d) Final Location Survey has been completed. Preparation of plans and estimate have been taken up.

[Translation]

Visit of Minister to Foreign Countries

1857. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries visited by him during the last two years;

(b) the purpose of each of these visits; and

(c) the amount spent thereon and the benefits accrued therefrom to the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) U.S.A. and France in 2001.

(b) Visited U.S.A during 11-16 May, 2001 to attend Annual India Business Conference and France during 17-18 October, 2001 to attend Global Forum on Competition Organized by Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD).

(c) The expenditure on the visit to U.S.A. was about Rs. 4,67,387/- and on the visit to France about Rs. 2,06,924/- Representation by India was necessary on account of the importance of the Conference/Seminar and India's relationship with these countries.

[English]

Joint Venture between GAIL and France Company

1858. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has finalised a gas distribution in joint venture with a leading natural gas France Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

(c) Currently, Gas Authority of India Limited has no such proposal under its consideration.

Backlog/Carried Forward Vacancies of SCs/STs/ OBCs

1859. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'backlog' carried forward vacancies' reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs, are required to be treated as a 'separate and distinct group' as provided under Article 16 (4)B of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in a year;

(b) if so, the 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' ascertained as per para 5 of the DOPT OM No. 36012/12/96-Estt. (Res). dated 2nd July, 1997 in respect of SCs, STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C and D categories of services as on 29th August, 1997 in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the such carried forward vacancies filled during each of the last four years and which remain unfilled; and

(d) the fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per 'post based rosters'?

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

Disruption in supply of gas to Power Stations/ Industrial Units in Gujarat

1860. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that gas supply to atleast two power stations and several industrial units in Gujarat was disrupted recently following a fire in the ONGC's Oil field in Gandhar;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry have been constituted; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith losses suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government is aware that there was a fire incident at well No. G-345 of Gandhar field on 30th October, 2001. ONGC have informed that the incident has however, not affected the gas supply position to power stations and industrial units. The Government has ordered an inquiry on 16.11.01 to find out the details of theft and fire by a

Committee of Experts headed by Major General (Retired) S.C.N. Jatar, former Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of ONGC Videsh Ltd. and former CMD of Oil India Ltd. Loss due to oil and gas burnt during the fire has been estimated as Rs. 12.50 lakhs per day. The total loss, including expenditure incurred in controlling the fire and reviving the well is estimated to be around Rs. 5 crores.

Passenger Traffic in Rajdhani Express

1861. SHRI R.S. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steep increase in the passenger traffic in the Rajdhani Express running between Bangalore and New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to make this train four days in a week into a daily train;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) During the period April, 2001 to October 2001, the number of passengers booked has indicated an approximate increase of only 6% and 10% on Train Nos. 2429 Bangalore-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express and 2430 Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express respectively, in comparison to the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Repair of Charminar at Hyderabad

1862. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the repair work done recently on historic Charminar at Hyderabad by Archaeological Survey of India suffered more damage and ornamental motifs at several places were chipped off;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to retrieve the historic edifice of Charminar?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Charminar has not suffered any damage due to the conservation work carried out by Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The maintenance and conservation of the Charminar, a nationally protected monument is an ongoing process.

Journalists Welfare Fund

1863. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Journalists Welfare Fund; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken including its salient feature and the time by which the said fund is likely to be set up and become functional?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) This Ministry has set up a Journalists Welfare Fund for providing one-time ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 lakh to the family of the journalists who suffer loss of life or permanent disability due to unnatural causes in the course of their duty. Allocation of Rs. 1 crore has been made in the grants of this Ministry in the financial year 2001-2002 for setting up of Journalists Welfare Fund and relief has already been provided in five cases under this Scheme.

Proxy War in Jammu and Kashmir

1864. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have finalized a Specific plan to stamp out Pakistan sponsored proxy war in J&K; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) To contain Pakistan sponsored Proxy War in Jammu & Kashmir, the Government, co-jointly with the State Government, has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, *inter-alia*, strengthening border management to check infiltration; pro-active action against terrorists within J&K; gearing up intelligence machinery; greater functional integration through an

institutional frame-work of Operation Groups and Intelligence Groups of the Unified Headquarters (UHQ) at al levels; improved technology, weapons and equipments for security forces; and action as per law against supporters of the terrorists.

The strategies, tactics and dynamic deployment to counter the terrorists are constantly reviewed, refined and monitored in the Unified Headquarters in the State and in Operations Groups at various levels.

Apart from the above measures, militant outfits, namely JeM, LeT, HM, HUM, AUM and JKIF have since been declared as terrorist organisations on 24.10.2001 under Section 18 of the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance 2001.

[Translation]

Survey for Lohardaga-Korba Rail Line

1865. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work for a new rail track between Lohardaga and Korba has been completed;

(b) if so, the result thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the survey is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The survey is in progress. A large number of surveys have been taken up and are being completed in a phased manner. The survey report is expected by December 2002.

[English]

Excise Duty Collection by Petroleum Companies

1866. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum companies in the country collect Central Excise Duty on behalf of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of Central Excise Duty collected by each company for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the amount so collected have been remitted to the Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The petroleum companies do not collect any excise duty on behalf of the Union Government. The central excise duty is collected by the Government from the petroleum companies. The details of company-wise central excise duty deposited with the Government during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Company-wise Central Excise collected during the last three years

(Rs. in crores)

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
IOC	5540	9346	11800
BPCL	1879	3706	3926
HPCL	2215	3309	6038
CPCL	87	126	172
BRPL	120	198	159
KRL	619	946	936
NRL*	0	0	273
IBP	216	284	311
GAIL	69	162	226
OIL	3	3	5
ONGC	155.52	232.26	271.86

*Started operation in the year 2000-01.

Increase in Passenger Traffic in Karnataka Express

1867. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steep increase in passenger traffic in the Karnataka Express running between Bangalore and New Delhi;

(b) whether there is persistent demand by Karnataka or introducing Shatabdi Express Bangalore and New Delhi;

(c) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to introduce this train by the end of 2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) During the period April, 2001 to October 2001, the number of passengers booked has indicated an approximate increase of 1% and 5% on Train Nos. 2627 Bangalore-New Delhi Karnataka Express and 2628 New Delhi-Bangalore Karnataka Express respectively, in comparison to the corresponding period of previous year. However, the number of passengers booked had indicated an approximate increase of 3% on Train No. 2627 and 15% on Train No. 2628 during the year 2000-01 over 1999-2000.

(b) to (e) Request from Shri Putta Swamy Gowda, MP was received in this regard. Shatabdi Expresses are super fast intercity services having only sitting accommodation. These trains leave a particular station in the morning and return in the same evening, having running time upto 8 hours each way. Shatabdi type services are, therefore, neither suitable nor operationally feasible for stations as far apart as Delhi and Bangalore.

Idols Stolen from Lingaraj Temple

1868. SHRI BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that valuable worth and idols stolen from Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by Archaeological Survey of India in the matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry and the action taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Government are aware that some silver objects, utensils and ornaments were stolen from the temple on 05.11.2001.

(c) and (d) The protection of the Lingaraj Temple by the Archaeological Survey of India is governed by an agreement executed with the trustees of the temple. Under this agreement, the Archaeological Survey of India is responsible only for the conservation of the temple; other administrative matters including the security of the Shrine vest with the Temple authorities and the State Government.

Implementation of Projects in North Eastern States

1869. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Minister of State for Power have visited to Assam and stressed the need for speedy implementation of the ongoing projects in the North Eastern States, as per strategies for power development in the North Eastern States and Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details of the strategy and the ongoing power projects;

(c) the progress so far made in respect of each of these projects, their estimated cost and expenditure so far incurred; and

(d) the time by which they are likely to be completed?

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

The details of ongoing projects in N.E. States including Sikkim are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

S. No.	Name of project/ State/ Inst. Cap. (MW) Date of Sanction	Cost (Rs.Cr.) Original/ Latest	Expenditure incurred so far (Rs. in Cr.) (upto 9/2001)	Comm. Sch. Original/ Latest	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ranganadi (NEEPCO) Ar.P./3x135 04/87 April, 87 (CCEA)	312.78 / 1446.09 (inc. IDC)	1325.91	1994-95 / 2001-02	Diversion tunnel, Dam, HRT, surge shaft including steel liner completed. Civil works in progress. Unit erection work in progress. Supply of equipment and erection in switchyard in progress.

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Tuirial (NEEPCO) Mizoram/2x30 07.07.98 (CCEA)	448.19 / 448.19	48.00	2005-07 / 2005-07	Pre construction work completed. Infrastructure work in progress. Construction of 132 KV SC transmission line is in progress.
3.	Kopili Stage-II (NEEPCO) Assam/1x25 06.07.99 (CCEA)	76.09 / 76.09	49.71	2001-02 / 2003-04	Pre-construction & infrastructural works are being taken up. The works under packages-I & II orders are in progress. For package-III, TG sets have been ordered on BHEL and 100/25T EOT crane ordered on M/s WMI, Mumbai: Supply is in progress. Tenders for package III are under preparation.
4.	Loktak D/S (NHPC) Manipur/3x30 30.12.99	578.62 / 578.62 (incl.IDC)	14.87	2006-07 / 2006-07	Development of infrastructure facilities at the project was in progress. The desired progress at working site is not possible unless the State Govt. provides requisite security. Govt. of Manipur following the stay order by the Honourable High Court of Manipur has constituted a joint inquiry Team which includes a member from NHPC for assessment of land/ crops compensation.
5.	Teesta St.-V (NHPC) Sikkim/3x170 11.02.2000	2198.04 / 2198.04	215.79	2006-07 / 2006-07	Both diversion tunnel have been completed. Various adits to Dam, HRT and Power house are under excavation.
6.	Karbi Langpi $ (Lower Borpani) Ams/2x50 MW 24.09.79	36.36 / 267.27	134.61 (upto 3/2000)	1985-86 / 2003-04	85.8% excavation., 19.4% conc. & 97% slush clearance for dam completed. Due to poor performance in joint sector the contract was cancelled and Govt. of Assam handed over the project to ASEB for execution as per Supreme Court's verdict of January, 1999. Preparation of inventory of the assets taken up. Execution of balance works has not been started. Funds are being tied up with PFC.
7.	Dhansiri $ Asm.5x3x1.33 06.02.85	10.53 / 77.00	39.77 (upto 3/2000)	1988-89 / 2002-03	Head works for irrigation project Barrage completed. Works are at standstill due to poor cash flow and Law & order problems since, April, 1996.
	$ Works of the project are held up.				
8.	Likim-Ro Nagaland/3x8 18.10.89	33.84 / 215.88	191.16 (upto 3/2001)	1993-94 / 2001-02	Civil works completed. Unit 1 & 2 rolled on 12.09.2001. Stator and TG of Unit-3 positioned. Rotor erection is in progress.
9.	Rolep-I* Sik/2x3 16.8.97 (State Govt.) (Cap. Revised to 2x4.5 MW)	35.13 / 45.00 (PL-1999)	*.26 (upto 3/2000)	2001-02 / 2003-04	No active construction work has been started due to paucity of funds.

$ Works of the project are held up.

*Works of the project are yet to be taken up.

Accepting/Processing of Programmes from Outside Producers

1870. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines formulated for accepting and processing proposals in respect of programmes, received from outside producers at both the Central and Regional levels of Doordarshan;

(b) the specific powers delegated to the Regional Doordarshan Kendras to expedite the clearance of proposals received at the Kendras level;

(c) the details of programmes procured from outside producers during each of the last three years, till date and in which language in respective Kendras of the country; and

(d) the basis on which the producers were selected?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As per guidelines formulated by Prasar Bharati for sponsored programmes, proposals are evaluated by the Evaluation Committee in Doordarshan in terms of content of the programme, technical quality etc. Thereafter, proposals are submitted to the Selection Committee which takes the final decision in selection of the programme.

Under the guidelines for commissioned programmes, the proposals are shortlisted by the Evaluation Committee and are submitted to the Costing Committee. The final decision is thereafter taken by the Costing Committee depending upon suitability/quality of the programme and requirement of Doordarshan.

These guidelines of sponsored as well as commissioned programmes are applicable for both Central and Regional levels of Doordarshan.

(b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the Kendras have full powers on programming pertaining to the region within the overall policy of Doordarshan.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Short Supply of CNG

1871. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) whether in view of short supply of CNG in the country and security aspects of CNG vehicles, the Government are contemplating for introduction of new technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government proposes to import LNG from early 2004 to increase the supply of natural gas in the country and thereby, of CNG. Safety norms have been notified. In addition, Government has permitted use of auto-LPG.

[English]

Indo-China Boundary Dispute

1872. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to make an early settlement of Indo-China boundary disputes;

(b) if so, whether the China has expressed its keenness for the same; and

(c) if so, the steps taken so far and proposed to be taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and China have agreed to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful and friendly dialogue.

(c) India and China signed an Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China Border Areas in 1993 and a second Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the LAC in the India-China Border Areas in 1996. These two Agreements provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas. Both sides have also agreed to expedite the process of LAC clarification within the existing mechanisms.

Take over of Haldia Unit of HFC by IOCL

1873. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IOCL propose to take over Haldia unit of HFC; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has no proposal to take over the Haldia Unit of the HFC. However, the IOC has shown interest in the acquisition of the HFC's land contiguous to the IOC's refinery at Haldia for implementation of new projects.

Priority to Solar Energy

1874. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES pe pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to accord priority to the solar energy over the hydro and thermal power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any study to exploit energy from other sources besides thermal, hydro and solar energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Government is promoting all indigenous energy resources, conventional like hydro and thermal as well as non-conventional including solar, depending upon techno-economic feasibility/viability with the aim of making them complementary to each other. However, solar energy is still not competitive to conventional energy sources for large-scale power generation. Hence, it is being promoted in areas where it is useful and viable particularly in the remote and hilly areas. A total of around 3,50,451 solar lanterns, 1,52,180 home lighting systems, 41,403 street lights, 4156 water pumps, 5,90,000 sq. meters of collector area for water heating, 5,10,000 soalr cookers and 2.75 MW capacity of power plants have been installed till 31.03.2001. It is proposed to install another 65,000 solar lanterns, 35,000 home lighting systems, 3,000 street lights, 800 water pumps, 40,000 sq. meters of collector area for water heating, 25,000 solar cookers and 520 KW capacity of power plants during the current year.

(c) and (d) The other sources of non-conventional energy include wind, small hydro, biomass, urban & industrial wastes, geo-thermal and ocean energy. Studies and estimates prepared by the Ministry and various other institutions have revealed that there is a potential for generating 45,000 MW from wind, 15,000 MW from small-hydro, 19,500 MW from biomass, 1,700 MW from urban & industrial wastes, 10,000 MW from geo-thermal and around 15,000 MW from ocean tides in the country.

Doubling of Delhi-Ahmedabad Rail Line

1875. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey of doubling of Delhi-Ahmedabad-Delhi via Jaipur-Ajmer has been completed;

(b) if so, the time by which the project will be started and completed;

(c) whether the route is electrified; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to electrify this section due to relative priority for electrification of other high density routes and constraints of resources.

Completion of Survey In M.P.

1876. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going railway project/surveys which are in progress in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of Railway Lines in Madhya Pradesh for which Survey has been completed during the last three years;

(c) the total length of those lines; and

(d) the steps taken to construct those Railway lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The details of on-going Railway projects in Madhya Pradesh and surveys for new lines, conducted in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, including their length and status are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

On-Going Railway Projects in Madhya Pradesh

S.No.	Name of Project	Rly.	Latest Anticipated Cost (Rs. in Crs.)	Status
New Lines				
1.	Guna-Etawah	CR	337.33	Guna-Gwalior and Gwalior-Seoni sections have already been completed. Work between Seoni-Bhind (23.5 km) is targeted during 2001-02.
2.	Lalitpur-Satna & Rewa-Singrauli	CR	925.00	Work is being taken up in phases. First phase is from Lalitpur-Satna. Final location survey for 167 kms. from Lalitpur-Khajuraho and Mahoba-Khajuraho has been completed. Land acquisition has been processed.
3.	Gondha-Indore Dewas-Maksi	WR	597.00	This work is being executed in phases. The first phase work between Dewas & Maksi is targeted during 2001-02.
4.	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal	WR	425.00	Final location survey is under progress.
Gauge Conversion				
5.	Jabalpur-Godia including Balaghat-Katangi	SER	386.30	In Ph. I, work has been taken up on Gondia-Balaghat (42 km) section. Earthwork and bridgework are in progress. Ph. II work on Jabalpur-Balaghat section is being planned to be taken up.
6.	Neemuch-Ratlam	WR	116.74	Earthwork and bridgework have been taken up.
Doubling				
7.	Kalapipal-Phanda/ Maksi-Bhopal	WR	53.00	This work has been temporarily frozen owing to low operational priority and constraint of resources.
8.	Bolai-Kalisindh, Kalisindh-Kisoni, Kisoni-Bercha & Maksi-Pirumrod	WR	94.39	Work has been completed and commissioned.

Surveys Conducted for New Line Projects in Madhya Pradesh during last three years

S.No.	Name of Project	Kms.	Status
1.	Ramganj Mandi to Bhopal	262	Survey completed and project included in Budget 2000-01.
2.	Ujjain-Ramganjmandi via Agar, Susner Jhalawar	190	Survey completed. Due to unremunerative nature and constraints of resources, project could not be taken up.
3.	Indore and Budhni	258	Survey completed. Due to unremunerative nature and constraints of resources, project could not be taken up.
4.	Biyama-Rajgarh-Bina	147	Completed. Due to unremunerative nature and constraints of resources, project could not be taken up.
5.	Baran-Shivpuri	150	Completed. Due to unremunerative nature and constraints of resources, project could not be taken up.

Electrification of Villages of Andaman and Nicobar

1877. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the duration of power supply provided to the consumers in the tribal islands of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands such as Trinket, Little Nicobar, Pillomillo, Kondul, Teressa and Chowra Islands;

(b) whether there is any proposal of covering those villages which have no power in near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the collection Centres for collecting electric bills in the said villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Details of duration of power supply provided to the consumers in the Tribal Islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Islands	Duration of Power supply (Hours)/day	Source of Supply
1.	Trinket	12	Through Solar Photovolatic Power Plants
2.	Little Nicobar	7	Through Diesel generating sets
3.	Pilomilo	7	
4.	Kondul	7	
5	Teressa	16	
6.	Chowra	16	

(b) and (c) 93 isolated villages and hamlets/hutments out of 192 villages covering 7.6% of the total population of Nicobar District, were earlier electrified by Solar Photovoltaic domestic/street light during 7th and 8th Plans. These villages are not having conventional electric supply as they were less populated and located far away from the transmission and distribution system and separated by thick forest areas. According to Andaman & Nicobar Administration, these are to be electrified under Prime Minister's Gramin Yojna (PMGY)/Plan schemes, through conventional/non-conventional energy sources during 10th Plan. The revenue charges towards electric billing are collected at (1) Trinket (2) Little Nicobar (3) Pilomilo (4) Kondul (5) Teresswa and (6) Chowra.

[Translation]

Porbandar Express Train from Sarai Rohilla to Ahmedabad

1878. SHRI RAM MURTI SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Porbandar Express train from Sarai Rohilla Railway Station to Ahmedabad runs twice a week;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to run this train daily for the convenience of passengers: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. 9263/9264 Express runs between Delhi Sarai Rohilla and Porbandar via Ahmedabad twice a week.

(b) At present, there is no such proposal.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

Kerosene Quota for States

1879. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) the quota of kerosene allotted to each of the State during last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the norms laid down for allotting the quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The details of State-wise Kerosene allocation made by the Central Government during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Kerosene oil for distribution under the Public Distribution System is allocated to different States/Union Territories by the Central Government by following a uniform criteria. For the year 2001-02, SKO allocation to various States/Union Territories compared to the allocation for 2000-01 has been reduced by about 4.5% on total all India basis taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each of the State/Union Territory during April to September, 2000 as there is no justification for subsidising the same customer for both Kerosene and LPG.

Statement

State-wise SKO Allocation - 1998-99 to 2000-01

(Figures in MT)

States/UTs	1998-99			1999-2000			2000-01		
	Alloc.	Adhoc	Total Alloc.	Alloc.	Adhoc	Total Alloc.	Alloc.	ADHOC	Total Alloc
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andaman & Nicobar	7155	0	7155	6736	301	7037	6736	0	6736
Andhra Pradesh	675056	3891	678947	679848	0	679848	650596	778	651375
Arunachal Pradesh	10240	0	10240	10295	623	10917	10346	0	10346
Assam	271235	0	271235	272623	0	272623	273270	0	273270
Bihar*	863745	0	863745	870036	0	870036	894246	0	894246
Chandigarh	21778	0	21778	15408	0	15408	15408	0	15408
Dadar Nagar Haveli	3237	0	3237	3238	0	3238	3238	0	3238
Daman & Diu	3064	0	3064	2438	0	2438	2438	0	2438
Delhi	248325	0	248325	204672	0	204672	204672	0	204672
Goa	28257	0	28257	28075	0	28075	28075	0	28075
Gujarat	831600	15564	847164	832432	4864	837295	832432	42032	874455
Haryana	170563	0	170563	171731	0	171731	175633	0	175633
Himachal Pradesh	60737	0	60737	61067	778	61845	61434	0	61434
Jammu & Kashmir	91433	6226	97659	91921	19844	111765	92376	12840	105216
Karnataka	528301	0	528301	531167	0	531167	534360	0	534360
Kerala	300006	0	300006	302078	0	302078	309149	0	309149
Lakshadweep	919	0	919	921	0	921	921	0	921
Madhya Pradesh*	661812	0	661812	666632	0	666632	685182	0	685182

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Maharashtra	1576298	0	1576298	1577953	0	1577953	1488926	0	1488926
Manipur	22670	0	22670	22781	78	22859	22781	0	22781
Meghalaya	20847	0	20847	20960	74	21034	21086	0	21086
Mizoram	8102	0	8102	8146	0	8146	8195	0	8195
Nagaland	14207	0	14207	14284	78	14362	14370	0	14370
Orissa	316597	0	316597	318903	62793	381696	327777	54475	382251
Pondicherry	15342	0	15342	15363	0	15363	15363	0	15363
Punjab	342376	0	342376	343127	0	343127	343127	0	343127
Rajasthan	440060	0	440060	443265	0	443265	450930	93385	544316
Sikkim	7885	0	7885	7895	0	7895	7895	0	7895
Tamil Nadu	716830	0	716830	720076	12451	732527	720076	12451	732527
Tripura	32386	0	32386	32562	0	32562	32757	0	32757
Uttar Pradesh*	1391123	12167	1403290	1401255	9650	1410905	1440246	16537	1456783
West Bengal	808013	3891	811904	812309	7782	820091	816158	15564	831722
All India	10490199	41739	10531938	10490199	119316	10609516	10490199	248054	10738253

*New States *viz* Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh & Uttaranchal have been carved out of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh respectively during November, 2000. The details of allocation & upliftment in respect of these New States for 2000-01 are included in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Power T and D System

1880 SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are going to invest in Andhra Pradesh on some pilot projects in areas of power transmission and distribution system there;

(b) if so, the names of the projects; and

(c) the time by which the work on these projects is likely to commence and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government of India have launched a scheme called Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) to provide systematic financing to projects aimed at upgradation/strengthening of Sub-Transmission & Distribution network. For this purpose initially sixty distribution circles have been identified wherein techno-commercial interventions in the form of improving HT:LT ratio, increasing transformation capacity, reconductoring, reconfiguration of the entire network, metering and steps to reduce theft, are being implemented. It is proposed to take up remaining distribution circles in the country in a phased manner during the 10th Plan for upgradation/ strengthening of the Sub-Transmission & Distribution network. It is expected that after implementation of the projects, T&D losses will come down and also voltage and quality of power will improve.

It is proposed to take up improvement of Sub-Transmission & Distribution Systems in the three identified circles of Eluru, Tirupati and Warangal Circles in the State of Andhra Pradesh under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP).

The following funds under APDP have been provided to the State of Andhra Pradesh in the year 2000-01:

(Rs. in crores)

Name of Scheme	Cost of the Project	Proposed APDP Sanction		Total Amount under APDP
		Grant	Loan	
Eluru Circle	36.64	09.17	09.17	18.34
Tirupati Circle	33.25	08.31	08.31	16.62
Warangal Circle	29.69	07.42	07.42	14.84
Total	99.58	24.90	24.90	49.80

The following short term schemes are under consideration for funding for the year 2001-02:

(Rs. in crores)

Short Term Project Report for Improvement of sub-transmission & distribution system in Eluru Circle.	40.02
Short Term Project Report for Improvement of sub-transmission & distribution system in Warangal Circle.	40.02
Short Term Project Report for Improvement of sub-transmission & distribution system in Tirupati Circle.	40.02
Short Term Project Report for Improvement of sub-transmission & distribution system in Medak Circle.	40.02

Commissioning of RTPP

1881. DR. (SMT.) RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for Rayalaseema Thermal Power Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal for Rayalseema Thermal Power Station Stage-II (2x210 MW) was accorded techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in June, 1993 for implementation in the State sector. The project could not be taken up for implementation due to financial constraints. The revised cost of the project as approved by the CEA is Rs. 1573 crores. The Equipment Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract has since been awarded by Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation (APGENCO) to a consortium of Zhejiang Machinery & Equipment Import Export Corporation (ZMEC) & China National Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Corporation (CMEC) of China.

As per the terms of contract, the power plant is expected to be commissioned within 43 months of the payment of advance by M/s. APGENCO.

Representations of SCs/STs

1882. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) Services stood only at 13.59% (SCs-10.38% & STs-3.21%) and in Class I (Group B) Services only at 14.41% (SCs-11.73% STs-2.68%) as against

22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% in respect of STs) as on January 1, 1998 under the Union Government;

(b) if so, the total number of 'posts' in Class I (Group A) Category and Class II (Group B) Category and equivalents thereof under the Ministry of Culture; and

(c) the persons belonging to General, SC, ST and OBC categories working against them including their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DoPT OM No. 36012/12/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Purchase of Computer by Directorate General Quality Assurance

1883. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate General Quality Assurance procured 20 computers @ Rs. 85,000/- each on September 27, 2000 of Compaq brand;

(b) whether the same brand computer with the same configuration were supplied to CVC @ Rs. 59,980/- each;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) The DGQA had procured Compaq Brand Desk pro EP-PIII Computers alongwith accessories from Kendriya Bhandar in September, 1999, whereas CVC has purchased Compaq 200 Presario PCs from Kendriya Bhandar in March, 2000. The configuration of the two computers is different. The procurement by DGQA has been made from Kendriya Bhandar in accordance with the existing instructions and prescribed procedures.

[Translation]

Purchase of Admiral Gorshkow Warship

1884. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement with Russia for purchase of warship 'Admiral Gorshkov' has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the price and capacity of that Russian warship; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) An Inter-Government Agreement (IGA) was signed on the 4th October, 2000 with the Government of the Russian Federation which, *inter-alia*, provides for the acquisition of 'Admiral Gorshkov', an aircraft carrier, from Russia and its refit and modernization. A Detailed Project Document (DPD) prepared by the Russian side has been examined by a Committee constituted for the purpose. An investment decision on 'Admiral Gorshkov' has not yet been taken. The standard displacement of the ship is 34,000 tonnes.

[English]

Undue Benefits to Sponsors

1885. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note about CAG observation regarding undue benefits given to sponsors of programmes 'Main Dilli Hoon' and 'Ek Se Bad Kar Ek' by Director General, Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ordered indepth inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to recover the amount?

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

(b) The Audit has observed that Doordarshan did not apply pro-rata rate in fixing commercial terms for the programme 'Main Dilli Hoon' and did not hike the minimum guarantee of the programme 'Ek Se Bad Kar Ek'. Doordarshan failed to recover the dues from the producer of 'Ek Se Bad Kar Ek'.

(c) to (e) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the decisions in both the cases were taken by Doordarshan keeping in view the commercial interest of Doordarshan and also to retain good programmes on its channels. Doordarshan has not accepted the contents of the Audit Para.

(f) Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan has filed a case in the High Court of Delhi for recovery of the outstanding dues from the producers of 'Ek Se Bad Kar Ek'.

Kalahandi Train Tragedy

1886. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Railway Safety Commissioner who enquired into the Kalahandi train tragedy has submitted the report;

(b) if so, the details of findings thereof;

(c) whether the injured and the relatives of those killed in the Kalahandi train tragedy have received compensation from the Railway authorities;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) whether the Government will examine the matter and direct the authorities to grant compensation in a time bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety has not yet submitted his Final Report on Kadalundi train accident. However, he has submitted his Preliminary Report and he has classified the accident under the category "Failure of Equipment-Railway Bridge".

(c) to (e) To take care of the immediate needs of the victims of Kadalundi train accident, enhanced ex-gratia has been paid immediately after the accident as under:—

(1)	In case of death	Rs. One lakh each
(2)	In case of grievous injury	Rs. 25,000 each
(3)	In case of simple injury	Rs. 5,000 each

Compensation for train accident is decided by Railway Claims Tribunal. So far 69 claims applications, have been filed in Railway Claims tribunal, Ernakulam. One case has settled so far. The Chairman, Railway Claims Tribunal has been requested to expedite settlement of claims cases pertaining to this accident.

The following steps have also been taken to expedite settlement of claims:—

(i) Formed Special Assistance Cell at RCT/ Ernakulam.

(ii) Application Forms for claiming compensation have been distributed to the victims and their families.

(iii) Free Legal Aid has been arranged with the co-ordination of the Government of Kerala.

(iv) Notification regarding compensation claims has been published in all leading local and National News papers (both vernacular and English).

(v) Web-site had been created and procedure for compensation claims had been put up on site (www.southernrailway org.com).

(vi) All claimants who are inquiring over phone or in writing are being given all assistance by way of information, providing claims forms and guidance in filling up the forms.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Guns with Israel's Collaboration

1887. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE. Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Jabalpur Ordnance factory proposes to manufacture guns in collaboration with Israel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the manufacturing of new guns is likely to be started in Jabalpur Ordnance factory?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. 130mm gun system upgunned to 155mm caliber will be produced at Gun Carriage

Factory (GCF), Jabalpur based on technology taken from Israel.

(b) Initially GCF Jabalpur will assemble 180 Nos. gun systems with the kits imported from Israel. Subsequently 300 Nos. gun systems will be manufactured indigenously.

(c) Production with imported kits has started at GCF during the current year.

[English]

Target for Power Projects in Karnataka

1888. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects under execution in Karnataka at present;

(b) the target set for the completion of those projects;

(c) whether any of these projects is likely to be completed ahead of schedule; and

(d) if so, the progress of each project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) There are 8 thermal power projects and 2 hydro power projects under execution in the State of Karnataka. The details regarding the capacity and commissioning schedules are given below:

Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Schedule
Thermal		
Raichur TPP-U-7	210	30 months from financial closure. Financial closure achieved in October, 2000.
Tanir Bavi Barge Mounted CCGT GT 1 to 4 and ST	220	GT-all units synchronized on 8.5.2001. ST-likely to be commissioned in 12/2001.
Nagarjuna TPP	1015	
U-1		38 months from financial closure.
U-2		42 months from financial closure.
Mangalore TPP U1 to 4	1013.2	1st Unit—33 months from financial closure and subsequent units at an interval of 3 months each thereafter.
Multifuel plant of Ginigera	50.8	20 months from financial closure.
Tumkur DGPP	32.5	—
Kaniminke CCGT GT 1&2, ST	107.6	19 months from financial closure.
Bidadi CCGT	200	—
Hydro		
Brindavan	2x6	10th Plan
Saravathy TR	4x60	2000-02

(c) and (d) According to present indications, the activities of Raichur TPP Unit 7 are progressing ahead of schedule and there is some likelihood that the project may be commissioned earlier than expected.

Court Martial of Army Officers

1889. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the armed forces officers who have been court martialled for various offences during the last three years, year-wise and rank-wise; and

(b) the number of armed forces officers dismissed during the last three years, rank-wise/year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Statement-I, II and III are enclosed.

Statement-I

Information Relating to Army

(a) The year-wise and rank-wise details of armed forces officers who have been court martialled for various offences during the last three years are as follows:—

Rank in Army	1998	1999	2000
Brigadier	—	01	—
Colonel	04	07	08
Lieutenant Colonel	04	06	15
Major	03	11	09
Captain	01	04	09
Lieutenant/2nd Lieutenant	01	02	04

(b) The year-wise and rank-wise details of armed forces officers dismissed during the last three years are as follows:—

Rank in Army	1998	1999	2000
Brigadier	—	01	—
Colonel	01	01	03
Lieutenant Colonel	02	01	07
Major	03	02	04
Captain	—	02	03
Lieutenant/2nd Lieutenant	—	01	02

Statement-II

Information Relation to Navy

(a) The year-wise and rank-wise details of armed forces officers who have been court martialled for various offences during the last three years are as follows:—

Rank in Navy	1998	1999	2000
Captain	01	—	02
Commander	01	01	01
Lieutenant Commander	04	—	06
Lieutenant Captain	02	04	07
Sub Lieutenant	—	—	01

(b) The year-wise and rank-wise details of armed forces officers dismissed during the last three years are as follows:—

Rank in Navy	1998	1999	2000
Commander	01	—	—
Lieutenant Commander	—	—	03
Lieutenant	01	01	02
Sub Lieutenant	—	—	01

Statement-III

Information Relating to Air Force

(a) The year-wise and rank-wise details of armed forces officers who have been court martialised for various offences during the last three years are as follows:—

Rank in Air Force	1998	1999	2000
Group Captain	—	—	01
Wing Commander	—	04	02
Squadron Leader	02	07	07
Flight Lieutenant	—	03	01
Flying Officer	01	02	02

(b) The year-wise and rank-wise details of armed forces officers dismissed during the last three years are as follows:—

Rank in Air Force	1998	1999	2000
Group Captain	—	—	01
Wing Commander	—	02	—
Squadron Leader	—	01	—
Flight Lieutenant	—	—	—
Flying Officer	—	—	02

Training Programmes by Cultural Resources and Training Centre

1890. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Cultural Resources and Training Centre" has been organising training programmes to educate the school children about the Indian culture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response received therefrom so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) trains students under its Community and Extension Service programmes which include educational tours to monuments, museums, art galleries, craft centres, zoological parks and gardens; Workshops and Camps on Conservation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage, learning Crafts using low-cost locally available resources, lectures and demonstrations by artists and craft persons, slide lectures supplementing classroom teaching etc.

During the period from 1996-97 to 2000-2001, the CCRT organised 391 Workshops, 306 Educational visits and 53 other educational programmes, in which 81325 students were trained.

During the financial year 2001-2002, the CCRT will be organising about 200 Workshops, 40 Educational visits and 30 other educational activities, in which around 20,000 students will be trained.

SC/ST Posts

1891. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) Services stood only at 13.59% (SCs-10.38% & STs-2.68%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% in respect of STs) as on 1.1.1998 under the Union Government;

(b) if so, the total number of 'posts' in Class I (Group A) category and Class II (Group B) category and equivalents thereof under the Ministry of Defence; and

(c) the persons belonging to General, SC, ST and OBC categories working against them including their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DoPT OM No. 36012/12/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Rail Infrastructure in Karnataka

1892. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have set up Karnataka Rail Development Corporation to develop rail infrastructure in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Rail Development Corporation has started functioning;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of projects identified for development by the Karnataka Rail Development Corporation; and

(e) if time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE) has been registered under the Companies Act 1956 by Government of Karnataka. Modalities of participation of Ministry of Railways and the Government of Karnataka have been finalised. Ministry of Railways' equity participation in this company is under the process of consideration and approvals. The following projects have been identified for execution through the K-RIDE:

1. Hubli-Ankola New Line
2. Solapur-Gadag Gauge Conversion
3. Hassan-Mangalore Gauge Conversion
4. Guntkal-Hospet Doubling

Timeframe for completion of each of the project will depend upon the project development and mobilisation of resources by K-RIDE.

Railway Facility to Passengers of NCR Region

1893. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any plan to provide railway facilities to the passengers of NCR region to reduce the load of population on Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any ring railway connecting Agra-H. Nizamuddin Intercity Express in the morning at H. Nizamuddin Railway Station to take the passengers to New Delhi Railway Station;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Paschim Express which runs between Mumbai Central to Amritsar takes more than three hours from Mathura Jn. to New Delhi Railway Station;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the punctuality and functioning in running of trains and to provide more trains on Agra-Mathura-New Delhi Route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Capital Region Planning Board, under Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has made a plan to develop commuter travel within Delhi and NCR. Ministry of Railway has agreed in principle to share 1/3rd of the cost of scheme. In the first phase following three corridors have been identified:—

(i) Shahdara-Sahibabad-Ghaziabad

(ii) Minto Bridge-Tilak Bridge-Sahibabad

(iii) Dayabasti (Patel Nagar)-Bijwasan-Gurgaon

(c) and (d) No ring railway train connects Agra-Nizamuddin Intercity Express towards New Delhi. But GDP-I Palwal-Ghaziabad EMU connects the Intercity Express at Nizamuddin for going towards New Delhi.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Due to operational reasons.

(g) Punctuality of trains in general and on the Agra-Mathura-New Delhi route in particular is intensively monitored at the Divisional, Zonal and Railway Board level round the clock. Owing to over saturated line capacity utilization on the Agra-Delhi route and terminal constraints in the New Delhi area for maintenance of trains introduction of new trains gets restricted. However, this is a continuous process subject to operational feasibility resource availability and traffic justifications.

[Translation]

Completion of Manmad-Dhule Rail Line

1894. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Manmad-Dhule-Nardana rail line;

(b) the funds provided therefor during the current financial year;

(c) the extent of work completed as on October 31, 2001; and

(d) the time by which the remaining work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Survey for construction of new line from Manmad-Malegaon-Dhule and Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur has been conducted. In view of the unremunerative nature of the project and constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Preservation of Ajanta and Ellora Caves

1895. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any concrete scheme for the preservation of Ajanta and Ellora so as to attract more foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that some important murals of the Ajanta caves are constantly fading away;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard along with the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The process of preservation and conservation of Ajanta and Ellora caves by the Archaeological Survey of India is done on a continuous basis. Under a programme funded by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) now called the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC), the items of works indicated in the enclosed statement have been completed.

(c) to (e) The Ajanta murals have been executed in the tempera style using mainly earth colours with binding medium on a mud plaster base. While there is no fading of murals, the effect of suspended particulate matter and other accretionary deposit makes the appearance slightly dull. In order to preserve the murals, the visitors' entry is controlled and flash light is not permitted for photography inside the caves.

The expenditure incurred on structural conservation and chemical preservation of Ajanta and Ellora caves in the last three years is given as under:

Year	Ajanta	Ellora
1998-1999	Rs 42,28,731/-	Rs. 36,88,173/-
1999-2000	Rs. 20,77,462/-	Rs. 10,75,448/-
2000-2001	Rs. 14,42,095/-	Rs. 6,85,622/-

Statement

Ajanga Caves

1. Widening of pathway between booking office to cave No. 1 & providing safety barricades.

2. All drain works required for surface water management.

Ellora Caves

3. Retaining wall with barricades from cave No. 5 to 15.

[English]

Modernisation of Shipyards

1896. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise and upgrade some shipyards;

(b) if so, the shipyards identified for modernisation and upgradation during the Ninth Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There are three Shipyards, namely, Mazagon Dock Ltd. at Mumbai, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. at Kolkata and Goa Shipyard Ltd. at Goa, under the Ministry of Defence. These Shipyards, being companies registered under the Companies Act, raise their own resources for modernisation/upgradation.

Modernisation and upgradation of shipbuilding and ship-repair facilities of the Defence Shipyards is an on-going process and is done on a need based basis for production of warships and to absorb higher technologies as per requirements. Modernisation has taken place in civil works, machine capacities, information technology, computer aided design/computer aided machining capabilities, welding technology, managerial and technical skills, etc. Further, adoption of modular techniques for pre-outfitting, acquisition of modern and higher capacity material handling equipment, development and renovation of slip-ways, etc. are also planned and are being executed in a phased manner.

During the IX Plan period the three Shipyards have invested approximately Rs. 60 crore, in modernisation.

Release of LPG Connections

1897. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies propose to release 1.3 crore LPG connections during the current year;

(b) if so, the number of LPG connections released as on September 30, 2001;

(c) whether the target is likely to be achieved by the year end; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) A target of release of 1.3 crore new LPG (domestic) connections throughout the country during the current calendar year has been fixed up by the Government. Against this target, about 48 lakh connections have been released during the period January-September, 2001.

The achievement of the target of release of 1.3 crore LPG (domestic) connections is linked to the demand from the customers in the various markets as the connections are available on demand in all the existing markets.

Manufacturing of 770 Barrels for T-72 Tanks

1898. SHRI RAGHUNAGH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG in their Report No. 7 of 2000 have stated that the 770 barrels manufactured for T-72 tanks costing Rs. 67.73 cr. deviated from critical heat treatment schedule without consulting the original designer resulting in manufacture of defective barrels;

(b) whether 454 barrels valuing Rs. 44 cr. were still held in stock and the remaining 305 barrels fitted in the

tanks were under process of investigation as on June 1999;

(c) whether the quality assurance establishment had passed these barrels despite tampering at reduced temperature;

(d) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into for deviation of heat treatment causing loss of crores of rupees and failure of DGQA establishments not doing their job properly commented upon adversely a number of times by the CAG in their reports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) CAG in its report No. 7 on 2000 (Defence Services) has mentioned about the deviation from manufacturing techniques (from critical heat treatment schedule) without consulting the original designer resulting in defective manufacture of Barrels manufactured for T-72 tanks. The contention of the CAG report has not been accepted as indigenous manufacture of 125 mm gun barrles for T-72 tanks has been established in Ordnance Factories in accordance with the technology regime of the collaborators (erstwhile Soviet Union) and under the supervision of specialists of the collaborators. The deviations in the critical heat treatment schedule were made in consultation and with the approval of the collaborators and the same recorded in the form of a Protocol between Ordnance Factory Board and Collaborators. The DGQA establishment had accepted these barrels with the deviated heat treatment schedule as the same was approved by the collaborator as mentioned above. Therefore there was no lapse on part of the DGQA establishment in their functioning.

2. Consequent upon failure of some of the barrels, investigations were taken up in association with the Russian specialists which is being further pursued by constituting an Expert Committee comprising of Specialists from Director General Quality Assurance, Defence Research & Development Organisation, Ordnance Factory Board and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd. which is continuing intensive studies. Consequently, improvement in quality of barrels has since been achieved after introduction of improved manufacturing process and metallurgical composition Measures for salvaging 559 barrels and not 759 barrels (manufactured with deviated heat treatment process) withdrawn from active usage are also being studied.

Rural Electrification Corporation

1899. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether REC had sanctioned one hundred crore of rupees in favour of Gujarat State Electricity Board for restoration of electricity;

(b) if so, whether it is an outright grant or loan and the purpose for which the amount was spent;

(c) if so, the period of repayment of loan and the interest accrued thereon;

(d) whether REC has sanctioned loan to Orissa or GRIDCO after the super cyclone in Orissa in October, 1999 for the restoration of electricity in the affected area; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) had sanctioned an adhoc financial assistance of Rs. 100 crores to Gujarat Electricity Board for restoration of damaged electrical distribution system in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Gujarat.

(c) Gujarat Electricity Boards has opted for repayment of loan in 15 months at the interest of 12.5%.

(d) and (e) Orissa Government or GRIDCO have not sought any loan from REC for restoration of power supply in villages affected by super cyclone in the State.

Inclusion of Cities in World Heritage List

1900. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evaluated any of the Indian cities in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh or other States for purposes of seeking their inclusion in the World Heritage List, as per norms laid down by the UNESCO;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Government of India has not evaluated any of the Indian cities in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh or other States for purpose of their inclusion in the World Heritage List of UNESCO.

Achievements of PSUs

1901. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the details of achievements of Public Sector Oil Companies during the last two years, company-wise;

(b) whether Public Sector Oil Companies have contributed highest dividend to the national exchequer during the said period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Details of achievements, company-wise, in terms of turnover, profit after tax and dividend paid during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-01 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the company	1999-2000			2000-2001		
	Turnover	Net Profit	Dividend Paid	Turnover	Net Profit	Dividend Paid
ONGC	2009357	362947	92685	2364032	522878	156853
IOC	9569917	244340	58401	11823812	272033	73974
GAIL	771017	86127	25370	919745	112617	33826
HPCL	3383087	105741	28498	4856684	108801	33933
BPCL	3338468	70163	18750	4593207	83266	22500
OIL	184250	40979	10700	197568	46736	14267
EIL	44414	13023	3555	97282	12568	3763
CPCL	552069	14314	4413	713262	12243	3705
KRL	576833	23521	11443	713575	10946	2902
IBP	662974	4171	1019	861981	5422	2215
NRL	-	-	-	82220	2160	*
BRPL	129152	3224	967	125530	-5744	-
Biecco Lawrie	7705	18	-	6348	-867	-
Balmer Lawrie	69396	1432	407	74418	601	244

*Union of India does not have share holding in RNL.

Taking Over of Monuments by ASI

1902. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have added any new Monuments/Sites/Temples to the declared National Monuments after 1997;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware that lot of requests to protect Monuments/Temples/Sites of historical importance received by the ASI every year have not been properly attended to by the concerned ASI official; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, as per the enclosed statement.

(c) There are 3606 monuments/sites already protected by the Central Government. As per Section IV (i) of the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, proposals received for protection would have to be monuments/sites which are more than a hundred years old and which have exceptional architectural, historical and artistic importance.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Monuments/Sites/Temples declared as of National Importance after 1997

Sl.No.	Name of Monument/site/temple	Locality/District/State	Year of Protection
1.	Mazar of Shaikh Muhammad Ibrahim Zauq	Chinnord Basti (Kadam Sherif), Nabi Karim, Paharganj, Delhi	2000
2.	Ancient Site & Buddhist Stupa	Sanghol, District Fatehagarh Sahib, Punjab	1998
3.	Sri Apathsahayeswara Temple and Gateway with Horses	Senthamangalam, Ulundurpet Taluk, Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu	2000
4.	Suvaraneswara Temple	Halshi, Khanapur Taluk, Belgaum Distt., Karnataka	2000
5.	Ramalingeswara Temple	Halshi, Khanapur Taluk, Belgaum Distt., Karnataka	2000
6.	Bhu-Varalia Temple	Halshi, Khanapur Taluk, Belgaum Distt., Karnataka	2000
7.	Kalmeswara Temple	Halshi, Khanapur Taluk, Belgaum Distt., Karnataka	2000
8.	Kushana Stupa known as Jarasandh Ka Qila	Karnal District, Haryana	1998
9.	Ancient Site at Lothal	District Ahmedabad, Gujarat	1999
10.	Tomb of Mohammad Khan Bangash Nawab	District Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh	1999

Production of 5.56 mm INSAS Rifles

1903. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ordnance Factories have developed 5.56 mm INSAS Rifle, which is superior to A.K. series weapon both in respect of accuracy and lethality;

(b) if so, the reasons which prompted the Government to invite global tenders to import A.K. Rifles at the enhanced scale;

(c) whether the Ordnance factories are in a position for large scale production of the INSAS rifles to meet the demand of security forces engaged in activities in N.E. region and Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken for their large scale production?

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

(b) Proposal for import of AK-47 rifle was initiated in 1993 prior to commencement of regular supply of 5.56 mm INSAS by the Ordnance Factories. The import fructified in 1995. Subsequent procurement of 3600 Under Barrel Grenade Launcher system was done with compatible AK-47 rifles. No separate global tenders for procurement of AK-47 rifles have been floated since 1995.

(c) and (d) Ordnance Factories are supplying 5.56 mm INSAS Rifle to the services and Para Military Forces as per their requirement.

(e) Does not arise.

Measurement of Viewership of DD

1904. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of proper research is one of the reasons for losing advertisement revenue to the private channels;

(b) if so, the details of system adopted by Doordarshan to measure viewership at present;

(c) whether Shunu Sen Committee had made recommendations on the system to be adopted for research;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati has intimated that revenue of Doordarshan has increased in the last two years.

(b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that presently they have started a monthly field survey of the viewers' response on the programmes of Doordarshan. The findings of these field surveys are provided to advertisers and producers of sponsored programmes and also discussed in the Programme Review and Planning meetings.

(c) to (e) The main thrust of the Shunu Sen Committee Report in this regard was that market research should be used to determine the size and composition of the audience. This is important as advertising decisions are based on such information.

Gauge Conversion of Tirupati-Katpadi-Pakala Rail Line

1905. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for early completion of gauge conversion of Tirupati-Katpadi-Pakala rail line;

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

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

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

(b) Additional funds have been proposed to be allocated to the work for expediting the progress.

(c) It is expected to be completed in the year 2002-2003.

Solar Energy Plants in North-Eastern States

1906. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up solar energy projects in North-Eastern States including Sikkim State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry has laid special emphasis on implementation of solar energy programmes in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim by providing higher level of central financial assistance. The projects sanctioned in recent years include:

Arunachal Pradesh: Installation of 3 Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) power plants of 9.2 kWp aggregate capacity.

Assam: Solar electrification of 36 villages in Cachar district, installation of 400 solar home lighting systems in the households of Bodo tribal weaver families in Sonitpur district, 3 SPV power plants of 4.5 kWp aggregate capacity and installation of solar water heating systems in the Indian Institute of Technology and the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati.

Meghalaya: Solar electrification of 14 tribal villages.

Mizoram: Installation of 4 SPV power plants each of 25 kWp capacity at Aizawl, Sethwan and Zuangtui.

Nagaland: Installation of 9 solar water heating systems of capacity 300 litres each at different places in the State.

Tripura: Installation of 3 nos. of Solar water heaters at Kabirajtola and Vivek Nagar.

In addition, under the Solar Photovoltaics Programme for 2001-02, targets have been allocated and central financial assistance (CFA) released to a few North-Eastern States (Statement).

(c) Most of the above projects have been sanctioned during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and are in different stages of implementation. The power plant projects have been given time from 12-18 months for completion from the date of sanctioning. The targets allocated under the solar Photovoltaic Programme 2001-2002 are required to be installed/distributed by 31st March, 2002.

Statement

Targets allocated to various North-Eastern States under Solar Photovoltaic Programme 2001-2002

S.No.	State	Agency	Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	Home Lighting Systems (Nos.)	Street Lighting Systems (Nos.)	Estimated CFA (Rs in lakhs)	Advance CFA Released (Rs in lakhs)
1.	Meghalaya	MNREDA	500	200	—	35.90	—
2.	Mizoram	ZEDA	1,000	100	—	41.20	19.95
3.	Sikkim	SREDA	300	100	—	19.50	10.00
4.	Tripura	TREDA	3,200	600	300	220.40	112.40
		Total	5,00	1,000	300	317.00	142.35

CFA: Central Financial Assistance.

Expert Team by PGCI for Collapse of Tower in Kolar District of Karnataka

1907. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., has decided to constitute an experts' team to find out the exact reasons for the collapse of the 100-feet towers, under construction in Kolar District of Karnataka, which claimed seven lives on 24th August, 2001;

(b) if so, the outcome of the inquiry;

(c) whether the experts have submitted their report to the Karnataka Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) An accident occurred on 23.8.2001 during erection of tower near Kolar sub-station on Kolar-Arakkonam 400 KV S/C Transmission line in Karnataka, which resulted in collapse of the tower and loss of life of seven workers of the contractor, M/s. Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd. POWERGRID constituted an Enquiry Committee on 24.8.2001 to inquire into the accident. The Enquiry Committee has submitted its report to the management of POWERGRID. The Committee has opined that the accident was basically caused due to the tower not being erected by adopting proper sequence of erection by the workers of the contractor on 22.8.2001, as the workers were eager to complete the job quickly, so as to be able to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

The Committee has observed that the contracting agency, by not giving proper training regarding safe practices and its importance and by not providing effective supervision failed to prevent the accident and is mainly responsible for the accident. POWERGRID has been advised to take special care to provide all assistance and compensation to the affected families and to tighten up the supervision of the contractors so that such accidents do not recur.

[Translation]

Theft of Railway property

1908. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made to check theft of railway property in Barauni and Garhara in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) In order to check theft of Railway Property including booked consignments, the following preventive measures are being taken:-

1. Intensive patrolling in yards and other vulnerable areas/sections.
2. Conducting raids on the dens of criminals and receivers of stolen Railway Property in order to bring them to book.
3. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in vulnerable sections as far as possible.
4. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the conditions of wagons/seals carrying consignments vulnerable to theft etc.
5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down criminals.
6. Dog Squads are deployed for patrolling in yards and vulnerable areas as per their availability.
7. Close co-ordination between the RPF, the GRP and the Local Police is maintained at various levels to deal with criminal and receivers of stolen Railway property.
8. Activities of suspected staff are closely monitored and black sheeps are weeded out.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Investment by IOCL in Karnataka

1909. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited has chalked out ambitious plans to enhance infrastructure and supply network in the State of Karnataka through investments to the tune of over Rs. 275 crore over the next two years;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is likely to help to meet the fuel shortage in Gulbarga, Belgaum, Bellary and Hassan districts in Karnataka;

(c) the details of plan being prepared by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited;

(d) whether this plan is going to help the Karnataka State; and

(e) if so, the extent to which it is likely to benefit the people of this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has already made an ambitious plan to the tune of Rs. 135 crores (excluding Bellary) to enhance POL infrastructure and supply network in the State of Karnataka.

Development of petroleum storage facilities in Karnataka State particularly in Gulbarga, Belgaum & Hassan Districts will enhance storage capacity of petroleum products in these locations. In addition, construction of two new LPG Bottling plants in Shimoga and Mandya will enhance availability of LPG in the State of Karnataka and particularly in and around Shimoga and Mandya.

(c) In the State of Karnataka following projects are under construction by IOCL to enhance infrastructure to handle petroleum products:

S.No.	Location	Project
1.	Gulbarga	Resitement of Gulbarga Depot with 8911 KL Tankage and Allied facilities.
2.	Belgaum	Resitement of Belgaum Depot with 14210 KL Tankage and Allied facilities.
3.	Hassan	Construction of new pipeline terminal on Mangalore-Hassan-Bangalore Pipeline with 15775 KL and Allied facilities.
4.	Shimoga	Construction of new Bottling plant of 44 TMTPA capacity.
5.	Mandya	Construction of new Bottling plant of 22 TMTPA capacity.

(d) and (e) The development of petroleum storage and LPG bottling facilities in the State will ensure sustained availability of petroleum products at various distribution centres in the State of Karnataka. The effective and sustained availability of petroleum products and LPG in the State of Karnataka will benefit the people of State by meeting their requirement of petroleum products without any problem.

Construction of Over Bridges at Tiruvellur

1910. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has any plan to construct road over bridge at Tiruvellur (LC-18) during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken for construction of the said bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) A Road Over Bridge (ROB) on cost sharing basis at Tiruvellur (LC-18) was sanctioned in the year 1999-2000. The cost of ROB is Rs. 11.36 Cr. with Railway's share as Rs. 5.69 Cr. The progress of works in Railway portion is 40%. The State Government is yet to start work on approaches.

Contingency Plan by IAF

1911. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Armed Forces, especially the IAF have chalked out various contingency plans in view of the prevailing global scenario after the terrorist strikes in the US and the consequent American retaliation against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the precautionary measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Air Defence plan of the Indian Air Force has been reviewed after terrorist attack in USA on 11th September, 2001. Its operational preparedness and security measures have been enhanced. However, the details can not be divulged, keeping in view the national security.

Assistance to Academies

1912. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide sufficient funds to run various academies under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of such assistance provided to each academies during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any audit objections to those funds utilised by the academies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) A statement is attached on the funds provided to the Academies which is done keeping in view their requirements and budgetary allocation to the Department.

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Funds provided to the Academies by the Government for the last three years and budget provision for the current year

Name of the Akademi	Year	Funds provided under Plan (Rupees in lakhs)	Funds provided under non-plan (Rupees in lakhs)
Sangeet Natak	1998-99	358.51	250.73
Akademi	1999-00	440.00	364.73
	2000-01	520.00	391.00
	2001-02*	520.00	410.00
Sahitya Akademi	1998-99	462.50	204.00
	1999-00	398.20	208.07
	2000-01	415.00	250.10
	2001-02*	415.00	274.00
Lalit Kala Akademi	1998-99	199.00	173.00
	1999-00	165.00	156.00
	2000-01	250.00	200.00
	2001-02*	250.00	222.00

*For the current year, the amount indicated is the budget allocation.

Posts Reserved for Physically Handicapped Persons

1913. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved and lying vacant for disabled/physically handicapped persons in his Ministry and departments under his Ministry, during the last three years, year-wise/post-wise/category-wise;

(b) the number of persons of the said categories have been given employment on such posts; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details are given as under:

Year : 1998

Sl. No.	Post	Group	No. of Posts								
			Identified			In position			Vacant		
			VH	HH	OH	VH	HH	OH	VH	HH	OH
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	PA	B	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
2.	LDC	C	1	1	2	—	—	2	1	1	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3.	Steno D	C	2	—	2	—	—	3	2	—	+1
4.	UDC	C	—	2	2	—	—	4	—	2	+2
5.	Gp.D	D	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
6.	Asst. Director	A	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1

Year : 1999

Sl. No.	Post	Group	No. of Posts								
			Identified			In position			Vacant		
			VH	HH	OH	VH	HH	OH	VH	HH	OH
1.	PA	B	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
2.	LDC	C	1	1	2	—	—	2	1	1	—
3.	Steno D	C	2	—	2	—	—	3	2	—	+1
4.	UDC	C	—	2	2	—	—	4	—	2	+2
5.	Gp.D	D	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
6.	Asst. Director	A	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1

Year : 2000

Sl. No.	Post	Group	No. of Posts								
			Identified			In position			Vacant		
			VH	HH	OH	VH	HH	OH	VH	HH	OH
1.	PA	B	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
2.	LDC	C	1	1	2	—	—	1	1	1	1
3.	Steno D	C	2	—	2	—	—	2	2	—	—
4.	UDC	C	—	2	2	—	—	5	—	2	+3
5.	Gp.D	D	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	1
6.	Asst. Director	A	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1

(c) Necessary initiatives have been taken by the Ministry for filling up the above vacancies. Department of Personnel and Training, Staff Selection Commission and Union Public Service Commission have been requested to nominate suitable candidates in this regard.

Backlog of SCs/STs/OBCs Vacancies

1914. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs' are required to be treated as a 'separate and distinct group' as provided under Article 16 (4) B of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in a year;

(b) if so, the 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' ascertained as per para 5 of the DoPT OM No. 36012/12/96-Estt. (Res) dated 2nd July, 1997 in respect of SCs, STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C and D categories of services as on 29th August, 1997 in the Ministry of Defence when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the such carried forward vacancies filled during each of the last four years and those which remain unfilled; and

(d) the fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per 'post based rosters'?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

High Speed Corridor between Bangalore-Hyderabad and Bangalore-Chennai

1915. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to develop high speed rail transport corridors between Bangalore-Hyderabad and Bangalore-Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funding pattern?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Activities of Pakistani Spy Planes

1916. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing activities of Pakistani spy planes near border areas in Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan, as reported in *Hindustan* (Hindi daily) dated November 14, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No such activities, as reported in the said news item, have come to notice.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Re-Introduction of Imported Coaches

1917. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Imported coaches ready to hit the track" appearing in the *Hindu* dated November 12, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the imported coaches were withdrawn earlier by the Government;

(c) whether the certificate from the Commissioner of Railway Safety has been obtained for running of these coaches; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The rake of imported coaches was withdrawn temporarily due to teething troubles associated with the new design of Centre Buffer Coupler used on these coaches. This problem has since been studied in detail along with manufacturer and necessary modifications have been done.

(c) and (d) The certificate of the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) for running these coaches was obtained prior to their introduction in May 2001. However,

as a measure of abundant precaution, the permission of the CRS is being obtained again prior to re-introduction of these new type of coaches. Necessary formalities for satisfying the CRS for issue of sanction for re-introduction are in process. The sanction is expected to be available shortly.

Ban on PTV

1918. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to ban Pakistan Television Broadcasting in the country; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Generation of Power in the Country

1919. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the material being used as fuel for generation of power in the country;

(b) the generation capacity of the power projects under construction, based on each of such fuel material;

(c) the estimated maximum and minimum cost of power generation under each category of the said power project; and

(d) the estimated cost of each category of power project under construction, at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The material being used as fuel for generation of power in the country are broadly classified as coal (including lignite), Gas and Liquid Fuel.

Hydroelectric power projects utilize available water for power generation and do not need fuel for power generation.

(b) The fuel wise generation capacity of the projects under construction during the remaining period of the 9th Plan and the 10th Plan is given as Under:

Type of Fuel	Capacity under construction in the remaining period of the 9th Plan (MW)	Capacity under construction for 10th Plan (MW)
Coal (including Lignite)	710	5440.00
Gas	397.7	1861.105
Liquid Fuel	106	118.632

(c) Levelised tariff is taken as the cost of power generation under each category of thermal power projects. The levelised tariffs are based on Government of India norms considering 68.5% PLF, 12% discount rate, tentative financial packages submitted by the promoters/ project authorities (at the time of TEC) and the exchange rate prevailing at the time of TEC. The maximum and minimum levelised tariffs in regard to each category of thermal power projects based on different fuel materials are furnished as follows:

Fuel	Maximum levelised tariff (Rs./Kwh)	Minimum levelised tariff (Rs./Kwh)
Coal	3.46	1.63
Gas	3.06	1.88
Liquid Fuel	3.99	2.43

(d) The average estimated cost per MW of coal based, gas based and liquid fuel based thermal power projects presently under construction is in the following range:—

Coal based projects	Rs. 2.92 crore to 5.35 crore
Gas	Rs. 3.26 crore to 4.54 crore
Liquid Fuel	Rs. 3.16 crore to 3.80 crore

Hydro Electricity Generation in H.P. and Uttaranchal

1920. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make efforts to tap the vast potential of hydro electricity generation in the country including Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal propose to create Power Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government to give incentives to the States having vast potential for generating hydro electricity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI METHA): (a) to (c) The country is endowed with an economically exploitable viable hydro potential assessed at 148700 MW in terms of installed capacity. However, only 16.6% of this potential has been exploited, 6.3% is under various stages of development and 2.73% has been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). A substantial part of the hydroelectric potential is located in Himachal Pradesh (18820 MW) and Uttaranchal (1700 MW).

Government of India is according high priority for development of hydroelectric projects in the country. Joint efforts have been made with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh to execute Tehri Hydro electric Project in Uttaranchal (2400 MW) and Nathpa Jhakri Project in Himachal Pradesh (1500 MW). Government of India has so far tentatively identified hydroelectric projects of 16,338 MW for benefits in the X Plan and 25,254 MW for benefits in the country in the XI Plan. The capacity addition identified for benefits in these Plans would, however, depend on obtaining statutory clearances and tying-up of necessary funds.

The budgetary support for hydroelectric projects under central sector has been substantially increased from Rs. 1265 crores to Rs. 2082 crores over the last four years. Government of India is also providing assistance to the State Sector projects through loans from Power Finance Corporation. A special Accelerated Power Development Programme has been launched for Renovation, Modernisation and Uprating activities of hydro stations.

Government of India has recently introduced 3-stage development of hydroelectric projects under Central Sector with a view to reducing time and cost overrun in implementing the hydroelectric projects. The Central Electricity Authority has also completed a preliminary ranking of all the potential hydro sites in all river basins of the country based on technical and non-technical parameters.

The Policy of Hydro Power Development announced by the Government of India in August, 1998 provides for the establishment of National Power Development Fund. On a petition filed by NHPC for levy of a surcharge on energy available at bus bar on the electricity generated from its generating stations, CERC has allowed NHPC to levy development surcharge at the rate of 5% of the billing amount (capacity and energy charges) to be used for development of hydro power in the Region.

[English]

Rationalisation of Customer base LPG Distributorship

1921. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that new LPG distributors are suffering from inadequate customer base whereas the oil distributors are having too many customers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to rationalize the customer base of distributors of various Oil Companies within the same area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are under instructions to carry out restructuring of different markets on the basis of the viability norms for different markets and to provide complaint free & efficient service to the customers as per their requirements.

Funds for Missiles Programme

1922. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Funds for Trishul, Akash not Utilised" appearing in the *Statesman* dated August, 26, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the funds kept for Akash and Trishul surface to air missiles, being developed by DRDO, has not been spent;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to utilise the funds and to ensure that there is no lapse in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Both these projects have encountered certain technology development problems associated with Command Guidance and Integrated Ram Rocket Propulsion System because of which funds have not been utilized fully.

(d) All out efforts are continuing to establish the technologies by 2003 and utilise the funds.

Pending Cases of Senior Citizens

1923. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of senior citizens pending in various courts in the country;

(b) whether the Supreme Court/High Courts issued orders to take up long pending cases of senior citizens, pensioners/retried Government servants etc. on a priority basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of cases taken up for early hearing during the last one year, State-wise;

(d) whether a large number of cases are awaiting early hearing;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government for early disposal of cases of senior citizens?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Justice of India wrote to the Chief Justices of all the High Courts to identify and dispose of matters on priority basis in which persons above 65 years of age were involved.

(f) The courts are functioning under the direction of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. However, from time to time, Government is seeking information on disposal of cases of senior citizens from the High Courts.

Gauge Conversion of Miraj-Latur Rail Line

1924. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether residual work of Miraj-Latur (374 Kms) gauge conversion project has been completed;

(b) if not, the target fixed thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of long pending Miraj-Latur project and the extent of cost escalation due to inordinate delay in the execution of the project; and

(d) the details of allocation of funds, its utilization and the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (d) No target date has yet been fixed. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources. The total funds so far allocated upto 2000-01 for this work since its sanction is Rs. 105.30 cr. An outlay of Rs. 20 cr. has been provided during 2001-02.

[Translation]

Reduction in Oil Pool Deficit

1925. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has made any representation to the Ministry of Finance in regard to withdrawal of Rs 4429 crore deposited in the Public Accounts Fund in order to reduce the oil pool deficit likely to be accrued during 2001-2002;

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

(c) the time by which the amount is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Finance has been requested to allow Oil Coordination Committee (OCC) to withdraw from the Public Accounts its deposits Rs. 4,429 crores.

(c) No decision has been taken as yet.

Investment scheme of IOCL

1926. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has formulated any scheme for investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any joint venture projects are being launched in collaboration with foreign companies under this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) plans to invest in the core sector as well as the Hydrocarbon Value chain including E&P, Petro-Chemicals, LNG/Gas and Power. During the Ninth Plan, the likely project expenditure for the IOC is Rs. 12,977/- crore. A list of the major projects is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) to (e) The details of Joint Venture Projects of the IOC launched in collaboration with foreign companies are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

List of Major Projects of the IOC

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Name of Project	Date of approval/ Approved cost	Anticipated Cost	Category
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Low Cost expansion of Barauni Refinery to 6 MMTPA	Feb'99/ 1803	1963	Capacity Augmentation
2.	Solvent Dewaxing/Deoiling at Digboi	Feb'99/ 419	419	Yield & Value addition
3.	Hydro-treatment of Coker streams at Guwahati	Feb'99/ 497	522	Quality improvement
4.	Hydrotreatment at Digboi	Feb'99/ 343	343	Quality improvement
5.	PX/PTA at Panipat	June'99/ 4228	5104	Petrochemicals
6.	Grass-root refinery in Eastern India	Aug'99/ 8312	11596	Capacity Augmentation
7.	Expansion of Panipat Refinery by 6 MMTPA	Aug'99/ 3365	4000	Capacity Augmentation
8.	Residue upgradation facility at Gujarat (including expansion of Gujarat Refinery to 18 MMTPA)	Oct'99/ 4392	4392	Yield & value addition

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Improvement of lube oil quality by Catalytic Hydro dewaxing at Haldia	July'99/ 422	360	Quality improvement
10.	Production of (LAB) Linear Alkyl Benzene at Gujarat (in principle cleared by Board)	May'2000/ 1140	1248	Petrochemicals
11.	Augmentation of Haldia-Barauni Crude PL to 7.5 MMTPA	Feb'99/ 472	290	Pipeline expansion
12.	Augmentation of SMPL system for supply of crude oil to Gujarat, Mathura and Panipat Refinery expansion	April'2000/ 1734	1724	Pipeline expansion for crude
13.	Marketing terminal for Eastern Sector Refinery & LPG facilities	Oct'99/ 790	790	Marketing terminal for evacuation/receipt

Statement-II

Joint venture projects launched by the IOC in Collaboration with foreign Companies

Sl.No.	Name of Joint Venture	Promoters	Business
1	2	3	4
1.	Petronet LNG Limited (PLL)	IOC, GAIL, ONGC and BPCL. The Board of Directors of PLL has approved the participation of Gaz de France, France, Ras Gas, Qatar, Nominee of Gujarat Government and financial institutions.	Development of LNG Terminals at Dahej Gujarat and Kochi, Kerala
2.	Indian Oil Panipat Power Consortium Limited	IOC and Marubeni Corporation, Japan	Power Project
3.	Indo Mobil Limited	IOC and Mobil Petroleum Co. Inc., USA	Importing, blending and marketing of mobil brand lubricants
4.	Avi-Oil India Limited	IOC, Balmer-Lawrie NYCO SA, France	Aviation lubricants

1	2	3	4
5.	Indian Oil Tanking Limited	IOC, IBP and Oil Tanking Gmbh, Germany	Development of infrastructure facility for storage of petroleum products.
6.	Lubrizol India Limited	IOC and Lubrizol Corporation, USA	Lube Aditives
7.	Indian Oil Petronas Limited (IPL)	IOC and Petronas, Malaysia	Setting up of LPG import facility at Haldia

[English]

Supply of Old Equipments

1927. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract concluded in March 1996 for MIG upgradation programme explicitly stipulated that armament and associated equipment would be new, unused and of current production;

(b) whether it is a fact that 2000 weapons worth Rs. 7.06 crore supplied in December, 1998 were manufactured in May, 1986 with propellant that was 11 years old;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to get these weapons replaced with new ones?

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

(b) A certain number of armament items manufactured in May, 1996 were supplied with propellant manufactured in 1988.

(c) The manufacturer had clarified that the propellant was tested by them and the quality was found to be good.

(d) The manufacturer has been asked to replace the items. Payment for these has not been made.

Lifting Ban on Hi-tech Arms

1928. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have urged the United States for lifting ban on sale of hi-tech arms;

(b) if so, the response of the United States therefor; and

(c) the other area identified for defence cooperation with U.S.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increasing Accidents on Railway Crossings

1929. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accidents are increasing on railway crossings;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the accidents;

(c) the number of over-bridges due for construction on railway crossing in Gaya Parliamentary constituency; and

(d) the time by which these bridges are likely to be constructed and made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Number of train accidents on Railway crossings in last three years has been as follows:—

Year	Manned Level Crossing	Unmanned Level Crossing	Total
1999-2000	26	67	93
2000-01	11	73	84
2001-02* (Upto October, 2001)	5	43	48

*Figures are provisional.

Train accidents at manned level crossings have decreased, whereas at unmanned level crossings these have shown an increase. Accidents at unmanned level crossing take place primarily due to negligence of road users.

(b) Following steps have been taken to check level crossing accidents:—

1. Proper Road Signs have been provided on approaches to level crossings so that road vehicle drivers become aware of the existence of a level crossing gate.

2. Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on approaches to level crossing gates so that road vehicle drivers are reminded to reduce their speed.

3. Whistle boards are also provided alongside the rail track on approach to level crossings. Train drivers are required to whistle from the whistle board till such time as the train passes the level crossing gate in order to warn road users about the approaching train. Periodic drives are launched for checking whether drivers are actually whistling from such whistle boards.

4. For improving the safety at unmanned level crossing gates prototype electronic audio-visual warning devices have been installed on a trial basis at some selected level crossing gates.

5. Road users have still not got used to the faster speeds of Mail/Express trains. A train travelling at 90 KMPH covers 25m/sec. Thus, although to the road user the train appears to be 150 meters away, in terms of time it is only 6 seconds away. This message is being conveyed to them progressively by various publicity measures.

6. To educate road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaigns are periodically launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, posters, talks on radio, newspaper advertisements and street plays.

7. Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can also help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licences, specially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles. All Chief Secretaries have been requested to co-operate in educating road users.

8. Joint Ambush Checks with civil authorities are conducted to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.

9. Level crossings having very heavy traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a planned basis.

10. In addition to interlocking of level crossing gates, telephones are also being gradually provided at all manned level crossing gates.

11. Surprise checks and night inspections are regularly conducted to check the alertness of gatemen.

(c) and (d) Level crossings having traffic density of one lakh or more TVUs (TVU-a unit obtained by multiplying the number of road vehicles with the number of trains passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) are replaced by Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges on cost sharing basis otherwise on 'deposit' terms/BOT (Build, Operate & Transfer) basis. Proposals in either case are required to be sponsored by State Government fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules. Works so sanctioned are progressing accordingly. The data regarding the above is maintained railway zone wise and not constituency wise.

Poor Quality Ammunition Production

1930. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor quality in development and manufacture of barrels of T-72 tanks, Grad Rockets and 105 M.M. anti-tank ammunition have led to rejection and idle inventory costing over Rs. 131 crore loss;

(b) if so, the reasons for malproduction;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the errant officials?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) **Development and manufacture of T-72 tank barrels:**

1. Defects in barrels manufactured for T-72 tanks have been noticed although indigenous manufacture of 125mm gun barrels for T-72 tanks has been established in Ordnance Factories in accordance with the technology regime of the collaborators (erstwhile Soviet Union) and under the supervision of specialists of the collaborators. The deviations in the critical heat treatment schedule were made in consultation and with the approval of the collaborators and the same recorded in the form of a Protocol between Ordnance Factory Board and Collaborators.

2. Consequent upon failure of some of the barrels, investigations were taken up in association with the Russian specialists which is being further pursued by constituting an Expert Committee comprising of Specialists from Director General Quality Assurance, Defence Research & Development Organisation, Ordnance Factory Board and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd. which is continuing intensive studies. Measures for salvaging 559 barrels (manufactured with deviated heat treatment process) withdrawn from active usage are also being studied.

Development and manufacture of 122 M.M. Grad Rockets

3. The design of the store developed by DRDO has been proved to be marginal and as such production had to be suspended leading to blocked inventory to the tune of Rs. 18 crores. Details have been furnished to DRDO, who have been conducting investigations and trials to make best use of the available inventory, but trials have not been conclusive.

4. An internal Board of Enquiry constituted by OFB on the blocked inventories has concluded that:—

(a) Factories had taken due care before stocking these items and avoiding any further addition to the inventory after the production was suspended.

(b) The non-utilisation of the existing inventory took place due to drastic change in qualitative requirements suddenly demanded by the Army.

Development and manufacture of 105mm FSAPDS ammunition

5. This ammunition was developed by DRDO and production was started only after successful user trials. There has been rejection beyond permissible limit due to marginal design. The blocked inventory is to the tune of Rs. 22.98 Crores, High Alloy Penetrating Project (HAPP), Trichy are exploring the possibility of utilising Aluminium alloy lots for 125mm FSAPDS to reduce the financial repercussion.

Bokaro Howrah Shatabdi Express

1931. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage occupancy in Bokaro-Howrah Express during the last one year;

(b) whether these air-conditioned trains serving elite are burden on the exchequer;

(c) if so, whether there is a plan to scrap the service and to replace by general train to help the public; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The average occupancy of Train No. 2019/2020 Howrah-Bokaro Shatabdi Express during the last 12 months period from October 2000 to September 2001 has been about 64%.

(b) Train-wise figures of expenditure, earnings and profitability are not maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Special Checking to Catch Passengers without Ticket

1932. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether special flying squads of Railways have carried out special checking to catch passengers travelling without valid tickets and those carrying goods without proper bookings;

(b) the number of passengers caught travelling without ticket or transporting goods without booking since January, 1998 till date;

(c) the measures proposed to be taken for checking ticketless travelling; and

(d) whether officers have been made accountable in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The special ticket checking squads of Railways have carried out these checks.

(b) During the regular as well as surprise checks conducted by the regular ticket checking staff as well as the special squads, a total of 615.01 lakh cases were detected involving travel without ticket, with improper ticket and carriage of unbooked luggage during the period January, 1998 to September, 2001. No separate statistics are maintained for checks conducted by the special ticket checking squads.

(c) Besides emphasising on the regular ticket checking activities, the Zonal Railways conduct checks during specific periods at nominated places which are prone to irregular travel so as to have a greater impact for curbing the problem. The Railway Magistrates and Police are also associated from time to time.

(d) The officers of Railways are involved both in actual checking as well as monitoring of ticket checking activities.

Recruitment in Armed Forces from Himachal Pradesh

1933. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that since the adoption of population as a criteria for recruitment in Armed Forces, the recruitment of youth from Himachal Pradesh in Armed Forces has come down;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested the Union Government to increase percentage of recruitment of youth from Himachal Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. The percentage of recruitment of youth in the Armed Forces has not come down after adoption of the policy of Recruitable Male Population.

(b) No, Sir. However, a request was received from the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh for raising of Himalayan Regiment. In its reply the Central Government intimated the Hon'ble Chief Minister that the quota of various States including Hill State is fixed. As a result, raising of Himalayan Regiment is not likely to improve the employment position of Himachal Pradesh or the other Hill States.

(c) Does not arise.

Agreement by Power Minister with foreign Countries

1934. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Minister has visited the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the agreements signed by him; and

(c) the amount spent on the said foreign tours along with the details of benefits accrued to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) During the year 2001 the Minister of Power visited Austria, Canada, China and Brazil in response to the invitations from these Governments.

The visit to Canada and Austria had been scheduled for the former Minister of Power Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam in 2000, but could not take place. During the visits to Austria and Canada in 2001, cooperation and potential participation from these countries for the development of hydro power projects in India was the major focus during the discussions.

In September, 2001 the Minister of Power visited China in response to the invitation of the Chinese Government and had discussions on wide ranging issues including areas of possible cooperation. The Minister also used the occasion to acquire first hand understanding of how the Chinese were developing their power sector, finding the resources for their capacity addition programme of almost 20,000 MW a year, controlled costs of new projects, managed extension of the network to the rural areas and kept T&D losses low. The Minister also visited

the Three Gorges hydro project which is the largest hydro project being developed in the world.

In October, 2001, the Minister visited Brazil at the invitation of the Brazilian Government. Private investment, power sector reforms and development of hydro power were the central focus of the discussion.

The Minister of Power visited France in May, 2001 to attend the International Energy Agency meeting and Argentina in October, 2001 to attend the meeting of the World Energy Council.

Signing of agreements were not envisaged during these visits.

The approximate expenditure incurred for these visits is Rs. 11.48 lakhs.

[English]

British Gas Acquires Enron stake in Panna-Mukta, Tapti Field

1935. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BG India (British Gas) on October 3, 2001 announced that it has struck a deal to acquire Enron's share in the off-shore Tapti Gas field, the Panna-Mukta Oil and Gas fields and an oil exploration block CB-OS/1 for 388 million;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of this deal; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government on this deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) M/s British Gas (BG), UK have informed regarding their intention to acquire Enron Oil and Gas India Ltd. (EOGIL) a foreign subsidiary of Enron, USA. EOGIL is a member of the consortium with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Reliance India Ltd. (RIL) and is the operator for Panna Mukta and Tapti Fields as also CB-OS/1, an exploration block. The proposed commercial transaction between BG and EOGIL is not final. The Government will take action in the matter in accordance with the provisions of the Production Sharing Contracts for these two discovered fields and the exploration block.

[Translation]

Availability of Constitution of India

1936. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Constitution of India was last published;

(b) whether some amendments have since been made in the Constitution, but the latest edition of the Constitution is not available to the common man; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the availability of the Constitution to common man with all amendments?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Constitution of India was last published on 1.1.2000.

(b) Yes, Sir. 22,500 copies of the diglot edition were brought out and are available with the Controller of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi for sale to the Public.

(c) The publication of a revised edition is generally considered as and when the copies of the current edition are sold out.

[English]

CNG Stations in Delhi

1937. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the areas in Delhi where CNG stations can be commissioned for motor vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which CNG stations are likely to be set up in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In addition to 87 CNG stations already set-up, Indraprastha Gas Limited plan to set up 7 more stations by March, 2002 which will be covering East, West, North & South Delhi.

Constitution of Prasar Bharati Board

1938. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology has expressed concern over the implementation of Prasar Bharati Act and Constitution of 15 member Board;

(b) if so, the reasons for not constituting the Board and the time by which it is likely to be formed;

(c) whether in the absence of a proper Board, cases of irregularities in allotment of contracts have come to notice; and

(d) if so, the details of such irregularities noticed during the last three years, till date and the action taken against them?

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

(b) The Prasar Bharati Board was constituted on 23.11.1997 and is currently functioning with a Chairman; four Part-time Members; one Executive Member and one representative of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that no irregularities have come to notice which can be attributed to non-constitution of the full-fledged Board.

Proposal from Rajasthan for Thermal Power Plants

1939. SHRI BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for setting up Thermal Power Plants in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) A proposal for setting up of Kota Thermal Power Station Unit-6 Stage-IV (1x195 MW) has been received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in June, 2001 for accord of Techno-economic clearance. The scheme could not considered for techno-economic clearance by the CEA as essential inputs such as coal linkage, availability of water and funding arrangements for execution of the project have yet not been tied up the State authorities.

Competition between AIR and TV

1940. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIR is losing ground to television because of audio-visual advantage;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remain in competition;

(c) whether any study has been done to review the programmes of AIR to make it more popular;

(d) if so, whether inadequacy in the fee structure for the AIR artistes and technicians temp talented personnel to leave the service; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to arrest the trend in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Audience Research Unit of All India Radio conducts surveys of listenership of AIR Stations and their programme from time to time. There has been no decline in overall actual Radio listening as reflected from the figures of survey conducted during the last two years. Improvement in the quality of programmes is a continuous process. It is the constant endeavour of AIR to maintain the highest professional standards with special emphasis on improving the quality of software keeping in view the competitive media environment.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

AIR Centres with FM

1941. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of All India Radio centres in the country where FM band facility has been provided;

(b) whether Government have the intention of providing FM band facility at some more AIR centres;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(d) if so, whether Jalgaon AIR centre is proposed to be included in this facility;

(e) if so, the time by which it would done; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) State-wise details of All India Radio stations with FM band facility in the country are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Location-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-I'.

(d) to (f) The expansion of FM facility is a continuous process and is taken up in a phased manner depending upon inter-se priorities, availability of funds etc. Jalgaon does not figure in the list of priority projects executed in the 9th Five Year Plan.

Statement-I

All India Radio

Existing FM Transmitters Total = 128

S. No.	Place	Power in KW	State
1	2	3	4
1.	Anantpur	6	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Kothagudam	6	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Kurnool	6	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Markapuram	6	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Nizamabad	6	Andhra Pradesh
6.	Tirupati	10	Andhra Pradesh
7.	Tirupati	3	Andhra Pradesh
8.	Warangal	10	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Hyderabad	6	Andhra Pradesh
10.	Vishakhapatnam	10	Andhra Pradesh
11.	Haflong	6	Assam
12.	Jorhat	10	Assam
13.	Nowgong	6	Assam
14.	Dhubri	6	Assam
15.	Guwahati	10	Assam
16.	Purnea	6	Bihar
17.	Sasaram	6	Bihar
18.	Patna	6	Bihar
19.	Bilaspur	6	Chattisgarh
20.	Raigarh	6	Chattisgarh
21.	Delhi	5	Delhi
22.	Delhi	10	Delhi
23.	Panaji	5	Goa
24.	Godhra	6	Gujarat
25.	Ahmedabad	10	Gujarat
26.	Surat	6	Gujarat
27.	Rajkot	10	Gujarat
28.	Hissar	6	Haryana
29.	Kurukshetra	6	Haryana
30.	Hamirpur	6	Himachal Pradesh
31.	Dharamshala	10	Himachal Pradesh
32.	Kasauli	10	Himachal Pradesh
33.	Kullu	6	Himachal Pradesh
34.	Jammu	3	Jammu & Kashmir
35.	Kathua	6	Jammu & Kashmir
36.	Poonch	6	Jammu & Kashmir
37.	Jammu	10	Jammu & Kashmir
38.	Srinagar	10	Jammu & Kashmir
39.	Chaibasa	6	Jharkhand
40.	Hazaribagh	6	Jharkhand
41.	Daltonganj	10	Jharkhand
42.	Jamshedpur	6	Jharkhand
43.	Ranchi	6	Jharkhand
44.	Bijapur	6	Karnataka
45.	Chitradurga	6	Karnataka
46.	Hospet	10	Karnataka
47.	Karwar	3	Karnataka
48.	Raichur	6	Karnataka

1	2	3	4
49.	Hassan	6	Karnataka
50.	Mercara	6	Karnataka
51.	Bangalore	10	Karnataka
52	Bangalore	10	Karnataka
53.	Cochin	6	Kerala
54.	Cannanore	6	Kerala
55.	Idukki	6	Kerala
56.	Cochin (CBS)	10	Kerala
57.	Trivandram	10	Kerala
58.	Balaghat	6	Madhya Pradesh
59.	Betul	6	Madhya Pradesh
60.	Chhindwara	6	Madhya Pradesh
61.	Guna	6	Madhya Pradesh
62.	Khandua	6	Madhya Pradesh
63.	Sagar	6	Madhya Pradesh
64.	Shahdol	6	Madhya Pradesh
65.	Shivpuri	6	Madhya Pradesh
66.	Bhopal	6	Madhya Pradesh
67.	Indore	6	Madhya Pradesh
68.	Jabalpur	10	Madhya Pradesh
69.	Mumbai	5	Maharashtra
70.	Ahmednagar	6	Maharashtra
71.	Akola	6	Maharashtra
72.	Beed	6	Maharashtra
73.	Chanderpur	6	Maharashtra
74.	Dhule	6	Maharashtra
75.	Nanded	6	Maharashtra
76.	Nasik	6	Maharashtra
77.	Osmanabad	6	Maharashtra
78.	Satara	6	Maharashtra
79.	Yavatmal	6	Maharashtra
80.	Kolhapur	6	Maharashtra
81.	Mumbai	10	Maharashtra
82.	Nagpur	6	Maharashtra
83.	Pune	6	Maharashtra
84.	Jowai	6	Meghalaya
85.	Lungleh	6	Mizoram
86.	Mokokchung	6	Nagaland
87.	Berhampur	6	Orissa
88.	Bolangir	6	Orissa
89.	Puri	3	Orissa
90.	Rourkela	6	Orissa
91.	Cuttack	6	Orissa
92.	Bhatinda	6	Punjab
93.	Patiala	6	Punjab
94.	Jalandhar	10	Punjab
95.	Alwar	6	Rajasthan
96.	Banswara	6	Rajasthan
97.	Chittorgarh	6	Rajasthan
98.	Jhalawar	6	Rajasthan
99.	Nagaur	6	Rajasthan
100.	Swaimadhopur	6	Rajasthan
101.	Churu	6	Rajasthan
102.	Jaisalmer	10	Rajasthan
103.	Mt. Abu	6	Rajasthan
104.	Jodhpur	6	Rajasthan
105.	Chennai	5	Tamil Nadu
106.	Chennai	10	Tamil Nadu
107.	Nagercoil	10	Tamil Nadu
108.	Kodaikanal	10	Tamil Nadu
109.	Coimbatore	10	Tamil Nadu
110.	Tiruchirapalli	10	Tamil Nadu
111.	Belonia	6	Tripura
112.	Kailashahar	6	Tripura

1	2	3	4
113.	Daman	3	Union Territory
114.	Karaikal	6	Union Territory
115.	Chandigarh	6	Union Territory
116.	Bareilly	6	Uttar Pradesh
117.	Faizabad	6	Uttar Pradesh
118.	Jhansi	6	Uttar Pradesh
119.	Obra	6	Uttar Pradesh
120.	Aligarh	6	Uttar Pradesh
121.	Lucknow	10	Uttar Pradesh
122.	Allahabad	10	Uttar Pradesh
123.	Mussoorie	10	Uttaranchal
124.	Calcutta	5	West Bengal
125.	Murshidabad	6	West Bengal
126.	Asansole	6	West Bengal
127.	Calcutta	10	West Bengal
128.	Siliguri	10	West Bengal

Statement-II

All India Radio

FM Projects under Implementation

(As on 23.11.01)

S.No.	Place	Power in KW	State
1	2	3	4
1.	Macherla	3	Andhra Pradesh
2	Changlang	1	Arunachal Pradesh
3	Khonsa	1	Arunachal Pradesh
4.	Saraipalli	1	Chattisgarh
5.	Vadodara	10	Gujarat
6.	Bhadarwah	6	Jammu & Kashmir
7	Rajouri	10	Jammu & Kashmir
8.	Dharwad	10	Karnataka
9.	Mangalore	10	Karnataka
10.	Mysore	10	Karnataka
11.	Manjeri	3	Kerala
12.	Calicut	10	Kerala
13.	Mandla	1	Madhya Pradesh
14.	Rajgarh	3	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Churachandpur	6	Manipur
16.	Imphal	10	Manipur
17.	Shillong	10	Meghalaya
18.	Chemphai	1	Mizoram
19.	Aijawl	6	Mizoram
20.	Phek	1	Nagaland
21.	Jaipur	6	Rajasthan
22.	Dharmapuri	10	Tamilnadu
23.	Nutan Bazar	1	Tripura
24.	Longtherai	6	Tripura
25.	Agartala	10	Tripura
26.	Kanpur	10	Uttar Pradesh
27.	Shantiniketan	3	West Bengal

[Egnlish]

IOCL Participation in Haldia Petro-Chemicals

1942. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided participation of IOCL in Haldia Petro-Chemicals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) is engaged in discussion with the Government of West Bengal and the Haldia Petrochemicals Limited (HPL) for its financial restructuring and equity participation by the IOC. In its proposal submitted to the Govt. of West Bengal on 9.10.2001, the IOC has proposed to hold 26% equity stake in the restructured HPL along with management control.

Joint Finance Commission for Hydel Power Projects

1943. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Austria are contemplating to set up a Joint Finance Commission for Hydel Power Project;

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government of Austria has expressed willingness to share its technical expertise in the development of hydro power potential in India. During the meeting of the Union Minister of Power with the Austrian Minister for Economic Affairs and Labour on 21.5.2001, it was agreed by both sides that a Joint Working Group should be set up within the framework of the Indo-Austrian Joint Economic Commission to deal specifically with issues relating to Indo-Austrian Cooperation in Energy and Power sector with the areas of cooperation to be mutually settled.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance in Power Development

1944. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign assistance received in connection with development of power sector is not being utilized properly;

(b) if so, the amount of foreign loans and assistance received and utilized during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are taking any action to ensure proper utilization of money received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Indian Power Sector receives concessional credit (loans as well as grant) through the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and bilateral donors.

Details of utilization of external assistance received for power projects in the country during the last three years are given below:

Year	Budget Estimate (Rs. Crore)	Revised Estimate (Rs. crore)	Actual Utilisation (Rs. crore)
1998-99	4397.06	4004.00	4012.09
1999-2000	3673.51	3138.58	3242.94
2000-2001	3505.00	3530.35	3550.26

Broad reasons for shortfall in utilization of external assistance include damage of plant and equipment by flash floods, delay in award of contracts, delay in supplies by contractors and performance guarantee tests, litigation problems etc.

For monitoring of externally aided ongoing projects in the Central and State sectors, a separate Project Monitoring Cell has been established in the Ministry of Power. On the basis of inputs given by this Cell on specific problem areas and impediments, periodic comprehensive reviews are held and corrective measures taken.

[English]

Electrification of Villages in Nicobar

1945. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Power Houses with 2x24 KWS each at Trinket, Little Nicobar, two more of 2x32 KWS at Pillowmillo and Kondul and two 2x128 KWS at Teressa and Chowra, two Power Houses of 3x65 KW at Champion Island and 3x256 KW at Camorta Island in the Tribal district of Nicobar were provided for in the Eighth and Ninth Plans in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the outlay and the actual expenditure likely to be incurred on each;

(c) the details of estimated cost and the time by which the administrative approval be given;

(d) the details of posts under these Schemes were created and filled up, year-wise; and

(e) the number of Power Houses are operational and DG sets have been procured, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The following power houses in the Tribal districts of Nicobar were approved during 9th Plan. The total outlay, expenditure, estimated cost and date of administrative approval in respect of these power houses are given as under:

Tribal Area	Approved DG Cap. Add. (KW) during 9th Plan	Total outlay during 9th Plan	Total Expenditure During 9th Plan	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Date of Administrative approval
Trinket	2x24	53.30	43.32	12.38	12.01.1995
Little Nicobar	2x24	52.40	43.94	12.34	12.01.1994
Pillomillo	2x32	42.70	50.22	318.75	07.08.2000
Kondul	2x32	45.20	47.64	34.594	04.08.2000
Teressa	2x128	143.50	145.08	134.18	30.07.2001
Chowra	2x128	109.50	121.49	67.691	15.06.2001
Champion Island	3x65	29.00	25.95	154.155	10.10.2000
Kamorta*	3x256	187.25	320.71	82.86	21.04.1986

*Approved during 7th Plan and sets have been installed during 8th Plan. The delay was due to late receipt of Ministry of Environment and Forests clearance.

(d) and (e) The details of posts (in numbers) created and filled are as under:

Tribal Area	7th Plan	8th Plan	9th Plan
Trinket	—	3	—
Little Nicobar	5	—	4
Pillomillo	7	—	—
Kondul	8	—	—
Teressa	26	—	—
Chowra	21	—	—
Champion Island	19	—	—
Kamorta	33	1	—

All power houses are operational except at Trinket where SPV Power Plant is operating. Procurement action for 9th Plan DG Sets is under process.

[Translation]

Unauthorised Passengers In Reserved Coaches

1946. SHRI RAM MURTI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no facility to travel without reservation in the IInd class reserved in long distance trains;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing short distance passengers without reserved tickets to travel in reserved compartments; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to prevent this tendency and the direction given to Train Ticket Examiners (TTEs) in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, there are certain sections where there is a heavy demand for travel by short-distance passengers by trains which do not have significant occupation of reserved coaches of long distance trains. To meet the demand of such passengers, the Zonal Railways have been empowered to declare certain nominated Sleeper Class coaches as unreserved on a particular section during day time to enable the passengers holding unreserved Sleeper Class tickets to travel.

(c) The Train Ticket Examiners (TTEs) are instructed to check and penalise unauthorised travel in reserved coaches. Apart from manning of reserved coaches by the ticket checking staff, intensive drives are also conducted by the Railways in association with the Police to prevent entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved compartments.

[English]

Sharing of Power of Parbati Hydro Project

1947. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Government of Rajasthan to maintain State's share of Power as per MOU dated October 20, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the sharing of power of Parbati H.E. Project by Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi is enshrined in the said MOU;

(d) if so, whether during discussion about the said project on September 16, 1998 at Chandigarh it was decided that execution of this Project is likely to be handed over to NHPC and share of States to be kept as enshrined in MOU;

(e) if so, whether HP unilaterally signed afresh MOU with NHPC on November 20, 1998 for execution of this Project but did not include share of power as mentioned in 1992 MOU;

(f) if so, whether the Government have directed the Government of HP to incorporate percentage of share of power amongst four States as enshrined in the said MOU; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (g) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) drawn amongst States of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Guajrat and National Capital Territory of Delhi on 20.10.1992 for investigation and execution of Parbati Hydro-electric Project (2051 MW) envisaged the equity contribution as under:

(i) Rajasthan	40%
(ii) Haryana	25%
(iii) Gujarat	15%
(iv) Delhi	15%
(v) Himachal Pradesh	5%

The MOU also provided that 12 per cent of energy generated from the project shall be given to Himachal Pradesh free of cost and the remaining 88 per cent of energy generated from the project shall be apportioned amongst the States, including Himachal Pradesh in the ratio of their equity participation. The MOU could not be effected as Himachal Pradesh desired its contribution vis-a-vis benefits be raised from 5% to 25% by effecting reduction in the share of other partner States.

Subsequently, Himachal Pradesh decided to execute Parbati HE Project in Central Sector project through NHPC. Accordingly a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Himachal Pradesh and NHPC on 20.11.1998 for execution of the project.

The Government of Himachal Pradesh had clarified to other States including Rajasthan that the MOU of 1992 stood automatically abrogated consequent upon a fresh MOU having been signed.

The sharing of allocated benefits from the project amongst the States/Union Territory in the Northern Region would be in keeping with the sharing formula applicable for Central Sector hydro stations.

[Translation]

Profit Earned by ONGC

1948. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation during 2000-2001;

(b) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation earned more profit during 2000-2001 than 1999-2000; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) earned Rs. 5228.78 crore as Profit After Tax during the year 2000-2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Profit After Tax earned by ONGC during the last two years was as follows:

Year	Rs. in crore
2000-2001	5228.78
1999-2000	3629.47

[English]

Outstanding Arrears of Railways

1949. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have not been able to wipe out the outstanding arrears of renewal/replacement despite borrowings through IRFC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds mobilized by the IRFC is not only being utilized for the procurement of wagons but for the coach and locomotives;

(d) if so, whether railways is utilising high cost market borrowing for sustaining loss making operations; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the railways to make radical reforms in the financial discipline in the railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) While market borrowings through Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) are used to finance acquisition of rolling stock assets only, renewal/replacement of other over-aged assets are funded from out of internal resources of Railways. On account of inadequate internal generation, renewals/replacements could not be done as per arisings, resulting in arrears.

The arrears of renewal/replacements are as follows:

• Arrears in Track renewals	17500 kms.
• Distressed Bridges	515
• Overaged Signaling gear	2188 stations
• Overaged Coaches	2513
• Overaged Wagons (Four Wheeler Units)	27105

(c) Yes, Sir. The funds mobilized by IRFC are used to finance the acquisition of wagons as well as locomotives and coaches.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The service borrowings from IRFC are used exclusively to fund acquisition of rolling stock which are revenue generating and justifiable; the funds are not being utilised for sustaining loss-making operations. Regular review of all expenditures is being carried out by Railways, keeping in view the operational needs and priorities as well as available resources.

Variation in Rate of Entertainment Tax

1950. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether there are lot of variation in the rates of entertainment tax across the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bring uniformity across the country;

(c) whether any consensus on a uniform ceiling of entertainment tax and bring the subject under the concurrent list has been arrived at with the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) With the objective of all round development of the film industry, State Governments were *inter alia* requested to consider rationalizing the rates of Entertainment Tax so that uniform structure prevails in the country. For this purpose the question of bringing the subject of cinema on the concurrent list was also taken up with the State Governments. However, no consensus was arrived at in the matter. In the 24th Conference of States and Union Territory Ministers of Information held in New Delhi on 21.01.2001, this issue was deliberated. In pursuance of the recommendations of this Conference, a Committee was set up for Development of the Entertainment Sector, to suggest the policy framework both at the Centre and in the States for realizing the potential of the Entertainment Sector. One of the issues discussed in this Committee was the question of rationalizing Entertainment Tax Rates. As a result of the deliberations in the Committee, it has been decided to recommend that all States/Union Territory administrations fix a ceiling of 60% on entertainment tax.

[Translation]

Telecast of Commissioned Serials

1951. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for telecasting and completion of commissioned serials on Doordarshan network;

(b) the details of commissioned serials approved for telecast on Doordarshan during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the details of funds sanctioned by the Government for these serials during the said period;

(d) the total number of serials completed during the aforesaid period and number of serials pending with the Doordarshan;

(e) the reasons for delay in granting sanction; and

(f) the time by which the sanction to such serials is likely to be provided?

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

[English]

Secunderabad Cantonment Area

1952. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding various problems faced by the residents of Secunderabad cantonment area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received regarding lack of civic amenities such as insufficient water supply, conservancy services, lack of proper drainage facility, poor road conditions and street lights, etc.

(c) The Secunderabad Cantonment Board has drawn a development plan to attend to all immediate civic needs in the cantonment area and the same is being implemented in phases.

Expansion of LPG Network in Orissa

1953. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had a proposal to expand existing LPG network in the Coastal districts, particularly Kendrapara for which demands have been made by various forum in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps likely to be taken in this regard during 2001-2002; and

(c) the places identified in the cyclone ravaged districts to open new LPG outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have planned to set up 43 new LPG distributorships in coastal districts of Orissa. The location-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of pending LPG distributorships in coastal districts of Orissa

Districts	Location(s)
Balasore	Baliapai, Jaleshwar, Nilagiri, Balasore, Soro
Cuttack	Banki, Baramba, Mahanga, Cuttack (4) Nischiniakolli, Athagad and Niali
Dhenkanal	Kamakshya Nagar
Ganjam	Kavisuryanagar, Buguda, Hinjili, Kodala, Sorada, Kasinagar, Polasara, Purushottampur and Ganjam
Jajpur	Sukinda, Dasarathpur, Jajpur Road (Kalinga Nagar) & Rasulpur Block
Jagatsinghpur	Kujanga, Bindi
Khurada	Bubaneshwar, Banapur
Kendrapara	Rajnagar, Mahakalpara Block, Patamundai
Puri	Konark, Pipili, Delang, Krushnaprasad Block, Puri (2) & Nimapara

Shifting of Petrol Pumps from Congested Places

1954. PROF. I.G. SANADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that existence of Petrol Pumps in a congested areas like Connaught Place, New Delhi is a safety and traffic hazard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the owners of these Petrol Pumps have represented the Government to shift their Petrol Pumps to a safer place; and

(d) if so, the action the Government propose to be take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Retail Outlets (ROs) in congested areas all over the country, including Connaught Place, are operated with valid explosive licences and meeting all mandatory requirements. Wherever, such ROs become safety/traffic hazards or when requests are received from the concerned dealers for resitement, efforts are made to resite them to other locations in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Government.

[Translation]

Accredition of Journalists

1955. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make some amendments in the rules regarding accredition of journalists by the Press Information Bureau;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of journalists accredition during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(d) whether some applications seeking accredition have been kept pending for the last one year; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

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

(c) As per Central Press Accreditation Rules, 1999, accreditation at the headquarters of the Government of India is granted by Press Information Bureau only to those representatives of news media who reside in Delhi or its periphery. This includes representatives in Delhi of newspapers being published from or media organizations having their Headquarters in other parts of the country. In States, it is for the State Governments to grant accreditation to the news media representatives stationed in their areas of jurisdiction. The number of journalists accredited by the Press Information Bureau during the last three years is as under:—

	Correspondents	Cameramen	Total
1999	1032	235	1267
2000	1077	250	1327
2001	1037	273	1310

(d) No, Sir. Available completed applications are put up in the earliest held meeting of Central Press Accreditation Committee.

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

[English]

Privatisation of Shipyards

1956. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government with regard to the privatisation of shipyards;

(b) whether the Government have privatised some specific areas in the shipyards of Goa; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government has not formulated any policy for privatization of shipyards under the Ministry of Defence.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Visit of British Defence Minister

1957. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of discussions held recently between him and British Defence Minister in Delhi;

(b) the details of agreements signed between the two countries;

(c) whether the two also discussed about the long due Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers (AJTs) deal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the views of the British Defence Minister on the terrorists activities carried out in Kashmir by Pakistan and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The Secretary of State for Defence, U.K., Mr. Geoffrey Hoon visited India on 13th November, 2001 for discussions with Raksha Mantri. The talks covered a wide range of issues of bilateral, regional and international importance. Discussions held included the subject of terrorism and the current situation in Afghanistan. The enhancement of the bilateral defence cooperation relationship between India and the UK was also discussed. In the discussion regarding the procurement of the Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) Hawk from the U.K., the Indian side had requested the U.K. Government to assure the continued supply of spares and product support for the AJT if the contract was concluded. The problems relating to supply of spares and product support for equipment presently with the Indian Armed Forces including the clearances of pending export licenses were also discussed. No agreements were signed between the two countries.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

1958. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employees died on service in his Ministry since January, 2000;

(b) the details of the next kith and kin of the deceased who have been provided employment during the said period;

(c) the details of cases pending with the M/o Defence for providing employment on compassionate ground;

(d) whether in some cases his Ministry has circulated the bio-data of deserving candidate in all Ministries/ Departments of the Government for providing employment on compassionate ground;

(e) if so, the present status of these cases; and

(f) the time by which the employment to such candidates is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Companies not Paying Dividend to their Shareholders

1959. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per his apprehension 80% profit making companies do not pay dividend to their shareholders;

(b) if so, the steps being contemplated at the Government level to enforce compliance of payment of dividend to shareholders;

(c) the names of top 50 profit earning companies which have failed to pay dividend to the shareholders for continuous three years; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) If any company fails to pay dividend after its declaration, the company and its directors can be prosecuted under section 205A and 207 of the Companies Act, 1956 by the Department of Company Affairs, when it comes to the Department's notice.

Provision of Separate Beds for HIV Patients

1960. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether special and separate beds are being made available for HIV patients in Railway Hospitals;

(b) if not, the protection the railways are likely to be taken for this;

(c) whether HIV treatments are made available in Central Railway Hospital at Kalyan near Mumbai;

(d) if so, whether 699 patients out of 1000 admitted found to have HIV positive;

(e) whether there is any awareness campaign programme for HIV-AIDS in Railways; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No discrimination is made against HIV positive persons. They are admitted in the hospital and treated like any other patients. Thus it may be mentioned that there are no special and separate beds for HIV positive patients in Railways Hospitals.

(b) Railways are taking universal aseptic precautions, scrupulous screening of blood and blood products, disposal of hospital wastes in a hygienic manner etc. Medical and para-medical staff strictly observes precautions.

(c) Kalyan hospital is a divisional hospital and as per National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) guidelines, anti-retroviral drugs are not administered in this country. However, they are treated for opportunistics infections as per the needs in conformity with NACO guidelines.

(d) No, Sir. Persons admitted in the hospitals are not tested for HIV in a routine manner and no such study was done.

(e) There is a continuous programme for building up and sustaining awareness among railway population. Railways are one of the first organisations to start such a campaign.

(f) Training programmes for medical offices, para-medicals, public, affected persons, their family members is a continuous programme and is being continued as per NACO guidelines in all Railway Zones.

Judgement Regarding Unseating of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

1961. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its latest judgement unseating of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has inter-alia listed gray areas in the Constitution of India on the appointment of a person who is not member of legislature as Minister or a Chief Minister; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to remove these drawbacks in the light of the observations made by the apex court?

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

Cases of Ex-Army Personnel

1962. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of cases of Ex-army personnel or their spouses/dependents whose pension has been suspended on various grounds, including espionage, for years on end, irrespective of the age of the recipients;

(b) the number of such cases where it continues to be suspended despite their old age and penury being suffered by them;

(c) the reasons for inaction or delay in completing certain formalities by concerned Departments, even after they have been exonerated for no fault on their part; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to monitor and keep an eye on such callous defaults and delays?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of Army Pension Regulations, if a pensioner is sentenced to imprisonment for a criminal offence, his pension is suspended from the date of his imprisonment. Action to restore the suspended pension is taken by the Competent Authority only after the individual applies for the same on release from imprisonment. The actual number of pensioners, whose pension has been suspended is not available as no separate statistics in this regard are being maintained.

Pension to War Widows

1963. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "War widow set to receive pension" appearing in the *Hindu*, Delhi dated August 25, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in granting pension to the war widows; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite granting pension to war widows of the heroes of Operation Vijay?

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

(b) The case mentioned in the said news item does not pertain to battle casualty. Her husband was killed by his colleague in altercation. Accordingly, she was granted ordinary family pension. Subsequently, she filed an appeal against the award and on review, it has been decided to grant her special family pension. Orders to this effect have already been issued.

(c) There is no case for granting pension to war widows of the heroes of 'Operation Vijay' pending with the Government except one case which is pending with the court.

Financial Powers of GMs

1964. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to enhance the financial powers of the General Managers of Zonal Railways and Production Units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delegation of powers is a continuous process and decisions to delegate powers to General Managers are taken from time to time taking into account the ground realities and specific needs of the Zonal Railways and other field offices. Major areas, where financial powers of the General Managers have been enhanced in the recent past, are indicated in the attached statement.

Statement

S.No.	Area/Item	Previous powers	Enhanced powers
1.	Sanction of Detailed Estimate	Upto Rs. 10 crores in each case.	Upto Rs. 20 crores in each case.
2.	Award of contract	Upto Rs. 7 crores in each case.	Upto Rs. 15 crores in each case.
3.	Engaging/Obtaining Consultancy Services from outside bodies	Upto Rs. 15 lakhs in each case with an annual ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs.	(a) For Consultancy Services connected with property development schemes—upto Rs. 50 lakhs in each case with an annual ceiling of Rs. 2.5 crores. (b) For other cases—upto Rs. 15 lakhs in each case with an annual ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs.
4.	To incur expenditure on works not included in the sanctioned Budget		
	(a) Machinery and Plant	Upto Rs. 5 lakhs each.	Upto Rs. 10 lakhs each.
	(b) (i) Line Capacity Works	Upto Rs. 30 lakhs each.	Upto Rs. 50 lakhs each.
	(ii) Other Works	Upto Rs. 25 lakhs each.	Upto Rs. 30 lakhs each.
	(c) Passengers Amenities Works	Upto Rs. 20 lakhs in each case.	Upto Rs. 30 lakhs in each case.
		Subjects to the Budgetary ceiling of Rs. 3 cr. in a financial year.	Subject to the Budgetary ceiling of Rs. 3 cr. in a financial year.

[Translation]

Express Train from Gaya to Howrah

1965. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce an Express train from Gaya to Howrah via Navada, Shekhpura and Kiul; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Deeksha Train

1966. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a request to run Deeksha train at least three days a week via Durg, Bhilai, Raipur, Vilaspur, Anuppur, Shahdole and Katni;

(b) whether thousands of pilgrims visiting Prayag, Kashi, Bodhgaya, Baijnathdham and other pilgrimages of Northern India are facing a lot of problems in the absence of direct rail services to these places; and

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

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

(b) and (c) At present, 5159/5160 Durg-Chhapra Sarnath Express via Bhilai, Raipur, Bilaspur, Anuppur, Shahdol, Katni, Allahabad and Varanasi are available for Allahabad (Prayag) and Varanasi (Kashi) bound passengers of Durg-Bilaspur-Shandol-Katni section. Besides, Patna-Tatanagar-Bilaspur Link Express running via Jasidih (7 kms. from Baidyanathdham) has been extended upto Durg for three days a week via Raipur-Bhilai from 2.11.2001. However, In a vast country like ours, it is not always possible to link all the important places by direct train services. The passengers desirous of travelling between the places not linked by direct services have to bear with changeover(s) enroute. Introduction of trains on Indian Railways is an ongoing process subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and traffic justification.

[English]

Removal of Encroachment in Karnataka

1967. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several unauthorised structures that has come up on the Indian Railways property in Banaswadi in Bangalore city, Karnataka were demolished by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the encroachments of the Railway land in Karnataka has been removed; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Railways to utilise these encroached lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 59 encroachments in front of Banaswadi Railway station on Yeshwantpur-Salem section of Southern Railway, were removed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Railway land which are encroached are likely to be utilised for railways' future development projects. Such gradual development of Railways is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Railway Safety Fund

1968. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the non-lapseable railway safety fund has been generated so far;

(b) whether the Railways hiked the passenger fare w.e.f. October 1, 2001 to generate funds for railway safety;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which it would contribute towards non-lapseable railway safety fund;

(e) the percentage of amount earmarked out of railway safety fund for track renewals, signal equipment, replacement of old bridges and other safety related works;

(f) the extent to which the safety of passengers would be ensured by the Railways; and

(g) the other measures being considered to finance the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) In the current financial year, the Special Railway Safety Fund is to be funded to the extent of Rs. 1400 crores. Of this Rs. 1000 crores are being made available by Ministry of Finance, for which a Supplementary Grant is being sought from the Parliament. The balance Rs. 400 crores are expected through the levy of a Safety Surcharge on passenger fare with effect from 1st October, 2001. As of now it is too early to have an exact figure of collection from the Safety Surcharge.

(b) to (d) The safety surcharge, which has been levied on railway passengers from 1st October, 2001, is a surcharge and not a fare hike. The rate of surcharge for different classes and the estimated generation for this fund is given below—

Class of travel	Rate of surcharge per passenger (in rupees)	
	Distance upto 500 km	Distance beyond 500 km
Single journey ticket		
Second (Ordinary)	1	1
Second (M/E)	2	2
Sleeper	10	20
AC Chair Car	20	40
First	20	40
AC 3-tier Sleeper	30	60
AC 2-tier Sleeper	40	80
AC First/Executive	50	100
Monthly Season Ticket (MST)		
First Class	20	Not applicable
Second class	10	Not applicable
Quarterly Season Ticket (QST)		
First class	60	Not applicable
Second class	30	Not applicable

The entire amount of the above surcharge will contribute towards the non-lapseable Railway Safety Fund. This surcharge is expected to fetch about Rs. 5000 crors over 6 fiscal years. The balance Rs. 12000 crores of the Railway Safety Fund is expected to be contributed by the Ministry of Finance.

(e) The approximate break-up of the percentage of amount earmarked for renewal of assets is as follows-

Track Renewal	45%
Bridges	10%
Signalling & Telecommunication Works	18%
Rolling Stock	20%
Safety Enhancement	7%

(f) The Special Railway Safety Fund will be used to liquidate arrears in assets renewal of important Railway equipment, which had become over-aged and prone to failure. Their replacement will result in greater safety in train operation. The Special Railway Safety Fund will also be used for other measures like track circuiting and upgradation of accident relief equipment, which are expected to ensure enhanced safety in train operation, which in turn will result in greater safety of passengers.

(g) The Special Railway Safety Fund will be funded by a Safety Surcharge on passenger fares imposed w.e.f. October 2001 and a grant from the Union Government.

[English]

Transparency in Defence Purchases

1969. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Defence Acquisition Council/Procurement Board to bring about transparency in weapon purchases;

(b) if so, the main features of each of them separately;

(c) whether the Defence Acquisition Council is functioning under the Defence procurement board, which has been constituted recently; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the Council/Board are likely to help in removing the corruption prevailing in the defence purchases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government has set up a Defence Acquisitions Council to assist the Raksha Mantri in taking decisions relating to the totality of the new planning process which, inter alia, involves according '*in principle*' approval to capital acquisitions in the long term perspective plan, according approval '*in principle*' to each capital acquisition project included in the Five Year Defence Plan, monitoring the progress of major projects, etc. The Defence Acquisitions Council is headed by the Raksha Mantri and consists of the two Raksha Rajya Mantris, the three Service Chiefs, Defence Secretary, Secretary, Defence Production & Supplies, Secretary, Defence Research & Development, Secretary, Defence (Finance), Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, Chairman, COSC (CISC) and Special Secretary (Acquisition). The decisions flowing the Defence Acquisitions Council are to be implemented by the three Boards viz. the Defence Procurement Board headed by Defence Secretary, Defence Production Board headed by Secretary (Defence Production & Supplies) and the Defence Research and Development Board headed by Secretary Defence Research and Development. The Defence Procurement Board has been entrusted with the responsibility of acquisition on capital account in the Department of Defence.

(d) The new structures will facilitate faster decision making in an integrated manner in regard to the acquisitions for the three Services and would also lead to a higher degree of transparency, probity and cost effectiveness in the Defence acquisition process.

Fall in Crude Oil Production

1970. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

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

(a) whether the crude oil production of ONGC is continuously falling;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether ONGC has been claiming targeted higher reserves, higher recovery and higher production of crude oil;

(d) if so, the extent to which ONGC claim of achieving target in the production of crude oil is correct; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of crude oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There was a marginal decline in ONGC's crude oil production during 1999-2000 as compared to the production in 1998-99. However, the decline was arrested in the year 2000-2001 as indicated below:—

Year	Oil production (in Million Metric Tonne)
1998-99	26.385
1999-2000	24.648
2000-2001	25.057

(c) The annual target of reserve accretion and of production are as per the assessed potential based on available information. However, on account of the uncertainties involved in the exercise, the actual achievements may vary from the projected estimates.

Oil recovery factor of a field is the estimated percentage of oil that can be produced from the total oil volume present therein. The recovery factor is dependent amongst other things, upon intrinsic factors such as the geology of the reservoir and type of reservoir, the drive mechanism, the petro-physical propeties and the characteristics of the oil as also other factors such as the production technologies used, the investment made and the applicable fiscal regime. While the estimated average recovery factor of normal oil, for the fields in India is currently around 28%, the oil recovery factor for Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) fields ranges from 15% to 54%.

(d) The details of actual production of crude oil viz-a-viz MOU targets during the last 3 years are as below:

	Million Metric Tonne		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
MOU target	28.100	25.800	24.600
Actual	26.385	24.648	25.057
% of achievement	93.9	95.5	101.9

It can be seen from the above the production has improved in 2000-01 over 1999-2000 and also exceeded the MOU target for 2000-01.

(e) Several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production, which include the following steps:

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

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

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

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

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

(vi) to acquire acreages abroad.

Disposal of Outdated Fighter and Passenger Aircraft

1971. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA. Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy in regard to disposal of outdated fighter and passenger aircraft of the Air Force;

(b) the number of such aircraft with Indian Air Force as on date;

(c) the number out of them crashed or damaged during the last one year;

(d) whether the Government propose to take effective steps for strengthening of the Indian Air Force by the money earned from selling of these aircrafts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The policy with regard to disposal of outdated (surplus) fighter and passenger aircrafts with Indian Air Force is that the outdated surplus aircrafts are offered for sale to friendly foreign countries. These are also gifted to educational and training institutions in the country for display/demonstration/ instructional purposes. The surplus and outdated aircrafts which cannot be disposed of or gifted are reduced to scrap and disposed of in 'as is where is' condition after retrieving all serviceable component suitable for current use.

(c) During last one year, 18 fighter aircrafts were lost in accidents.

(d) and (e) Not applicable as the amount realized by sale of scraps is meager.

Transmission Quality of DD Programmes

1972. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there serious drawbacks in the areas of transmission quality, control and presentation of programmes by Doordarshan vis-a-vis private and foreign T.V. Channel;

(b) whether the Prasar Bharati had analysed the weaknesses;

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard;

(d) whether the digital terrestrial transmissions have been set up in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which these have enhanced the quality of its transmission; and

(f) if not, the time by which these are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Technical quality of Doordarshan transmission is considered to be satisfactory But improvements in transmission quality control, programme content etc. is a continuous process. Steps have been taken to improve the presentation of programmes, using quality capsules of promos with State of the Art technology comparable to any channel. Steps have also been initiated to train the Doordarshan personnel in order to improve the quality of programme presentation.

(d) to (f) Digital Terrestrial Transmission service is being taken up at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai as a pilot project. While Delhi service is scheduled to be set up during 2001-02, the remaining three are scheduled to be commissioned during 2002-03. This will provide enhanced quality of transmission, Multichannel operation, Mobile reception, Less power requirement and superior & uniform quality reception etc.

[Translation]

LPG Connections to Consumers

1973. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil companies have issued any direction to their L.P.G. distributors to provide L.P.G. connections and subsequently service to the consumers within a 30 K.M. areas only;

(b) if so, the number of such small villages and towns which do not fall under the service area of any L.P.G. distributor of any oil company nor do they come within the said limit of 30 K.M.s of area; and

(c) whether the Government are considering on some interim arrangement for consumers of such villages/towns till the service of some permanent L.P.G. distributors is provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) At present, unviable LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are allowed to open Extension Counters upto 30 Kms. in plains and 75 Kms. in hills. To increase the supply of LPG in small towns and rural areas, OMCs have planned to set up more than 2,900 new distributorships under the Marketing Plans 1996-1998 and 1999-2000, of which more than 1,200 are exclusively rural distributorships and more than 1,400 are urban/rural distributorships.

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Haryana

1974. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies functioning in Haryana at present, location-wise; and

(b) the details of Petrol Pumps proposed to be opened in Haryana during 2001-2002, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As on 1.4.2001, there were 629 retail outlets and 203 LPG distributorships in operation in the State of Haryana.

In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 9 locations for retail outlet dealerships are included in the Marketing Plan 1999-2000.

LPG Agencies at Block Level

1975. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the details of LPG agencies to be set up in every block of the country during the next few years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have included 1,247 locations for setting up of LPG distributorships exclusively in rural areas including about 700 locations at block/tehsil/mandal level identified in Marketing Plan 1999-2000. The number of locations, State-wise, are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Locations planned under LPG Marketing Plans

Name of State/UT	LPG Distributorships
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	284
Arunachal Pradesh	8
Assam	35
Bihar	97
Chattisgarh	29
Delhi	0
Goa	12
Gujarat	60
Haryana	13
Himachal Pradesh	15
Jammu & Kashmir	3
Jharkhand	8
Karnataka	23
Kerala	86
Madhya Pradesh	42
Maharashtra	69
Manipur	5
Meghalaya	5
Mizoram	4
Nagaland	2
Orisa	22
Punjab	44
Rajasthan	43
Tamil Nadu	91
Tripura	4
Uttar Pradesh	158
Uttaranchal	13
West Bengal	64
Sikkim	0
Andaman & Nicobar	7
Chandigarh	0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
Daman & Diu	0
Lakshadweep	0
Pondicherry	1
Total	1247

[English]

Posts Reserved for Handicapped Persons

1976. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for disabled/physically handicapped persons in his Ministry and departments under his Ministry, during the last three years, year-wise/post-wise;

(b) the number of posts for disabled/physically handicapped persons lying vacant as on October 31, 2001 year-wise/post-wise;

(c) the number of disabled/physically handicapped persons given employment on such posts during the said period, year-wise/post-wise/category-wise; and

(d) the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

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

[Translation]

Clientele with LPG Dealers

1977. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies operating in the capital along with the clientele possessed by each of them;

(b) whether the employees of LPG agencies frequently visit consumers houses to check LPG stoves and charge Rs. 25 to Rs. 250 and in case of refusal, they stop supply of cylinders; and

(c) if not, the rules laid down by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As on 1.10.2001, 301 LPG distributorships of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating with a customer strength of about 33 lakh in Delhi.

(b) and (c) LPG distributors are under instructions from the OMCs to be mandatory inspection of LPG equipments at the customer's premises once in two years for purpose of safety. For this purpose, they are authorised to collect Rs. 25/- as inspection charges. OMCs have not reported any complaint of overcharging on this aspect from customers. No punitive action like stoppage of refill supplies is taken against the customers who refuse such checks.

[English]

Testing of Anthrax Virus

1978. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of Anthrax virus have been investigated in Defence Research Centres;

(b) if so, the number of such cases investigated in Defence Research Centres till now;

(c) the number of cases found positive; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to deal with such problem?

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

(b) 36 samples have been analysed at Defence Research & Development Establishment (DRDE), Gwalior. These include samples received from Delhi, Mumbai, Gwalior, Bhind, Ratlam and Chhindwara.

(c) Nil.

(d) DRDO has started conducting training courses to deal with the problem of bio-terrorism. Government has circulated general instructions on the subject to all authorities of health Deptts. of centre and State/UT Governments and hospitals. These instructions include likely method of dissemination of biological and chemical agents, incubation period, lethality, availability of vaccines, anti-microbial therapy and treatment. The other measures include conducting awareness workshops, dissemination of information through print and electronic media and reviewing the situation regularly.

[Translation]

Voting Right to NRI

1979. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NRIs have been given opportunity to exercise general rights in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proposal to give voting rights to N.R.I. has been responded favourable; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Owing to practical and administrative difficulties, the proposal for grant of voting rights to non-resident Indians has not been found feasible.

[English]

Pending Cases in High Courts

1980. SHRI K. BALARAMA KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether cases before High Courts are piling up very rapidly due to inordinate delay in the appointment of judges in High Courts;

(b) if so, the details of cases pending before various High Courts in the country for the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has any plan in this matter for the disposal of the cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof stating the target year when the old cases before the courts will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The pendency of cases in the High Courts is due to various factors including vacancies of Judges. Other factors, *inter-alia*, include increased institution of cases on account of increased awareness of rights on the part of the citizens, rise in population, granting of adjournments, industrial development in the country, increased trade and commerce, and socio-economic measures, legislative and administrative aspects touching on the life of the citizens of all levels, tendency of litigants, lawyers' strike, etc.

As on 21st November, 2001 the vacancies in High Courts are 170 including 47 new posts. The procedure for appointment of Judges of High Courts as well as transfer of a Judge, including Chief Justice from one High Court to another, has been laid down in the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998. Government has been addressing letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to make recommendations for appointment of Judges in the High Courts with a view to filling up vacancies expeditiously.

(b) Statement is enclosed.

(c) The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been requesting all the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up the vacancies of Judges in the High Courts.

Various measures have been adopted by the High Courts for expeditious disposal of cases including classification and grouping of cases, computerization of records in High Courts, identification and listing of cases covered by the decisions finally made by the Supreme Court and High Court on the same point.

(d) No time frame can be fixed for disposal of old cases as this relates to substantive function of the judiciary.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the High Court	No. of cases pending for more than three years	As on
1.	Allahabad	67,536	6/2001
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16,622	6/2001
3.	Bombay	22,457	12/2000
4.	Calcutta	16,764	3/2001
5.	Delhi	13,769	12/2000
6.	Gauhati	1,926	3/2000
7.	Gujarat	9,957	9/2001
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1,383	3/2001
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3,567	6/2001
10.	Karnataka	5,827	6/2001
11.	Kerala	45,631	6/2001
12.	Madhya Pradesh	12,404	6/2001
13.	Madras	21,924	12/2000
14.	Orissa	28,406	6/2001
15.	Patna	4,028	6/2001
16.	Punjab & Haryana	18,012	6/2001
17	Rajasthan	14,531	12/2000
18	Sikkim	16	9/2001
19	Chattisgarh	(Newly created High Court)	
20	Jharkhand	(Newly created High Court)	
21	Uttaranchal	(Newly created High Court)	
		3,04,760	

Use of I. Cards

1981. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

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

(a) whether the Election Commission propose to enforce mandatory use of Identity Cards from the next general elections in all the States;

(b) if so, whether the process of issuing Photo Identity Cards to all the citizens in the country have since been completed;

(c) if so, the facts and details in this regard stating the percentage of citizens who have been provided Photo I. Card; and

(d) the extent to which the bogus voting is likely to be checked after introducing of mandatory use of I. Card?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (d) According to the Election Commission of India, it is expected that the mandatory use of photo identity cards along with certain alternative means of identification during the next general elections, on the lines of procedure adopted during the last general elections to various Legislative Assemblies will be able to check bogus voting to a large extent.

(b) and (c) The Election Commission has informed that more than thirty-nine crore electors representing 63.5% of the eligible voters in the country (excluding Jammu and Kashmir where the scheme has not been extended) have been provided photo-identity cards. The scheme to issue photo-identity cards to electors is, however, not a project but a programme for the completion of which no time limit can be fixed as the registration of electors is a continuous and ongoing process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of electoral process) on account of more number of persons becoming eligible for the right of franchise on attaining the age of 18 years as also due to movement of electors.

[Translation]

Fast Train Facility to Raipur

1982. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide fast train facility to Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh and other prominent cities of the State such as Korba;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be provided, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) There is no such proposal at present

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Installation of HPT in Border Areas

1983. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of high power transmitters installed in the cities adjoining the Pakistan border, location-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to install more high power transmitters in the border areas with Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to give priority to the other borders areas in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) 10 High Power Transmitters are functioning in the districts adjoining Pakistan border. 15 other HPT projects are under implementation, for further strengthening of coverage. Location of the above transmitters is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir, 20 High Power Transmitters are presently functioning in other border districts of the country and 8 more High Power Transmitters projects are under implementation for further strengthening of coverage. Locations of the above transmitters are given in the enclosed statement-II. Government has also approved, in principle, a special package of schemes for expansion of TV coverage in the North East Region (including Sikkim) and Island Territories. This package is to be implemented during the 10th plan period.

Statement-I

Doordarshan HPTs in Districts Bordering Pakistan

State	District	Existing Transmitter	Projects under Implementation
Gujarat			
	Kachch	HPT	Bhuj (Pmt.)
Jammu & Kashmir			
	Baramulla		HPT GUREZ HPT GUREZ/(DD II)
	Jammu	HPT	Jammu HPT Samba
		HPT	Jammu (DD II) HPT Samba (DD II)
	Kathua	HPT	Kathua
	Kupwara		HPT Kupwara
			HPT Kupwara (DD II)
			HPT Tithwai
			HPT Ttithwai (DD II)
	Poonch	HPT	Poonch HPT Poonch (DD II) (pmt)
		HPT	Poonch (DD II) (pmt.)
	Rajouri		HPT Naushera
			HPT Naushera (DD II)
Punjab			
	Amritsar	HPT	Amristar (20 KW((int.) HPT Amritsar (DD II) HPT Amritsar (20 KW) (pmt.)
	Firozpur	HPT	Fazilka (Int.) HPT Fazilka (Pmt.)
Rajasthan			
	Barmer	HPT	Barmer (Int.) HPT Barmer (Pmt.)
	Jaisalmer	HPT	Jaisalmer

Statement-II

Doordarshan HPTs in other Border Districts

State	District	Existing Transmitter	Projects under Implementation
1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh			
	Lower Subansiri	HPI Itanagar	HPI Itanagar (DD II)

1	2	3	4
Assam			
	Cachar	HPT Silchar HPT Silchar (DD II)	
	Kamrup	HPT Guwahati HPT Guwahati (DD II)	
Manipur			
	Churachandpur	HPT Churachandpur	
Meghalaya			
	East Khasi Hills West Garo Hills	HPT Shillong HPT Tura HPT Tura (DD II)	HPT Shillong (DD II)
Mizoram			
	Aizawal Lunglai	HPT Aizawl HPT Lunglai	HPT Aizai (DD II)
Sikkim			
	East Distt	HPT Gangtok	HPT Gangtok (DD II)
Tamilnadu			
	Ramanathapuram Thanjavur	Ramanathauram HPT Kumbkonam (ind.)	HPT Kumbabonam (Pmt.)
Tripura			
	West Tripura	HPT Agartala HPT Agartala (DD II)	
Uttar Pradesh			
	Kheri		HPI Lakhimpur
West Bengal			
	Darjiling	HPT Kurseong	
	Murshidabad	HPT Murshidabad HPT Murshidabad (DD II)	
	Nadia	HPT Krishes Nagar (pmt.)	HPT Krishnagar (pmt.)
	West Dinajpur		HPT Dinajpur

Power Generation

1984. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 22 project proposals have been sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to the Union Government for approval with a view to increase power generation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accorded approval to 12 projects but 10 projects are still lying pending with the Government; and

(c) if so, the time by which these projects are likely to be accorded approval along with the reasons for their pendency till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) As on date, the status of clearance of the projects received in Central Electricity Authority from Madhya Pradesh is as under:

(i)	Techno economic clearance accorded:	16 projects
(ii)	DPRs under examination in CEA :	01 projects
(ii)	DPRs returned for want of inputs/clearance :	28 projects

The schemes which have been returned to the project authorities would be considered for accord of Techno-economic Clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority as soon as pending essential inputs/clearances are tied up by the project authorities.

Free Legal Aid

1985. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make free legal aid a fundamental right;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Introduction of Fast Train Connecting Dwarkaji, Somnath and Ahmedabad

1986. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to connect Dwarkaji and Somnath with Ahmedabad as well as Mumbai by introducing fast trains like Rajdhani express;

(b) if so, the study made in this regard;

(c) whether traffic between Ahmedabad and Dwarkaji/Somnath and Mumbai-Dwarkaji/Somnath has been increased tremendously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the Sabha.

Selection of SCs/STs/OBCs candidates

1987. SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as provided under para 11 of Explanatory Notes to DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt (Res.) dated 02.07.1997 persons belonging to SCs/STs and OBCs who are selected on merit are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies/posts reserved for their communities;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been stated in para '11' of the Explanatory note to DOP & T's O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 02.07.1997 that, while operating the roster, persons belonging to communities for whom reservation has been made, but who are appointed on merit and not owing to reservation, should not be shown against reserved points. They will occupy the unreserved points.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Excise Duty on Production of Petroleum Products

1988. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

(a) whether an Expert Technical Group of his Ministry has given its recommendations for determining the rate of excise duty payable on production of crude oil and other petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details of rates of excise duty recommended for various petroleum products;

(c) whether these rates are likely to be enforced after March, 2002; and

(d) if so, the present rates of excise duty in force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The Expert Technical Group had given its recommendations for the rates of excise duty on petroleum products. The details of the excise duty rates projected by this Group and the present rates in force are given in the enclosed statement. The excise duty rates after March 2002 have not been finalised as yet.

Statement

Item name	Duties recommended by the Expert Technical Group	Present rate of duties put in place w.e.f. 1.3.2001
High Speed Diesel	15	16*
Motor Spirit	165**	32*
Aviation Turbine Fuel	40	16
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	10	8
Kerosene (PDS)	10	8
Furnace Oil/Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (general use)	15	16
Naphtha (general use)	15	16
Bitumen/other petroleum products	15	16

*An additional duty of Re. 1 per liter is also recovered.

**Inclusive of surcharge.

[English]

Jaguar fleet

1989. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan of Air Force to equip the 32 Jaguar fleet with self protection jammer a critical electronic warfare equipment, has been jeopardized even after an expenditure of Rs. 184 crore affecting the overall operational capacity of Air Force;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed therefor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Stoppage of Super Express Trains

1990. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for allowing halt of Super Express Trains like Kurla Express, Alleppey-Bokkaro Steel City Express and Palghat-Trivendrum Amritha Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose for halt the trains at Angamaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations including one from Shri K. karunakaran, M.P. have been received for stoppage of the Express trains at Angamali.

(c) No, Sir.

District Level Lok Adalats

1991. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a district level Lok Adalats headed by retired Judges throughout the country to settle expeditiously cases particularly consumers related issues pertaining to municipalities and other oriented services; and

(b) if so, the time by which these adalats are likely to be functional?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Permanent and Continuous Lok Adalats have been set up in almost all the Districts in the country. Such Permanent and Continuous Lok Adalats are empowered to deal with all cases including consumer related pertaining to municipalities and service oriented cases for which cognizance can be taken by Lok Adalats under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Sub-section (2) of Section 19 of the said Act provides for utilization of services of retired Judicial Officers to preside over such Lok Adalats and their services are being utilized wherever feasible and considered necessary.

Tracks removed from Busy Routes

1992. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tracks removed from the busy routes and having lived their utility are recycled and laid on the routes which are not so busy;

(b) if so, whether the derailment of Delhi-Jodhpur Mandore Express in October, 2001 resulting in the death of many persons was caused due to the recycled rails;

(c) if so, the reasons for not discarding the tracks removed from the busy routes having lived their utility; and

(d) the steps being contemplated by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The released rails from busy lines are segregated into second hand serviceable rails i.e. rails still having balance life and scrap rails. The released serviceable rails are scanned ultrasonically before using them for renewal on lighter traffic routes. The Metre Gauge sections of Phulera-Degana was renewed in 1987 with second hand 90R rails manufactured in 1947 and released from Broad Gauge sections. At the time of gauge conversion the same rails were used. The cause of the derailment of Delhi-Mandore Express on October, 2001 is being inquired into by Commissioner of Railway Safety, Ministry of Civil Aviation.

SC/ST/OBC in Services

1993. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of 'posts' in Class I (Group A) category and Class II (Group B) category and equivalents therefor under his Ministry; and

(b) the number of persons belonging to General, SC and OBC categories working against them including their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The total number of posts of Class I (Group A) and Class II (Group B) categories are 34 and 95 respectively.

(b) No direct recruitment in Class I (Group A) posts is made by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. The number of percentage of persons belonging to General, SC and OBC categories in Group B posts are 68 (71.57%), 17 (17.89%) and 'Nil' respectively.

Oil Exploration in Rajasthan

1994. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

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

(a) whether oil has been found in Rajasthan recently with the help of British Oil Exploration Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which commercial production is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil has been discovered recently in two zones of the well RJ-H-1 in the block RJ-ON-90/1 in Rajasthan by the Consortium of Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd., a Scottish Company, and Shell India Production Development B.V., the Netherlands. The two zones produced oil at a rate of 620 barrels per day and 1455 barrels per day, respectively.

(c) Commencement of commercial production will depend upon the result of the ongoing appraisal of the discovery.

[Translation]

Introduction of New Train from Mumbai to Manmad

1995. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal regarding introduction of new train from Mumbai to Manmad enroute Daund-Ahmad Nagar;

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

(c) the time by which the new train is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) and (c) Examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Action Against Rail Ticket Touts

1996. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take stern action against the rail ticket touts operating at various railway stations;

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

(c) whether these touts have got the protection of the railway officers and employees due to which they operate near the Parking Spots and Reservation offices of the railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) In order to curb the activities of touts and unscrupulous elements indulging in unauthorised reservations, regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial, Vigilance and Police departments both in and around reservation offices at all important stations. These checks are intensified during the rush periods. Touts apprehended are prosecuted under relevant provisions of law. Disciplinary action is taken against any railway staff found conniving in malpractices.

(c) No, Sir.

Complaint Against Coolies

1997. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coolies at the railway stations capture the seats in stationed trains and take money from passengers by offering them the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the zone-wise number of such complaints received during the last three years and the action taken thereon along with action taken against the persons found involved in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Some such instances of capturing of seats by the 'coolies' have come to notice. The Railway-wise list of number of such complaints received during the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given in the enclosed statement.

In order to check this menace, regular checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance Departments in association with Police to prevent cornering of seats by 'coolies' and other anti-social elements. The 'coolies' found involved in this activity are punished by suspending/ terminating their licenses. In addition, passengers are advised to follow queue system for preventing cornering of seats in unreserved coaches.

Statement

The number of complaints received Railway-wise during the last three years regarding cornering of seats by coolies

Railways	Financial Year	No. of Complaints Received
1	2	3
Central	1997-1998	17
	1998-1999	04
	1999-2000	04
Eastern	1997-1998	01
	1998-1999	Nil
	1999-2000	Nil

1	2	3
Northern	1997-1998	37
	1998-1999	72
	1999-2000	40
North Eastern	1997-1998	Nil
	1998-1999	Nil
	1999-2000	01
North East Frontier	1997-1998	Nil
	1998-1999	Nil
	1999-2000	Nil
Southern	1997-1998	Nil
	1998-1999	Nil
	1999-2000	Nil
South Central	1997-1998	02
	1998-1999	Nil
	1999-2000	Nil
South Eastern	1997-1998	Nil
	1998-1999	Nil
	1999-2000	Nil
Western	1997-1998	03
	1998-1999	04
	1999-2000	03

Jurisdiction of Lok Adalats

1998. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to expand the jurisdiction of Lok Adalats and accord equal recognition like other courts to the verdicts of the these Adalats;

(b) if so, whether a committee has been set up to study all aspects in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) There is presently no proposal under consideration of the Government in this regard, as under Section 19 (5) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 the jurisdiction of Lok Adalats is very wide and extends to all matters (pre-litigative as well as litigative) except matters relating to an offence not compoundable under any law. Further, there is no need to accord equal recognition to the verdict of Lok Adalats like other courts because under Section 21 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, every order of the Lok Adalat is already deemed to be a decree of a Civil Court or as the case may be, an order of any other court.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Failure of Company to Pay Dividend to their Shareholders

1999. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that almost 80 per cent of profit making companies in the country do not pay any dividend to their shareholders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether any measures are proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that at least profit making companies pay dividend to their shareholders; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) If any company fails to pay dividend after its declaration, the company and its directors can be prosecuted under section 205A and 207 of the Companies Act, 1956 by the Department of Company Affairs, when it comes to the Department's notice.

Public Limited Companies

2000. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of public limited companies as on March 31, 2001 in the country;

(b) the number and percentage of public limited companies that have earned profit but have not paid any dividend during 2000-2001; and

(c) the number of private limited companies which suffered loss during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The total number of public limited companies in the country as on 31.3.2001 was 76,260.

(b) and (c) Such information is not maintained.

Bench of Ahmedabad High Court at Surat

2001. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to set up a Bench of Ahmedabad High Court at Surat to facilitate the people of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken in this request made by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The then Chief Minister of Gujarat had in September, 2000 conveyed that the State Government felt that a Circuit Bench of the Gujarat High Court be established. The matter was examined in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court who informed that it would not be in the interest of the Institution to have a Circuit Bench at Surat. The Chief Minister of Gujarat was informed accordingly in May, 2001. Thereafter, no proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court, for the establishment of Benche of the Gujarat High Court at Surat.

Import of Store Items

2002. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways import store items including bulbs for use in compartments;

(b) if so, the details of the items imported, country-wise and item-wise in each of the last three years, indicating the value thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to indigenise these items; and

(d) the procedure followed in purchasing tube lights and GLS bulbs for use in Railway buildings at Delhi and railway stations and the rate at which these are being procured giving reasons for not procuring them from NCCF and the Kendriya Bhandar where these items are available to below the DGS&D RC prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. Railways do not import store items like bulbs for use in coaches as these items are procurable from indigenous sources.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) Items available on DGS&D Rate Contracts are required to be procured against Rate Contract as per Government rules. Prices on Rate Contracts may some times differ from NCCF/Kendriya Bhandars due to different reasons such as specifications, inspection, delivery and payment clauses. Railways are, however, authorized to make small value purchases from NCCF and Kendriya Bhandars.

The tube lights and GLS Bulbs for use in Railway Buildings at Delhi and Railway Stations are purchased through DGS&D Rate Contracts at the following rate per unit (for the year 2001):—

(i) Tube Lights 40 Watts - Rs. 34.11 + Sales Tax

(ii) Tube Lights 36 Watts - Rs. 32.81 + Sales Tax

(iii) GLS Lamps 60 Watts - Rs. 7.10 + Sales Tax

(iv) GLS Lamps 100 Watts - Rs. 7.31 + Sales Tax

As per extant policy of the Government, these items are to be procured by operating DGS&D Rate Contract. All stores procured against DGS&D Rate contract undergo inspection by Directorate of Inspection before delivery.

Ongoing Hydro Power Projects in North East States

2003. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going hydro power projects in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim;

(b) the amount spent so far on these projects;

(c) whether these projects are expected to be commissioned as per scheduled time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) A statement showing the details like installed capacity, implementing agencies, cost estimates, amount spent and the commissioning schedule, etc. of the sanctioned and ongoing hydro-electric projects in North Eastern Region and Sikkim, is enclosed.

The main reasons for delay in commissioning of hydel projects are Land acquisition & environmental issues, Geological surprises, Law & order/insurgency, Poor infrastructure/communication links, Lower duration of working season and resource constraints faced by the State Governments etc.

With the object of minimizing delays Ministry of Power has introduced in June, 2001, a 3-stage process for development of new hydro-electric projects in the Central Sector. Under Stage-I activities relating to Survey & Investigation and preparation of pre-feasibility Report are undertaken while activities related to the detailed investigation and preparation of Detailed Project Report and Pre-construction activities and development of infrastructure are covered under stage-II. Actual execution of Project after investment approval by the Government is covered under Stage-III.

The Ministry of Power recommends the release of funds to State Governments in North Eastern Region and Sikkim from the Non-lapsable pool of resources in order to overcome the problem of resource constraints of these State Governments.

Statement

Details of the sanctioned and ongoing Hydro-Electric Power Projects in North Eastern States and Sikkim

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/State/ Executing Agency	Installed Capacity (MW)	Latest Estimated Cost (Rs. in crores)	Expenditure incurred so far/upto October, 2001 (Rs. in crores)	Date of Commission -ing	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CENTRAL SECTOR						
1.	Ranganadi Arunachal Pradesh NEEPCO	3x135=405	1455.45	1347.10	2001-02	—
2.	Tuirial Mizoram NEEPCO	2x30=60	368.72	51.48	1/2006 7/2006	—
3.	Kopili Stage-II Assam NEEPCO	1x25=25	76.09	52.61	7/2003	—
4.	Loktak D/S Manipur NHPC	3x30=90	578.62	15.04	6/2006	—
5.	Teesta-V Sikkim NHPC	510	2108.04	228.93	2/2007	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
STATE SECTOR						
6.	Karbi Langpi Assam ASEB	2x50=100	267.27	134.61 (upto March, 2000)	2003-04	Paucity of Funds
7.	Dhansiri Assam ASEB	15x1.33=20	70.00	39.77 (upto March, 2000)	2002-03	Paucity of Funds
8.	Likkim-Ro Nagaland Power Department	3x8=24	215.88	191.16 (upto March, 2001)	2001-02	Unit I and II rolled on 12.9.2001
9.	Rolep Stage-I Sikkim Power Deptt.	2x4.5-9	45.00	1.26 (upto March, 2000)	2003-04	—

Computerised Ticket Reservation System

2004. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway Stations provided with computerised ticket reservation system in all over the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide this facility in the remaining railway stations in near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Computerised reservation centres are functional at 670 locations as on 15.11.2001. These include Stations, satellite locations within cities and outlying non-rail head locations.

(b) to (d) Provision of computerised reservation facilities is an ongoing process. More and more stations are covered with these facilities every year depending upon availability of funds. In addition to 670 locations where computerised reservation facilities are already available, work is underway for provision of these facilities at a further 99 stations.

[Translation]

Setting up of Planetariums

2005. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the number of planetariums in the country in order to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and the time by which these are likely to be set up;

(c) the number of planetariums in the country at present, location-wise; and

(d) the approximate number of foreign and domestic tourists visit these planetarium every year, and the annual income earned from them, planetarium-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) National Council of Science Museums, an autonomous organization, under the Ministry of Tourism & Culture, is primarily engaged in popularizing science and technology amongst students in particular and the citizens in general through a wide range of activities like science museums and science centres etc. There is no proposal, at present, to set up any other planetarium in the country. There are 29 science museums/centres and only the science centres at Nagpur and Calicut, have planetariums as part of the science museum. State Governments, municipal bodies and private entrepreneurs/trusts have also set up planetariums. These

planetariums are not intended specifically to attract foreign visitors. In so far as science centres at Nagpur and Calicut are concerned, 3.27 lakhs visitors including foreigners visited these science centres at Nagpur and Calicut during 2000-01, generating a revenue of Rs. 26.75 lakhs.

Construction of Patratu-Chandil Rail Line

2006. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have done any work regarding laying of a new rail line between Patratu and Chandil via Barkakana;

(b) if so, the names of works undertaken so far; and

(c) the target fixed for this job during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Patratu is already connected to Chandil via Barkakhana by a single line. However, a survey for doubling of this line has been included in the Railway Budget 2001-2002. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Uniform Civil Code

2007. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to implement Uniform Civil Code in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The question of implementing the directive principles laid down in the Constitution for evolving a uniform civil code necessarily involves changes in personal laws of the minorities. The policy of the Government is not to effect any changes in these laws unless the initiative therefor comes from those communities. However, reforms in the personal laws are undertaken based on these initiatives. The Government has recently taken a number of steps in this direction which include enactment and enforcement of the Indian Divorce (Amendment) Act, 2001 and introduction of the Bill for amending the Indian Succession Act, 1925.

Capacity of LPG Bottling Plants

2008. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of availability of LPG in the country;

(b) whether the Government are satisfied with the capacity of LPG bottling;

(c) if so, the extent to which the bottling capacity is less than the demand; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The LPG availability during the current financial year 2001-2002, through indigenous production and imports including the availability from private parties under Parallel Marketing System (PMS) is estimated to be about 7,941 TMT.

(b) to (d) Public Sector Oil Companies have installed adequate LPG bottling capacity to meet packed LPG demand in the country and have drawn plans to augment the bottling capacity in order to meet the future packed LPG demand.

[English]

Implementation of Projects by NTPC

2009. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government to instruct National Thermal Power Corporation to implement 650 MW Naphtha based Hyderabad Metro CCPP on priority;

(b) if so, whether the State Government have also requested for alternative fuel supply for this project in view of high cost of Naphtha; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Hyderabad Metro Combined Cycle Power Project (650 MW) was originally envisaged with naphtha as the main fuel. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) accordingly submitted Feasibility Report to Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance. However, due to high cost of naphtha, the project proposal could not be pursued further. NTPC had also undertaken an internal study of various alternative fuels for use in such projects. The study brought out that the proposed plant will not be viable with naphtha/Liquefied Natural Gas as fuel as the cost of generation is likely to be over Rs. 4/unit which will make the tariff unaffordable from such power plants.

The domestic gas from Krishna-Godavari basin will be most economic fuel for this project but the possibility of obtaining linkage from this source is very remote and uncertain. Some alternatives to gas from domestic sources like Coal Bed Methane and gas hydrates were examined but were not found suitable presently.

Demands of Ex-Servicemen

2010. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Organisations of Ex-servicemen with regard to their long standing demands;

(b) if so, whether any discussion have taken place in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government on demands of Ex-servicemen and their organisation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A number of representations are received from organisations of Ex-servicemen with regard to their various demands. These demands are discussed in the meetings of Kendriya Sainik Board, Armed Forces Flag Day Fund and Raksha Mantri's Committee.

(c) Action as warranted in each case is taken to redress the grievance of Ex-servicemen.

Booking of Bulk and Heavy Parcels in Long Distance Trains

2011. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have allowed few brake vans of long distance Express Trains to be booked on magazine rates, which is on long term lease basis at very lower rate;

(b) if so, whether instead of booking of magazine in these brake vans, the other bulk and heavy parcels are being booked in connivance with senior officers at Delhi Division;

(c) if so, whether there are over loading in brake vans;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the leasing of SLR scheme, the lease holders are at liberty to utilise the space leased and load all types of parcels. There is no restriction on loading of bulky and heavy packages, hence connivance does not arise.

(c) and (d) Regular checks are conducted by Zonal Railways and the Vigilance Department to detect overloading in Brakevans. 61 (sixty-one) checks conducted upto October, 2001 have realised Rs. 3.17 lakhs as penal freight for overloading from lease holders.

(e) Does not arise.

Legal Education

2012. SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need for imparting a continuing and well organised legal education in the country in view of growing challenges posed by new trends in the world over;

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

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Bar Council of India at its meeting held on 24th & 25th August, 2001 considered a suggestion put forward by the Chairman, Bar Council of India regarding establishment of a National Institute for

conducting refresher courses for advocates. The Council was of the opinion that in principle the idea be accepted and steps be explored for establishing training institute for lawyers.

The Bar Council of India has been trying to improve the standards of legal education in the past. The Council has recently revised the curriculum prescribed for the LL.B. degree course by thoroughly revising it and introducing a number of new subjects, which are relevant and useful. The earlier syllabus was framed almost two decades ago and the Council felt that same is not in tune with changing scenario in view of globalisation taking place.

The newly introduced curriculum for the LL.B. gives more importance to practical training aspects of the legal education and the scheme for practical training has been evolved by the Council in such a manner that it gives the law students the much needed professional training during the course of study which they undergo.

Metro Rail Around Bangalore

2013. SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has prepared any plan to construct metro rail around Bangalore city which is one of fastest growing cities in Asia;

(b) if so, whether the Government have agreed to give assistance of Rs. 950 crore for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Deposits of Crude Oil and Natural Gas

2014. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some more crude oil and natural gas deposits have been found in the country during 1999, 2000 and 2001 till date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The broad details of the new hydrocarbon finds, location-wise by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Private/Joint venture companies during the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Hydrocarbon Finds during the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 (till date) by ONGC, OIL and Private/ joint venture companies

S.No.	Name of Find	Basin	State
1	2	3	4
ONGC			
1999			
1.	North Sarbhan	Cambay	Gujarat
2.	Akholjuni	Cambay	Gujarat
3	Nambar	Upper Assam	Assam
4.	Safan	Upper Assam	Assam
5.	B-105	Mumbai Offshore	West Coast
2000			
6.	Sngattapalle	KG	Andhra Pradesh
7	Laksmaneswaram	KG	Andhra Pradesh
8.	Suryaraopeta	KG	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Gopavaram	KG	Andhra Pradesh
10.	Sadra	Cambay	Gujarat
11.	Tichna	AAFB	Tripura
12.	TP	Mumbai Offshore	West Coast
13.	WO-24	Mumbai Offshore	West Coast
14	BRC	Mumbai Offshore	West Coast
15.	GK-39	Kutch Offshore	West Coast
16.	ED-4	Mumbai Offshore	West Coast
17.	B-14	Mumbai Offshore	West Coast
18.	KD-1	KG-Offshore	East Coast

1	2	3	4
2001			
19.	Kanjirangudi	Cauvery	Tamil Nadu
20.	PBS	Cauvery	Tamil Nadu
21.	Pendurru	KG	Andhra Pradesh
22.	Katpur*	Cambay	Gujarat
23.	Chaklasi*	Cambay	Gujarat
24.	Panidihing	Upper Assam	Assam
25.	Nazira-2*	Upper Assam	Assam
26.	D-31	Mumbai Offshore	West Coast
27	GD-1*	KG-Offshore	East Coast
28.	BSE-2	Mumbai Offshore	West Coast
OIL			
1999			
1.	Moran South	Upper Assam	Assam
2.	North Tamulikhat	Upper Assam	Assam
2000			
3.	Balijan	Upper Assam	Assam
4.	Kuhiabari	Upper Assam	Assam
2001			
5.	Moran North	Upper Assam	Assam
6.	Shalman Eocene	Upper Assam	Assam
7	Unamgun	Upper Assam	Assam
PRIVATE/JOINT VENTURE COMPANIES			
1999			
1.	Ravva Satellite Gas Discoveries	Krishna Godavari Offshore	East Coast
2.	Guda-2	Rajasthan	Rajasthan
2000			
3.	Lakshmi	Cambay Offshore	West Coast
4.	Ambe	Cambay Offshore	West Coast
5.	Gauri	Cambay Offshore	West Coast
2001			
6.	Prospect 'H'	Rajasthan	Rajasthan
7.	Annapuma (Prospect R)	Krishna Godavari Offshore	East Coast
8.	Prospect 'P'	Krishna Godavari Offshore	East Coast
9.	Prospect 'M'	Krishna Godavari Offshore	East Coast
10.	Parvati	Cambay offshore	West Coast

*Finds under Evaluation.

[Translation]

Law Commission on Recommendation

2015. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of judges and population in the country, as on date;

(b) whether the Law Commission has made any recommendation for appointment of atleast 50 judges for one lakh population in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) At present, there are 13.08 judges per million population in the country.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Eleventh Law Commission in its 120th Report on "Manpower Planning in Judiciary: A Blue Print" in July, 1987, *inter alia*, observed that the strength of Judicial Officers in India was far less as compared to strength of certain other countries. The Commission recommended that the present strength of 10.5 Judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population in a phased manner.

The Judge strength in the District/subordinate courts is worked out on the basis of yardsticks fixed by the concerned High Courts. The posts of Judges/Judicial Officers along-with supporting staff are created by the concerned State Governments. These posts are also filled up by the concerned State Governments/UT Administration/High Courts as per their rules and procedure. The 120th Report of the Law Commission which had recommended increase in the number of Judicial Officers was circulated amongst all the State

Governments/UT Administrations/High Courts for necessary action at their end.

[English]

Centre for Corporate Excellence

2016. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force appointed by the Government has recommended for the creation of 'Centre for Corporate Excellence' in the country;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has agreed to the request of Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of the centre in Hyderabad; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government has received requests from certain State Governments including Andhra Pradesh for setting up the Centre in their States. No final decision in the matter has yet been taken.

Power Projects in A.P.

2017. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindujas have approached for setting up a power plant in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the State in the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) in Andhra Pradesh being promoted by M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Limited (HNPCL) has been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on July 25, 1996 at an estimated completion cost of US$ 943.75 million + Rs. 1324.993 crores (@ 1 US$ = Rs. 35.00). On 16.5.1998, Government approved extension of counter-guarantee to this project through a revised procedure. Counter guarantee of Government of India has been issued to the project on August 19, 1998. While extending the counter guarantee, Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) has been advised that as there will be no further examination of the Power Purchase Agreement by the Government of India, GoAP will have to satisfy themselves about the reasonableness of the tariff before financial closure. M/s. HNPCL have submitted the firm financial package, in two parts, to GoAP/Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation (APTRANSCO) in the first week of November 1999 and second week of December, 1999. The firm financial package, which is presently under examination of GoAP/APTRANSCO, is required to be forwarded to CEA, along with recommendations of GoAP. GoAP have informed that they are negotiating reduction cost of the project as required under the revised procedure for extension of counter guarantee.

[Translation]

Complaints against LPG Dealers/Outlets in Maharashtra

2018. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received against Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies in various districts of Maharashtra;

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

(c) the number of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps cancelled on the basis of these complaints during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years namely 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01, complaints against 58 Retail Outlets and 3676 LPG Distributorships were received in the State of Maharashtra and action was taken in accordance with the Dealership Agreement/Marketing Discipline Guidelines against erring dealers/LPG Distributors.

(c) During the last three years one retail outlet & two LPG Distributorships were cancelled on the basis of complaints received.

Dealer Selection Boards

2019. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

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

(a) the total number of Dealer Selection Boards in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of guidelines issued to them;

(c) whether the functioning of Dealer Selection Boards had stopped temporarily;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which all the DSBs are likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The State-wise number of Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) in the country is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The important features of the guidelines issued by the Government for selection of retail outlet dealers/ LPG distributors/SKO-LDO dealers are given below:—

The locations for setting up dealership/distributorships, included in the Marketing Plans, are advertised by the Oil Companies inviting applications from eligible candidates. After the scrutiny of the applications, the eligible candidates are interviewed by the DSBs for selection on merit. The following criteria have been prescribed for assessing the inter-se merit of the candidates:-

(a) Personality, Business ability and salesmanship.

(b) Capability to arrange finances.

(c) Educational qualification and general level of intelligence.

(d) Capability to provide infrastructure and facilities (land, godown, showroom, etc.)

(e) General assessment.

As per the guidelines, reservation of dealerships/ distributorships for different sections of the society will be as under:—

(1)	Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs)	—	25%
(2)	Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	—	5%
(3)	Paramilitary/Police/Govt. Personnel (PMP)	—	8%
(4)	Defence Personnel (DC)	—	8%
(5)	Freedom Fighters (FF)	—	2%
(6)	Outstanding Sports Persons (OSP)	—	2%
(7)	Open (O)	—	50%

33% of the dealerships/distributorships in each of the above categories will be reserved for women in that category.

(c) to (e) Pending inquiry into complaints received against selection of dealers/distributors, the selection process by the DSBs in Jammu & Kashmir, Allahabad-I, Lucknow-I, Agra-I, Agra-II, Himachal Pradesh, Bhopal-I, Bhopal-II, Jabalpur-I, Jabalpur-II, Raipur, Patna-IV and Goa was suspended in March/April, 2001.

All interviews by the DSBs, Chennai-I, Chennai-II, Coimbatore and Madurai have been put on hold temporarily.

The selection process by the DSBs, Allahabad-I and Patna-IV has been resumed w.e.f. 22.9.2001 and 26.9.2001 respectively. Efforts are being made to enable these DBSs to resume the selection process.

Statement

State-wise number of Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) in the Country

S.N.	Name of the State/UT	Number of DSBs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5
2.	Assam & Manipur	1
3.	Bihar	5
4.	Chattisgarh	1
5.	Delhi	1

1	2	3
6.	Goa	1
7.	Gujarat, Daman & Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2
8.	Haryana	3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
11.	Jharkhand	2
12.	Karnataka	2
13.	Kerala & Lakshadweep	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4
15.	Maharashtra	4
16.	Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya	1
17.	Orissa	2
18.	Punjab & Chandigarh	2
19.	Rajasthan	3
20.	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	4
21.	Uttaranchal	1
22.	Uttar Pradesh	9
23.	West Bengal, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2
	Total	59

Handing over of Security Task to RPF

2020. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to hand over the task of security of passenger in trains and at the platforms to Rail Protection Force in place of Government Railway Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government intend to amend law in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government is however considering a proposal to give more responsibility of the RPF for escorting passenger trains in vulnerable areas and providing access control and general security on the platforms.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. But a time limit cannot be set as the amendment of law will be done in consultation with various Ministries/Departments, which may take some time.

[English]

Prabhakaran Committee Report on Power Tariff

2021. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prabhakaran Committee report on power tariff has submitted its report to the Government;

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

(c) whether the Government have since taken a decision to implement unifrom power tariff policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be announced and implemented?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Family Courts

2022. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL. Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the States and Union Territories to set up more family courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the States and Union Territories thereto; and

(d) the number of family courts existed at present in each State and Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Government have been periodically requesting the States the Union Territories to set up more Family Courts. Recently in the Conference of Law/Home Secretaries of all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations held on 30.10.2001 in the Department of Justice, all the States/Union Territories were requested to set up more family courts.

(c) So far Eighteen States/Union Territories have set up Family Courts. Some of the States like Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Goa have, *inter alia*, reported that they have their customary courts to deal with family disputes and they do not have much litigation. Some of the States/UTs like Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Dadra and Nagar Haveli do not have requisite population to establish family courts and sufficient number of cases to justify the establishment of family courts. In Tripura, competent court in sub-divisions are empowered to try the cases involving matrimonial and family affairs. In Chhattisgarh, courts of additional judges have been designated separately for this purpose at District level. Some more family courts are likely to be set up in NCT of Delhi, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab.

(d) 85 Family Courts have been set up in the States/ Union Territories so far. The State/Union territory-wise details are as follows:

Andhra Pradesh-7; Assam-1; Bihar-1; Gujarat-4; Jharkhand-4; Jammu & Kashmir-1; Karnataka-9; Kerala-7; Maharashtra-16, Manipur-1; Orissa-2; Rajasthan-6; Sikkim-1; Tamil Nadu-6; Uttar Pradesh-14; Uttaranchal-2; West Bental-2 and Pondicherry-1.

High Court Bench at Trivandrum

2023. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Kerala Government to set up a High Court Bench at Trivandum; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala, in consultation with the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, for establishing a bench of the High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. As such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

Opening of Additional Courts for Trials

2024. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eleventh Finance Commission has provided a sum of Rs. 502.90 crores for establishing 1734 additional courts to ensure speedy trials of under-trials;

(b) if so, whether Union Government advised State Governments and the High Courts to institute fast track courts, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that upto April, 2001, 459 fast track courts have seen set up in different States and the remaining are in the process of being set up;

(d) if so, the number of fast track courts set up in each State by Government so far; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to set up more fast track courts in the States for speedy disposal of undertrials?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Governments have been advised to institute additional courts known as Fast Track Courts in consultation with the respective High Courts at the earliest *inter-alia* for speedy trials of cases involving undertrials.

(c) and (d) As per available information, 862 Fast Track Courts have been set up/notified in the country so far. Out of these, 542 courts have started functioning as per the enclosed statement.

(e) Periodically the Central Government has been taking up with the State Governments and High Courts the matter relating to setting up of more Fast Track Courts as envisaged in the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

Statement

Number of Fast Track Courts functioning in various States in the Country

Sl.No.	Name of High Court	No. of Courts functioning
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	15
4.	Bihar	37
5.	Chhattisgarh	11
6.	Goa	—
7.	Gujarat	—
8.	Haryana	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	40
11.	Jharkhand	—
12.	Karnataka	8
13.	Kerala	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	64
15.	Maharashtra	94
16.	Manipur	2
17.	Meghalaya	—
18.	Mizoram	—
19.	Nagaland	—
20.	Orissa	17
21.	Punjab	17
22.	Rajasthan	40
23.	Sikkim	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	—
25.	Tripura	2
26.	Uttaranchal	30
27.	Uttar Pradesh	150
28.	West Bengal	6
	Total	542

Purchasing of Stationery

2025. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to undertake a study by his Ministry to further economise in its expenditure by purchasing stationery and other items at the competitive prices;

(b) whether bulbs, tubelights, CFLs etc. are available at below the DGS&D rate contract prices in the Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to ask the zonal railways to make purchases of these items from the said organizations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the rate at which these items are purchased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Purchase of stationery and other items are done by the Zonal Railways at competitive prices and there is no proposal for undertaking a study in the matter.

(b) and (c) Items such as General Service Bulbs, Tubelights etc. are generally available on DGS&D Rate Contract. Items available on DGS&D Rate Contracts are required to be procured against Rate Contract as per Government rules. Prices on Rate Contracts may some times differ from NCCF/Kendriya Bhandars due to different reasons such as specifications, inspection, delivery and payment clauses. Railways are, however, authorized to make small value purchases from NCCF and Kendriya Bhandars.

(d) The Tubelights and GLS Bulbs are purchased through DGS&D Rate Contracts at the following rate per unit (for the year 2001):—

(i) Tube Lights 40 Watts - Rs. 34.11 + Sales Tax

(ii) Tube Lights 36 Watts - Rs. 32.81 + Sales Tax

(iii) GLS Lamps 60 Watts - Rs. 7.10 + Sales Tax

(iv) GLS Lamps 100 Watts - Rs. 7.31 + Sales Tax

As per extant policy of the Government, these items are to be procured by operating DGS&D Rate Contract. All stores procured against DGS&D Rate contract undergo inspection by Directorate of Inspection before delivery.

Manufacturing of Imported Coaches in IRCF

2026. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IRCF and other Indian Factories are incapable to manufacture imported Railway Coaches indigenously; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided to import coaches from the foreign country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Integral Coach Factory, Chennai and other Indian coach factories have so far been manufacturing coaches to the technology imported in the 1950s. Though this technology has been progressively improved to higher speeds and better riding characteristics, it has been stretched to the limit. A quantum jump in technology was necessary to increase the speed of trains and run longer trains with improved safety. Indian Railway, therefore, entered into a transfer of technology contract with M/s ALSTOM LHB of Germany for building latest technology coaches in India. The firm has also supplied 24 coaches to this technology. The manufacture of these new design of coaches has already commenced at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.

(b) No, Sir there is no decision to further import coaches from any foreign country.

Bench of Mumbai High Court in Maharashtra

2027. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is proposed to set up Benches of Mumbai High Court at some places in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Revamping of MRPT Act

2028. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to revamp the MRTP Act and set up the Competition Commission of India (CCI);

(b) if so, the features of new commission;

(c) the time by which the said commission would start their functioning; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The Government has introduced the Competition Bill-2001 in the Lok Sabha on 6.8.2001 which, *inter-alia*, provides for repeal of MRTP Act, 1969 and for setting up an adjudicating relief machinery by way of a Competition Commission of India (CCI), which would be a Quasi-Judicial body. CCI will have a Chairperson and not less than two, and not more than ten, other members as may be specified by the Central Government.

The CCI will have the following powers:

- to issue "Cease and Desist" orders
- to grant such interim relief as would be necessary in each case
- to award compensation
- to impose fines on the guilty
- to order division of dominant undertaking
- power to order de-merger
- power to order costs for frivolous complaints.

Amongst other, the CCI will also have the role of advocacy, investigation and prosecution.

Sub-Title of Film by NFDC

2029. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has decided to give sub-title to films, documentaries and serials in video format in Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the producers of films and documentaries can market it to various countries through the NFDC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Film Development Corporation has facilities to sub-title films and documentaries in Video format in its Regional Office at Chennai since October, 2001.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. National Film Development Corporation markets films by acquiring the rights for overseas for which it charges commission. NFDC also purchases the rights of Indian films on royalty basis for telecast on Doordarshan and other satellite channels.

Representation of SCs and STs in Class I Services

2030. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) Services stood only at 10.68% (SC - 8.41% and STs - 2.27%) and in Class II (Group B) Services only at 13.20% (SCs - 09.68% and STs - 3.52%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs) as on January 1, 1996 under Central Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) if so, the number of 'posts' in Class I (Group A) Category and Class II (Group B) and equivalents thereof under all Public Sector Undertakings/Enterprises, Statutory Organisations/Corporations, Autonomous Organisations, attached and Subordinate Offices under his Ministry; and

(c) the number of persons belonging to General, SCs, STs and OBCs working against such post and their respective percentages to such total posts as identified as per instructions under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res) dated July 2, 1997?

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

High Courts Proceeding on Internet

2031. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to put up the proceedings and other day to day information about cases taken up in the High Courts on Internet; and

(b) if so, the time by which the information will be available on internet?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information available from the National Informatics Centre 18 High Courts except the newly created three High Courts are connected on NICNET/Internet. Causelists of these High Courts are available on Internet. Case status information is also made available by most of the High Courts on internet or on enquiry/facilitation centres to the litigants and advocates.

Coordination between RPF and GRP

2032. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the formation of a Nodal Agency to oversee coordination between Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for ignoring non-cooperation by these forces?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Instructions for having proper coordination between GRP and RPF at the Post, Division and Zonal Railway levels already exist. Implementation of, instructions are closely monitored at the Board's level. Hence, it is not correct to say that the issue is being ignored.

Reserves of Oil and Gas in Bengal Basin

2033. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of a huge reserve of oil and gas in Bengal Basin;

(b) if so, whether any private agencies have been issued licences for its exploration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No oil and gas reserves have been established as yet in the Bengal basin.

(b) and (c) Under the first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed in April, 2000 with the consortium of Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL)-OGO Gazprom and consortium of Reliance Industries Ltd.-Niko Resources Ltd. for two exploration blocks in North-East Coast offshore, namely NEC-OSN-97/1 and NEC-OSN-97/2 respectively.

Further, under the second round of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts have been signed in July, 2001 with consortium of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) for two exploration blocks, one in onshore i.e. WB-ONN-2000/1 and one in offshore i.e. WB-OSN-2000/1 in the Bengal basin.

Marketing of International Sports Events

2034. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan suffered a loss of Rs. 140.88 crore in the marketing of international sports events through the Sports Marketing Consortium during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the comparative figures of such a loss during 2000-01; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the Sports Marketing Consortium was not in operation in 1999-2000. It has further informed that Doordarshan did not suffer any loss during the financial year 2000-2001.

(d) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

1. Statement regarding review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Dynamics Limited Hyderabad, for the year 2000-2001.

2. Annual Report of the Bharat Dynamics Limited Hyderabad, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4503/2001]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 3 of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) The Cost Accounting Records (Aluminium) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 703 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(ii) The Cost Accounting Records (Milk Food) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 704 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(iii) The Cost Accounting Records (Vanaspati) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 705 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(iv) The Cost Accounting Records (Formulations) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 706 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(v) The Cost Accounting Records (Bulk Drugs) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 707 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(vi) The Cost Accounting Records (Cement) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 708 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(vii) The Cost Accounting Records (Cycles) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 709 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(viii) The Cost Accounting Records (Tyres and Tubes) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 710 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(ix) The Cost Accounting Records (Caustic Soda) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 711 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(x) The Cost Accounting Records (Room Air-Conditioners) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 712 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xi) The Cost Accounting Records (Refrigerators) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 713 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xii) The Cost Accounting Records (Batteries other than Dry Cell Batteries) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 714 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xiii) The Cost Accounting Records (Electric Lamps) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 715 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xiv) The Cost Accounting Records (Electric Fans) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 716 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xv) The Cost Accounting Records (Electric Motors) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 717 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xvi) The Cost Accounting Records (Motor Vehicles) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 718 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xvii) The Cost Accounting Records (Sugar) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 719 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xviii) The Cost Accounting Records (Industrial Alcohol) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 720 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xix) The Cost Accounting Records (Jute Goods) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 721 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xx) The Cost Accounting Records (Paper) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 722 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxi) The Cost Accounting Records (Rayon) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 723 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxii) The Cost Accounting Records (Dyes) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 724 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxiii) The Cost Accounting Records (Sida Ash) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 725 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxiv) The Cost Accounting Records (Nylon) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 726 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxv) The Cost Accounting Records (Polyester) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 727 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxvi) The Cost Accounting Records (Textiles) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 728 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxvii) The Cost Accounting Records (Dry Cell Batteries) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 729 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxviii) The Cost Accounting Records (Sulphuric Acid) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 730 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxxi) The Cost Accounting Records (Engineering Industries) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 731 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxx) The Cost Accounting Records (Steel Tubes and Pipes) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 732 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxxi) The Cost Accounting Records (Electrical Cables and Conductors) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 733 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxxii) The Cost Accounting Records (Bearings) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 734 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxxiii) The Cost Accounting Records (Chemical Industries) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 735 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxxiv) The Cost Accounting Records (Steel Plant) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 736(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxxv) The Cost Accounting Records (Insecticides) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 737(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxxvi) The Cost Accounting Records (Fertilizers) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 738 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxxvii) The Cost Accounting Records (Soaps and Detergents) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 739 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxxviii) The Cost Accounting Records (Cosmetics and Toiletries) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R 740 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xxxix) The Cost Accounting Records (Footwear) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 741 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xl) The Cost Accounting Records (Shaving Systems) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 742 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xli) The Cost Accounting Records (Industrial Gases) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 743 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xlii) The Cost Accounting Records (Mining and Metallurgy) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 744 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

(xliii) The Cost Accounting Records (Electronic Products) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 745 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4504/2001]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 946 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2001 appointing the 1st day of November, 2001 as the date on which the Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001 shall come into force, issued under sub-section (3) of section 1 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4505/2001]

(3) A copy of the Thirtieth Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the execution of the Provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 for the period from the 1st January, 2000 to the 31st December, 2000, under section 62 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4506/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobiles) Amendment Order, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 856 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2001, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4507/2001]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) A copy of the Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4508/2001]

12.01 hrs.

[Translation]

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Eleventh Report

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

12.01½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the 7th sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House held on 21 August, 2001.

12.02 hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 3rd December, 2001 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order paper.

2. Discussion and voting on the following Demands and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bills:

   (i) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2001-2002.

   (ii) Excess Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1998-99.

   (iii) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2001-2002.

   (vi) Excess Demands for Grants (General) for 1998-99.

3. General discussion on Manipur Budget for 2001-2002.

4. Discussion and voting on Demands for Grants (Manipur) for 2001-2002

5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:

   (i) The Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill, 2000.

   (ii) The Indian Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2001 after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.

   (iii) The Tea Districts Emigrant Labour (Repeal) Repealing Bill, 2001 after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.

6. Discussion on Statutory Resolutions seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances and consideration and passing of the Bills seeking to replace these Ordinances after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:

   (i) The Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001.

   (ii) The Passports (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001.

7. Resolutions seeking approval of the House to the rejection of Award of Board or Arbitration on:

   (i) Grant of special pay to Private Secretaries (Merged grades 'A' and 'B' of CSSS) in CA reference number 2 of 1991.

   (ii) Upward revision of pay scale in the grade of Stenographers Grade 'D' in CA reference number 11 of 1992.

   (iii) Revision of rates of Over Time Allowance in CA reference number 6 of 1981.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Subject related to renovation of Matung and Parel Railway workshop situated in Mumbai and Railway workshop situated in Kurdvadi under the Sholapur district of Maharashtra.

2. Subject related to the establishment of railway booking at Kurdvadi railway station, establishment of new platform in order to remove inconvenience to the passengers due to stoppage of goods shuttle train there, and to

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

increase the quota of berths in sleeper class, specially in Chennai Mail, which passes from there.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Special campaign should be started for educational and economic development for the people living below the poverty line in India by fixing priority for providing facilities like residence, power, road, drinking water, metalled lane construction, medical facilities, education so that they can be self-dependent within five years. Special campaign should be started by the Central Government.

2. Waiving off loan up to Rs. 11,000 to those agriculturists of India who have only an acre of land, in view of their pitiable economic condition and also to provide free tube-wells, power and funds for irrigation so that their condition could be improved.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

(i) The lowering of import duty on Palm Oil, which is affecting the coconut farmers in the country adversely.

(ii) The steep fall in the prices of Rubber.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following significant items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Work plan for over-all development of 100 most backward districts identified by a high level Committee of Indian Government.

2. Taking back the two other controversial O.M. from Constitutional amendments in the interest of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Government employees of the country.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

(i) MICA Trading Corporation of India was merged with Mines and Mineral Trading Corporation in 1994 and became one of its divisions. Pay-scale of the employees have not been revised since 1987. The pay-scale of the employees of MICA division be at par with the employees of MMTC.

(ii) Unemployment is growing by leaps and bounds. The job potentialities in the organised sector have shrunk. Urgent steps should be taken to solve the problem of unemployment in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The people of those villages which are predominantly inhabited by the Scheduled Castes and come under the boundaries of National Park, declared by Forest and Environment Department are very disturbed. They are not being given lease of lands even after possessing it before 1980. Employees of Forest Department harass them daily. There is a need of discussion for the solution of this problem.

2. In the country, specially in Madhya Pradesh, farmers are not able to irrigate (Paleva) their fields as they are not getting power because of power crisis resulting in thousands of hectares of lands is found not to be cultivated. There is a need to discuss this serious problem.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

(i) There is need to arrange more services for Haj Pilgrims, to start more flights, to keep to the schedule of the flights, to increase financial assistance and to facilitate more pilgrims to visit the holy place.

(ii) Discussion on issues of ex-Servicemen like one-rank one-pension and those of the participants in the Second World War. The Government should implement one-rank one-pension immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following matter of public importance items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to save Bokaro Thermal Power Station 'A' plant which is close for almost one year from the losses of Rs. 3-1/2 crores and immediately start the work of proposed Super Thermal Power Station in Navinagar of Aurangabad District of Bihar.

2. Need to settle the long pending issue relating to pay-scales of Central Accountants including Railway Accountants under the consideration of "group of honourable Minister" as per the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

(i) There was a communal clash at Malegaon in Maharashtra last month in which thirteen people were killed. Necessary action should be taken against culprits and adequate compensation should be paid.

(ii) Even after a decade of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy in which hundreds of people were killed and thousands were affected, the victims did not get proper compensation till date. A large number of them are deprived of the promised compensation.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

(i) Need to allocate adequate funds for the comprehensive water scheme from Mohanur to Thalaivasal, covering Namakkal, Rasipuram, Senthamangalam of Namakkal district, Attur and Thalaivasal Assembly constituencies in Salem district of my Parliamentary constituency.

(ii) Need to allocate more funds for the construction of a bridge at Muthuka Patti at Evuma Patti Panchayat Union which connects Kolli hills to Namakkal town in my constituency.

[English]

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL) 2001-2002

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 8 - Shri Yashwant Sinha.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4509/2001]

12.12 hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re : Air-Violation by U.S. Helicopter in Chennai on 26th November, 2001

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 8 (a)—Shri George Fernandes.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Sir, as reported by the Airforce, at 0255 hours on 26th November, 2001 the civil radar of Chennai airport manned by Airport Authority of India, picked up an unidentified aircraft at a distance of about 123 km. from Chennai heading North....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday you had raised an important issue but today you are not listening.

...(Interruptions)

12.13 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The aircraft was flying over international waters, operating at a speed of about 125 to 140 km. an hour at a height of 5000-6000 feet.

The Naval authorities at Chennai had given clearance to USS ship John Young scheduled to arrive at Chennai at 0800 hours on 26th November, 2001. On receipt of information from the Airport Authority of India at Chennai Airport regarding the detection of an un-identified helicopter on their radar, the Naval authorities immediately contacted USS John Young to confirm, if a helicopter was airborned from that ship. On receipt of confirmation from USS John Young, the ship was advised by the

[Shri George Fernandes]

Indian Navy to call back the helicopter to the ship immediately, though this was not in violation of Indian air space. The helicopter eventually landed on board USS John Young when the ship was still about 60 kms. from the Chennai coast.

I would like to inform the hon. Members that the territorial waters and the national air space extend up to 12 nautical miles or 22 kms. from our coast and the waters beyond this limit are international waters wherein ships can operate without restriction.

There has been no report either from the Airforce, the Navy or the Civil authorities or the Airport Authority of India to indicate that there has been any violation of Indian air space by the helicopter off the US Naval ship on 26th November, 2001.

It has been reported in some newspapers that the helicopter overflow Kalpakkam Nuclear Installations for a while. I would like to assure the hon. Members that no such overflight over Kalpakkam Nuclear Installation took place.

I would like to inform the Members that the Government has received specific requests for assistance in connection with 'Operation Enduring Freedom' from certain friendly countries, including the United States. Those requests that conform to our existing policy guidelines for overflights and refueling of aircraft and port calls by naval ships have been approved. The guidelines rule out India's participation in combat operations, Indian military units operating under a foreign flag other than operation mandated by the United Nations or the provision of bases on Indian soil for any foreign military units.

It is in this context that the USS John Young was given permission to dock at Chennai commercial port.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up 'Zero Hour'.

Shri Chandra Vijay Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): The other day Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had walked out for dinner and they will have lunch today....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad): Sir, 15 people died due to an accident at unmanned railway crossing in Moradabad. Almost every year, at this unmanned railway crossing, accidents take place. It is a matter of great concern. Sir, you kindly see that this railway crossing is manned. What I would like to ask the Government, through you, is this. Is this the way of the Department of Railways of aiding the National Population Control Programme? They should think of something less gruesome than having such unmanned railway crossings at so many places.

12.17 hrs.

REPORTED ATROCITIES ON SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES PARTICULARLY IN UTTAR PRADESH

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Sixth Report of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission which has been presented to the President by the Chairman of the Commission, has reported the number of atrocities committed on Scheduled Castes in year 2000 as 23,742. Last year the maximum number of atrocities on dalits were committed in Uttar Pradesh. It was 6599. Do you know that crime records do not show the actual figure. When the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes go to lodge a complaint their complaint is not registered. It is a serious matter.

There is no NGO called 'Sampoorn Gram Vikas Kendra'. After talking to 2020 Dalit families and 11,658 people and contacting 31 sub-castes of Scheduled Castes in 12 districts it drew the conclusion that 96 percent complaints of Scheduled Castes are not registered. Atrocities are being committed in Uttar Pradesh because Government of Uttar Pradesh is full of criminals. I think the atmosphere, which is prevalent now in Uttar Pradesh, is conducive for criminals. There was no such atmosphere before, they are running the Government with the help of criminals. The attitude and behaviour of the Government affects the activities of society. Atrocities are being committed in Uttar Pradesh because the behaviour of the people who are in Government is itself suspicious.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you that recently on 24 August police on Nawabganj thrashed a Dalit Woman named Maya Gautam in police station and kept her into lockup, that woman is a resident of Kalayanpur village. Recently Prabhudayal, a deputy headman of Scheduled Castes, resident of Mator village, Thana Daurala, district Meerut was murdered and his body was

burnt with husk. A 35 year old Dalit woman was gang-raped in Pipraula village of Kant police station in district Shahjahanpur and in Ratoli village of Narki Police station of Firozabad district, which is an area of Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, M.P., police arrested a Dalit Birpal on the night of 14 October and set him free after taking four thousand rupees. Later S.H.O. reached there and arrested widow mother, wife of Birpal and three other people under serious sections without any reason. It is a very serious matter.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh is anti Dalit. A very peculiar thing is that the report of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission has never been discussed in the House. The matter of Uttar Pradesh is very serious. Crimes are increasing in Uttar Pradesh the Government of Uttar Pradesh has been formed with the help of criminals.

12.19 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Government of Uttar Pradesh is not working sincerely. Neither minority nor backward classes are safe under that Government. Such a Government has no right to be in power. This Government should be dismissed and a discussion should be held on the report of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not the report of Samajvadi Party or Ramji Lal Suman. This matter is related to Scheduled Castes and it has been mentioned in the report of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission and has been substantiated by proof. The Commission has accepted that crimes are not registered there. Despite that the number of cases related to atrocities on people of Scheduled Castes is 25,000. The reason is that the Prime Minister or any Chief Minister run the Government on consensus but such a situation is not prevailing there. There the mentality of that Government is to give protection to criminal elements. You will be surprised to know that a dozen minister of that Government are criminals. People of Scheduled Castes have no courage to present their problem before them. There is anarchy in the whole state. Today Lucknow has become the biggest den of criminals. Since the Government is giving protection to these people atrocities are being committed on Scheduled Castes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the main problem is that even officers are interested to please Ministers. There is so much terror there that this Government itself is not able to protect this class. I appeal to you that an all party committee should be constituted and sent there. I will give them eight to ten such proofs which would show as to how the Government are committing atrocities, rapes, murders and arson on them. The whole Scheduled Castes class is in terror from the time this Government has come to power.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mulayam ji you know that this is zero hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I want that an all party committee should be constituted and sent there which will enquire into the atrocities being committed on the people of this class.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Now I call Shri V.S. Sivakumar.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record except what Shri V.S. Shivakumar says.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman you have already presented your views. Since it has been recorded. Why are you speaking now? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN: I have given you enough time. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Athawale ji, you also sit down please. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs would like to say something.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir. The Government takes cognizance of all the issues seriously, which are raised in the Parliament. But it is very unfortunate that nobody paid attention to the very important matter again for the second time, which had been raised yesterday. I would like to submit that the opposition should at least pay attention to our views. Whatever issues are raised....*(Interruptions)* Although it is a subject of the State list. . .*(Interruptions)* It is a subject of the State list but the Government would take

*Not recorded.

[Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar]

action in regard to the atrocities on the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes in any part of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister has stated that he has received the information.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (Thiruvananthapuram): Sir, I would like to raise an important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the Rules...*(Interruptions)* in such a matter a discussion is held in the Parliament. This is a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Sir, I would like to raise an important matter regarding landslides on 9th on this Month. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The chairperson cannot compel the Government, Shri Mulayam Singh Ji, you are a senior leader. The Government has received the information.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman Sir, this issue relates to the protection of the interests of dalits. ...*(Interruptions)* The issues which are raised during Zero Hour,...*(Interruptions)* Yesterday this issue had raised in the Rajya Sabha....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: This issue relates to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. It is a subject of the States. The Government cannot say so it is wrong....*(Interruptions)* It is the constitutional responsibility of the Government to safeguard the interests of the dalits. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramjilal Suman you are speaking for a long time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should at least listen to the Chiar. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has stated very clearly that he has noted and engrossed the information in this regard. What more can you expect during Zero Hour? These issues are not there is front of the Government from the very beginning of the Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: How can they say that it is a subject of the States list. ...*(Interruptions)* Please give your ruling in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government pays full attention to the cases where atrocities are committed on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes....*(Interruptions)* I would like to submit that many issues are raised here pertaining to the various States and when such a matter is raised regarding Bihar then it is restricted. But we are equally concerned with all the States, no matter whether we are in power there or not. Therefore, it is my submission that at least opposition should listen to our views and should not take a walk out from the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman Sir, whether a discussion would take place on the report of the Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes....*(Interruptions)* How can it be a State subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We have demanded that in such a situation where atrocities have been committed on SC/ST or women the Government cannot say that it is a matter of the State subject. Such conditions are allowed to end. ...*(Interruptions)* Either these should be expunged from the proceedings or the Hon. Minister should withdraw his words....*(Interruptions)* The Government cannot say that it is the subject of the State....*(Interruptions)* It would set wrong examples. It is a point of order, you please give your ruling. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Normally the Government does not have any list of business for Zero Hour. From the listed issues the Government have registered everything and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has clearly stated that Government would take all necessary actions in regard to the cases petaining to the atrocities on SC/ST or relating thereto.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: They have said that it is the subject of the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)* You please give ruling in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is the constitutional responsibility of the Government to safeguard the interest of dalits. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Gangwar has again clearly responded to your question for the second time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): You should seek clarifications from him in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: If there is anything objectionable then please expunge it from the proceedings. It is upto you. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been the tradition of the House that if there any important issues then these are raised with the permission of the Chair. Now this matter be closed here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go in record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter regarding the landslip occurred on the 9th night of this month at Amboori, Trivandrum, which is my constituency, in which 38 persons including 14 children were died and 60 houses were totally collapsed.

This is the first time in the history of Kerala such a large number of people lost their lives and severe loss to their belongings. The estimated loss is more than three crore of rupees as per the calculations of various Departments of the State Government. A large number of families were evacuated from the accident-prone area and are now put in relief camps.

Therefore, I would earnestly request the maximum relief may be sanctioned from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund so as to construct new houses and rehabilitate the victims in a safer place. I expect a favourable decision.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machalishahar): Mr. Chairman, through you I want to attract the attention of the House that all development activities in Uttar Pradesh have come to a stand still. Our Chief Minister has been christened as 'Ghosna Nath Singh'. He is making announcements after announcement. The money of the centre which goes there is being used to disburse salaries and no development work is undertaken The whole House knows, all Members of Parliament knows whole country knows that it has been repeatedly said that after ascertaining the views of Members of Parliament, roads would be provided to them under Prime Minister Road Scheme. But in Uttar Pradesh, our views have not been ascertained so far and discrimination is made, likewise, in Assured Employment Scheme, Rs. one crores per year goes to every block. Whatever works are being done there are done only on papers. I am telling you with guarantee, it is the money of centre*...* we want to know through you that the money of Members of Parliament that would be taken in Road Scheme....*(Interruptions)* we have got the responsibility towards our constituency. Therefore, it is requested that the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs may respond on it....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Members have leveled serious charges** You expunge this from the proceedings, otherwise hold an enquiry. You do either of the two. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is anything objectionable, it would be expunged from the proceedings.

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): Sir, erosion of land and human habitant in both the sides of Ganga and Padma Rivers in different parts of West Bengal is a perennial problem, especially, in Murshidabad, Maldah and Nadia. Everybody, including the Ministers of the Government of India, has said it is a national problem. So, it should be tackled by the Central Government. There was a direction of the hon. High Court of Kolkata to solve the problem After hearing the Public Interest Litigation case, the judgement was given that on 21st September, 1999 a meeting be held between the Government of West Bengal and the Government of India. In compliance with the hon. High Court's verdict, they have jointly decided that the Government of India would take seven schemes under short-term measure at an estimated cost of Rs. 130 crore through Farakka Barrage Project Authority. There was no question of availability of fund at the time of compliance. After two years of the incident, the Government of India has done only the work of Rs. 6 crore out of Rs. 130 crore. I urge upon the Government to comply with the hon. High Court's direction as early as possible....*(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down, otherwise the time would run out.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mulayam Singh Ji, I called out the name of Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya from your party.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also given the notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Of course, your notice is there. Your turn is coming, you will be called out. Please sit down right now, we call out from the queue, your turn is going to come, why do you stand up in a hurry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mulayam Singhjee, I have called out the name of Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya from your party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ram Prasad Singhjee, you sit down otherwise other hon. Members would also stand up.

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Mr. Chairman Sir, in my constituency of Itawah loop line has been constructed at Balarai Railway Station. As a result of it the crossing has come in the middle. For eight hours or so goods trains remain stationed there. On the other side of the line two inter colleges and Brahmani pilgrimage are situated where thousands of people go everyday. Due to the stationing of goods train, people here to go under the train to cross over it. Any mishap can take place there.

Therefore, it is my humble submission that crossing should be shifted eastward so that problem of stationed train may be solved, children may come and go and the mishap may be avoided.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, more than seven lakh coal workers from all over the country will be on strike for three days from 3rd December. They have served notice. All the trade unions, from Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh to Centre of Indian Trade Union, have joined hands. Seven lakh workers will be on strike. Their demand is that the Bill to denationalise coal industry should be withdrawn. This Bill was introduced last year in Rajya Sabha. It was considered by the Standing Committee on Energy and a Report was presented with a dissenting note by five Members of Parliament.

They have also demanded that three subsidiaries, which are in the States of West Bengal and Jharkhand—Eastern Coalfields Limited, Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Central Coalfields Limited—should be converted into one company.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Minister of State for Home had assured us that he would listen to us but he is going outside....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down, when your name will be called up, you may speak.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The number of workers is more than three lakhs. These three subsidiaries are incurring losses. The demand of the trade unions is to convert the seven subsidiaries into one company so that these three subsidiaries, which are in the State of West Bengal and the State of Jharkhand, could come out of the BIFR. If they were converted into one company, the coal company would be viable.

Another major demand relates to the National Coal Wage Agreement, which was signed and approved one year ago. The period of that agreement has also been completed but the arrears to the workers have not been paid.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the point now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The arrears to the workers should also be paid and in order to have a new wage revision agreement a Joint Coal Consultative Committee should also be formed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please come to the main point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: If the strike starts from Monday, the entire industry of the country would suffer. I have written to the hon. Speaker and I want the hon. Coal Minister to respond and clarify. I demand that the major demands of the seven lakh coal workers should

be considered by the Government and the strike, for which notice has been given by the workers, should be averted. The Coal Minister should come forward to resolve the problems of the seven lakh coal workers of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the events in the world have forced us to realise that there should be an alternative national capital. In view of the prevailing political environment in the world, perhaps there is no better place in India than Nagpur, from the point of view of security. Nagpur is centrally located in the country. It is the second capital of Maharashtra and it has all the facilities that a capital should have. Nagpur is connected with 100 cities of the country and it can be reached within one and-a-half hour from any city. After the Chinese attack in 1962, hon'ble Pt. Nehruji had set up defence production units in Nagpur and its vicinity. Considering the current situation in the world, it should be developed as a national capital.

In view of the potential for the development of Nagpur, Maharashtra Government has taken a decision to develop the present airport as a multi model international passenger and cargo hub...*(Interruptions)* In this regard, I would like to remind you of the fate of Jaffna airport in Sri Lanka, lest the same should happen in India. Delhi and Mumbai are no longer safe. Therefore, Nagpur should be made an alternative national capital and a multi model international passenger and cargo hub should be developed there. The Government must consider this.

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I also associate with him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I also associate with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have also associated yourself.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards the situation in Gujarat. After the earthquake in Gujarat small scale industries have closed down. The youths have become unemployed and they have nothing to do. My request is that a special scheme should be announced for the small-scale industries so that the unemployed youths can get employment. Apart from this, the Government of India should formulate a special package in this regard.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr Chairman, Sir, the great constitution of the country provides special rights to the minorities. But, nothing can be more regrettable than the fact that the Bharatiya Janata Party, R.S.S., V.H.P., Shiv Sena and Bajrang Dal in utter disregard to the constitutional provision have violated the rights of the minorities. They consider themselves martyrs by committing negligible sacrifice.

I want to bring to your notice a very important issue, which concerns all the minorities. First, the Steins family was killed and the churches were set on fire. Every one knows who these persons were, and the party to which they belong.

Some days ago, the senior BJP leaders Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Shri Khurana Saheb, had raised an issue here regarding Guru Tegh Bahadur Saheb Kalgidhar, whose name is considered as tilak janju rakha prabhu taka kino badho klu mai saka, and his sacrifice is very great. Some observations were made about him. I would like to say that the issue was raised first of all by the Congress Party MLA, Shri Ravinder Singh Lovely, in Delhi's Assembly on 28th September, 2001. Raising the issue he said that

[English]

> "This House also recommends that at Page 328 of 11th Class NCERT curriculum Book 'Madhyakalin Bharat' under the heading' Sikh, appropriate amendment may be made and objectionable portions about Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji be removed."

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have given a notice about Shiromani Gurudwara Prabhandhak Committee election. You can not raise two issues together. Speak on the subject for which you have given notice.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: I am coming to that. This subject is being projected in a bad light. The entire House is unanimous on this. Three days ago election was held in Amritsar for Shiromani Gurudwara Prabhandhak Committee, which is a representative body of the Sikhs, in which Sehajdharis also vote. The persons belonging to BJP and Shiromani Akali Dal directly interfered therein and this is blatant violation of All India Gurudwara Act. At that time, persons belonging to Shiv Seva, Bajrang Dal, R.S.S. and BJP were also present there. Thus, the BJP Government has interfered in the religious matters of the Sikhs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Akali Dal has insulted those who have been the Head for 20-25 years. The police at

[Shri J.S. Brar]

the behest of BJP and the Akali Dal interfered in the election inside the Golden Temple. I want an assurance from the Government that it will not interfere in the religious matters of the Sikhs. The Union and the State Governments are exploiting the religious matters of the Sikhs. They want to make it on election issue. Their policy is to stab in the back....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Shri Lakshman Seth. Your speech will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the year 2000 one Inter-City Express styled as Azad Express was introduced by the then hon. Minister of Railways from Shalimar to Haldia. This train has been withdrawn, on the plea of lack of patronisation, with effect from 1st October, 2001. There is no reason for this. This Inter-City Express was introduced to cater to the needs of Halida which is emerging as one of the leading industrial hub. Not only this but in the last Budget it was announced by the hon. Minister of Railways of introduction of a new Express train between Haldia and Asansol from 1st July, 2001. It has also not been introduced.

Sir, the Shalimar station has no infrastructure facility. The Inter-City Express was introduced from this station and that is why the above train was not viable. There is a request to run this Inter-City Express from Howrah to Haldia instead of from Shalimar to Haldia.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Railways to kindly re-introduce the Azad Express which was cancelled and run it from Howrah to Haldia and also to introduce the new train announced in the last Budget from Haldia to Asansol This is the long-pending demand of the people there.

12.54 hrs.

RE : PROVISION OF ADEQUATE SECURITY IN JUDICIAL CUSTODY TO SHRI LALOO PRADAD YADAV, FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF BIHAR

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh raised the issue relating to the security of Shri Laloo Yadav, President of RJD in this House yesterday. Today, I am again raising this issue. Yesterday, the Government had assured that there will be no laxity in the security provided to Shri Laloo Yadav. But while the assurance of security is being given here at one hand and the security provided to Shri Laloo Prasadji has been withdrawn there, which had been provided by the Central Government. The jawans (soldiers) of CRPF have been withdrawn and people of Jharkhand State with lathi (stick) have been deputed for that purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know through which sort of security has been given to Shri Laloo Yadav, President of RJD even after the assurance had been given by the Government. It was aired through Doordarshan on Star Plus channel yesterday that how his life can be wiped out by attacking him by pointing at the back of his head. We are afraid that criminals may wipe out his life. This Government are showing apathy in this regard. If any incident occurs, then Government will be responsible for that....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is also a notice from Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh on this issue, I allow him to associate.

...(Interruptions).

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Yesterday only we raised the question, on this Government had said that it will look into it and take action. But the C.R.P.F. security which was provided to him has been withdrawn and police with lathi have been posted there while there is a threat of MCC terrorists there and criminals are dominating there. When they have got arms like AK-47, have the police with lathis will face them. That is why, I doubt that this is a conspiracy of his murder...*(Interruptions)*. When they can not defeat him in politics they want him to be murdered by reducing the security ...*(Interruptions)*. So instruction is to be given to Government to give statement on this...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvanshji had given the notice.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): D.G. Police, Home Secretary, Chief Secretary had gone to jail in Jharkhand to meet him. Yesterday, I want to know in which capacity they had gone to jail, it should be investigated.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious matter. Shrimati Rabri Devi, Chief Minister of Bihar has made some statements in the last two days and she has levelled some serious allegations. Yesterday, she talked to me on telephone and today I have received her letter as well. I am

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*Not Recorded.

surprised why the Government want this tension to take a serious turn. Tension prevailed there, yesterday there was a discussion in this House, but one or the other step is being taken constantly which suggests that these steps are being taken to take revenge on Laloo Prasad. This is very shameful. I feel that the Central Government should interfere in this matter. Saying that Laloo Prasad will be put in jail for six months is not the business of Government, but it is the jurisdiction of Court. It seems that Government have some intentions by passing the Court that Laloo Prasad would not be allowed to come out of jail. At this juncture if the Members of his party feel that if some untoward incident happens with him then this will be a very serious issue. This may set whole Bihar and Jharkhand on fire. I feel that to avoid it, Central Government should see that he is given proper security. The facilities which are provided to any under trial should be given to Laloo Prasad. Laloo Prasad is not any criminal person. He has been alleged with charges and the facilities which should be given to an alleged person and if he is denied of those facilities, what could be worse than this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no need to keep Laloo Prasad 25-30 km away from Ranchi. He has been kept in open space from where he is easily seen. You are seeing clearly that he has been shown on Star TV news and electronic media. He is seen sitting there. May be, he is being safeguarded but anybody can do anything because of the modern arms available now-a-days. We do not say that Government will do it but any other person can do it out of revenge and he can be attacked directly. What is the justification that he has been kept in jail 25-30 km away from Ranchi. If he had to be in jail, then there is a jail in Ranchi. The Government can give all the special facilities there. We and you passed much time in jail. But what is the reason that he has been kept 25-30 km away. Tension will increase by this. What hon. Chandra Shekharji said about the areas nearby village is true? If he is kept away from Ranchi, the more we go to the people, the more tension will be increased. So keep him at a neat place in Ranchi and stop tension and provide him special class facilities. This is my appeal to the Government and Government should interfere in this.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, if any politician is being tried in a case, then at least it should be ensured that whatever protection is given to a person, it should be given to him, if he is a political person, the dignity of the Government and any institution does not increase by denying him those facilities. Time and again this is being said here that there is a danger to his life and inspite of the demand that the steps have to be taken, and if those steps are not taken and God willing unfortunately if something happens, then who will be held responsible. That is why this is necessary. In our supreme House, from what has been said and demanded by the Members like hon. Chandrashekharji, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and even our party and their party it seems that there is a danger to his life, and inspite of all this, if no step is taken, then it will be very sorry state of affairs. It seems that there is danger to his life. In spite of this if no step is taken then it will be most unfortunate.

13.00 hrs.

I would like to bring this to the notice of this Government that if nothing is done in the present scenario then it will be not good for our Parliament, our country and even for Bihar. I emphasise that whatever is necessary to give protection to him this Government should do that immediately and it is also necessary on the part of the Government that they should inform this House about whatever steps were taken in this regard....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabhunath Singh; speak on the point you have given notice about.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Babu, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jaswantjee, I have not given you the floor. Please take your seat. Shri Prabhunath Singh.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir the question of security of Laloojee was discussed in the House yesterday and earlier also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your subject is different.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I have the same subject on which Sh. Mulayam Singh jee and Sh. Chandra Shekhar jee have spoken. I would like to say that nothing should be done with political motivation. While agreeing with the views expressed by hon'ble Shri Chandra Shekhar jee and Mulayam Singh jee I would like to say that though I have read in the newspapers and don't know to what extent it is true that the place where he has been kept is with barbed-wire and 20 police of lathy party, 20 Jharkhand police personnel and 20 C.R.P. constables have been deployed there. There is no doubt about the danger to the life of Laloojee the manner in which he has been kept. The walls of jails are made so high so that the safe custody of the prisoners can be

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

ensured. Sh. Mulayam Singh has said that it is not just from any point of view to keep him at such a distance. If the Government have any malafied I don't know but Sh. Mulayam Singh jee has rightly said that he should be kept in the Ranchi jail instead of keeping him at a distant place and there is full arrangement of security in jail. I would like to say that the Government might approach the Jharkhand Government in this regard and bring him in jail to ensure his security. If the Jharkhand Government show any indifference in the regard certainly we can say that they are doing so with some political reasons. Therefore he should be brought in jail so that he may be totally safe....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh jee please take your seat. You spoken. Now listen to Hon'ble Minister Sh. Pramod Mahajan.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir protection should be given to any prisoner lodged in the jail and if the prisoner is like Laloo Prasad jee who is the president of a national party, former Chief Minister of a state or M.P. or M.LA. the Government must ensure his security and therefore House should take care of security arrangements for Laloo Prasad jee when he is in jail and also when he is out of jail but now we are talking about the place where he has been kept. Certainly I would ask the Minister of Home Affairs to take up this matter with the Jharkhand Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAWA (Jaipur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that in Rajasthan and specially in Jaipur, a number of unauthorized clusters have settled on private and Government lands. Dwellers of private clusters are not getting any grant. But those clusters which are settled on Government lands are availing the facilities of direct roads, water, electricity, parks, schools and community centers and the clusters Government propose to resettle under Government schemes; given central assistance per annum.

Sir, the amount of grant being given by the Government is very low keeping in view the pace of price rise today. So, through you I would like to request the Central Government to increase the amount of grant in order to resettle such unauthorized colonies in an orderly manner.

13.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Eight Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Item Nos. 9 and 10 together.

14.09 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AND COMPANIES (THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL—*cont.*

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Sir, I stand to support the Companies (Third Amendment) Bill, 2001.

Sir, the Members from the Opposition Benches have raised a few questions, namely, why this Bill was brought in firstly and what was the hurry in bringing an Ordinance when Parliament was to meet in another couple of weeks. Sir, the market sentiment has been weak.

Even before the September 11th terrorist attack, the capital market was sliding down. After the September 11th the share prices of companies which have a very good track record, companies which are doing very good, have come down to such a bearish level that they started getting worried. They could go, have a general meeting, have a resolution passed in that meeting. But all that takes time. Naturally that worry creeps into the company because they had such a good NAV, they had such a good management and the slide is so much. That is the only reason why an Ordinance was promulgated and this Companies (Third Amendment) Bill has been introduced.

I would like to say that another point which has been mentioned here is that this Bill is not investor-friendly; and the small investors will be ruined. I would like to say that it is just the opposite in the sense that this Bill gives the option to a small investor that if the slide is so much, the company is ready to buy it back. Let us say, a share of Philips or HLL which are doing very good slides down so low that the investor gets worried and wants to sell it, which makes it even more bearish, these companies can step in. If these companies are having a slide of shares and the investor's confidence in the company is getting eroded, that is the time this Bill comes into play so that the company can give confidence to the investor saying that it is ready to buy it at a particular rate and that will bring the share prices

back. That is the main reason for promulgating this Ordinance and introducing this Bill.

Actually what happens is that there is a floating stock of a company. It can be reduced by the company buy back. When they feel that the share prices have gone up again, they can reissue that share. That is the only reason for bringing this Bill.

I will give you another example. There are two ways of how in investor gets benefited from buying share in the capital market. Firstly, the prices of shares go up. Secondly, he gets a bonus and dividend. There are companies like Microsoft which never gives bonus or dividend. But the share prices have gone so many times higher than the issues price. This Bill is only to get the confidence back to the company so that the company feels that the investor is not let down. That is why it has been introduced and that is how the market is looking up.

One of the things that this Bill has also done is to look into the sentiments of the market. That is why even after the share prices, sensex, volume and liquidity were really down, it has managed to recover and now it is looking up. This is exactly what happened after the September 11th terrorist attack in America. Even in America they put a lot of money to see that the sentiment, the liquidity and the volumes are not decimated in the American NYSE, NASDAQ.

This is one of the Bills which has been introduced to get the sentiments back and win the confidence of the investors.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I rise in support of this Bill which is really a part of the on-going exercise that has been going on for sometime to modernise the Companies Act, 1956 which, in many respects, has become rather antiquated and antediluvian and not taking into account the realities of the present day situation.

I think some of my friends are unnecessarily seeing the ghost in multinational corporations. They seem to have the tendency to see a ghost that does not exist. The way I look at the provisions of the Act is that it does not make any distinction between the multinational or domestic investors. As I see it, originally the Companies Act, 1956 did not provide for a company holding its shares. But that was on the basis of a provision in the then British Companies Act which did not provide for a company holding its shares. But subsequently, with the changes in the situation, the English Company Law was changed and rather, our Company Law was falling behind for a very long time. I think, about two years ago, a salutary attempt was made to enable the company to hold its own shares. I have been a strong votary of the provision or the principle of allowing a company to buy back shares. In fact, I had written articles in *The Economic Times* at least four to five years ago. Now, what is the present position?

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House now....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: When the debate started, there was quorum. Now once it has started, then it is allright.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the debate started, there was quorum.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, but there is no quorum now. And how can you continue with the business of the House when there is no quorum?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being rung—

Now, there is quorum. The hon. Member, Dr. Nitish Sengupta may continue.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA. Sir, there are two or three very big reasons as to why I strongly support this Bill.

First of all, what has been the general plight of the ordinary shareholder in our whole system? Normally, if those company managers who have the controlling block are good managers, they do well but there are quite a number of unscrupulous people who exploit the shareholders. They never give back what they actually deserve. They run their company, milk as much as they can and deprive the normal shareholders of their share. Now, this Bill gives the common shareholders an opportunity to sell their shares to the company management. And to that extent, I do not think it will be correct to say that it is not investor-friendly. In fact, I make bold to say that it is investor-friendly.

Mr. Chairman, with the liberalisation of the economy and the on-going deregulation, sometimes the managements of companies are feeling threatened with raiders and unscrupulous operators who are trying to

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

corner shares in the market, displace the existing management from the companies. Therefore, legitimate managements of companies are naturally looking for their opportunity to strengthen the shareholding base so that they can beat back these raiders and interlopers. So, this is a very salutary provision which will enable these company managements to beat back these raiders and strengthen their hold over the companies.

Thirdly, we can see the result after the introduction of this Bill. Actually, the share market position is improving. Our share markets were doing very well since and I make bold to say this, the anti-national Tehelka conspiracy started the process of total decline of the economy. I do not know who planned this Tehelka but those who did it, did a very antinational act to the extent that it is from that time that the current dismal state of the Indian economy started. To that extent, in the last few weeks, if you see some encouraging signs of recovery, I think this introduction of this Bill have some role to play. So, I support the Bill because it is an attempt to modernise our Company Law. The time limit has been changed from the Ordinance. But that is because, the idea is that where a major block is being bought back, then the shareholders will have the right to know and to that extent, anything higher than 10 per cent of buying and all that will require the approval of the shareholders in general. Otherwise, the company management and the Board of Directors can take a decision to buy the shares, make an offer to the shareholders and buy back some shares. They need not wait for all the paraphernalia of holding a general meeting to get it approved there but if it is much larger than 10 per cent, then certainly, it will need the shareholders' approval.

To sum up, I strongly support this Bill as an attempt to modernise the Companies Law, as an attempt to bring our Companies Law in line with the Companies Law of other advanced countries of the world, as an attempt to provide certain security to managements wherever they are performing well and wherever they would like to buy some shares, strengthen their position and wherever common shareholders will be willing to sell them. It is because they will get a good price. Lastly, it will provide an opportunity to common shareholders, whose voice nobody has heard so far, to make their presence felt and to book their profit and then get out of the company, if necessary. Therefore, I strongly support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon. Minister and the Government deserve thanks and congratulations for bringing this Bill for consideration before the House. This Bill seeks to save time in redressing the complaints and grievances of the companies.

Sir, this Bill has been brought by the Government to amend the Companies Act, 1956 and other existing laws provides for the revival of the companies which could be revived, or which are not functioning well.

A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice Balkrishna Reddy. The Committee has given some suggestions in regard to those companies which were on the verge of bankruptcy and closure. The Government have brought this Bill keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee and the provisions of revival of date to bank SICA, 1985 Security Contract Act, 1956. on there lines, I would like to submit that this Bill has been brought with a view to protect the interests of the wage structure and services of the employees working in the sick companies which are either to be revived or those who are to be rehabilitated on account of the permanent closure of the company, in which they had been working. Hence a company Law Tribunal has been constituted to consider all these points. The first thing which is mentioned in the Bill is that the recommendations of the Tribunal will be binding on the companies.

Second thing which has been mentioned in it is that the Tribunal shall have 10 branches. The companies which are on the verge of closure will consider all these suggestions before taking the final decision. Earlier a lot of time was wasted in deciding as to when the company will be closed down, whether will it be closed down or not and also whether it will be revived or not? I think that this long wait was a great cause of suffering and pain endured by the employees of those companies. Hence I certainly support this Bill. The Bill also seeks to set up a fund to make payment to the employees and to revive the companies. I extent my full support to this Bill and would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister and the Bhartiya Janata Party Government.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Companies Third (Amendment) Bill, 2001, has been brought in the House. Earlier an Amendment Bill was brought which was passed. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs as to where is the Second Amendment Bill so that the extent of the influence of corporate lobbies in various States could be ganged. They are frequently bringing laws. Moreover; they are least concerned about the sufferings of the poor and the public. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to where is the Second Amendment Bill as it is the Third One and the First one was passed.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): First Amendment was not passed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: First Amendment was not passed any they have brought in the third ordinance. Now did they promulgate this ordinance on 23rd or 24th of October. The Cabinet might have decided earlier that the House is shortly going to be summoned. They could not wait even for 10-20 days. So much is the pressure of the corporate lobby. I would like to know from the Law Minister as to why Government succumb to so much pressure.

Sir, the subject of this Bill gives an account of as to how much our country is neck deep in corruption in various fields like stock exchange cheating etc. Some bigwigs are in jail like custom Chief V.P. Verma etc. Sir, even the shares will be bought back. That is being liberalized. Earlier the provision was of General Meeting and now the provisions is of Board Meeting.

I would also like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the rate at which the buy back of shares will take place and also assure the House that no irregularity in buying back of shares will be allowed to take place. The Law Minister favours the big commercial organisation and the ordinance makes way for the buy back and all the Cabinet colleagues have agreed to support his move and there is no one to take care of the interest of the poor farmer who feeds and produces for all. Moreover the farmer has nothing to give from it. Only scams after scams are taking place and the sick have a say in all the matters. The Minister promulgated this ordinance to benefit big commercial organisations. I am of the view that it is going to prove a big threat to the country. Hence the Hon'ble Minister should reply to the points which I have raised.

[English]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, a large number of hon. Members of this House have participated in the debate on this Bill. As the hon. Member Dr. Nitish Sengupta has mentioned, originally under the Companies Law, the concept was that a company was always a distinct identity and a company was prohibited, by its very character, from buying its own shares. World-over this concept changed. In India also, in the year 1999, we amended our Companies Act as a part of the ongoing process of modernising Corporate Law in India. We created a provision that a company could, in a given year—at that time, the time period was two years—buy back 25 per cent of its shares. This provision already exists in the Companies Act. This has already got the approval of this august House.

The rationale behind the buy-back or permitting companies to buy back the shares is that there are a large number of companies which have a fairly large amount of reserves. But those reserves do not translate into any benefit as far as the ordinary shareholder of the company is concerned. When the markets are low, particularly for the small investor, for the ordinary shareholder, for the man who has put his valuable money, the market value of the share, at times, is lesser than the book value of the share. In order to transfer some of the reserves to the markets, the first advantage is that you add liquidity to the market. Reserves can go into the activity of the market of buying and selling shares. The activity helps the market itself.

The second advantage is that when a company uses the reserves to buy-back its shares, the shares of the company are in demand. The shares are being purchased and the value of the share upon buy back starts increasing. The increase of the value helps both the categories of shareholders. It helps those shareholders who have bought for the purposes of investment who want to sell. Otherwise, they would have to sell at a very dismal price. But when the prices move up, the ordinary small shareholder, who is an investor now, gets a much better price and those who have a capacity to hold on, the value of their holding also increases. Indirectly, some of the reserves get transferred into the wealth of the ordinary shareholder. The companies, by this process, are sharing the wealth with their shareholders itself. Therefore, this provision benefits all categories of shareholders alike as far as the company is concerned. This also helps in creating and improving the investment environment. It improves the capital market and the stock value goes up as far as values are concerned.

Various questions have been raised. I must mention at this stage that in some parts of the world, they have also tried an alternate system where the shares, which are bought back are not destroyed. They are kept in Treasury. At an appropriate time, the company re-issues those shares when it so wants. We have not got a similar provision. But our provision is that after a given period of time, if a company needs further capital from the market, in order to also add activity to the market, a company can, after a specified time mentioned in this law, start buying its share itself.

Some questions are raised which I have already answered. How does an ordinary shareholder or small investor benefit from this? In all companies, in all cases where companies are going to go in for buy-back, the share comes up in demand, the value of the share on a normal-commercial-economic principle is going to move up, the shareholders are going to benefit. It moves the

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

stock market up. The overall value of the stocks moves up. It benefits all categories of shareholders. A question was raised as to what happens. Will the multinational start benefiting? Let us not see that ghost of multinationals in this. This Bill only pertains to the domestic Indian companies. We are not regulating the share value of the companies which are registered somewhere outside India. We are not permitting them to go in for buy-back. They are to be regulated by the laws of the country where they are registered.

However, a question was raised what will happen if it has a subsidiary in India. Well, if it has a subsidiary in India, wherein it holds 51 per cent, then the company shares will be having a subsidiary with 51 per cent and it may have some small investors. Even if such a company also goes in for buy-back, already holding 51 per cent of the holding, the small investors are automatically going to be benefited from the buy-back exercise.

I have also read some comments, etc. Will the stock exchanges be informed? I read an article in the newspaper in this regard. Once you go in for buy-back, SEBI has very clear continuous disclosure norms. All such decisions of the Board or the management of the company which have an impact on the securities of the company or its valuations under the continuous disclosure norms are required to be informed to the stock exchanges. There are already guidelines as far as SEBI is concerned. The SEBI's regulations in this regard also normally fall in line with what Parliament decides and the need for an Ordinance at this stage was that we wanted the stock market to move up; we wanted activity in the stock market; we wanted liquidity being added to the stock market. This is one of the reasons in this whole process of revival. To add liquidity to the market, this is something which was urgently required. It has also shown and I am not saying that this is the only reason as to why it has happened. This is one of the several factors or steps taken by the industry, some of the corporate results have been good and some other steps were taken by the Government. This step itself in the last few weeks, therefore, led to some revival and upward movement in the stock market and that movement itself benefits both the economy and also benefits the shareholders.

[Translation]

Shri Raghuvansh Babu asked about the fate of remaining company law amendments. We had brought first amendment to Company laws this year. It was related to insolvency law. The amendment was introduced to address the issues of failure in payment by companies which become insolvent, and the companies which are referred to BIFR and BIFR has not been able to revive them and the distress caused by all this to the workers. The amendment was made with a view to safeguard the future of workers in the whole process of revival. The amendment has been referred to the Standing Committee after its introduction. The House will get the opportunity to consider it once its report is presented.

We also wanted to add a new chapter through the second amendment relating to produce companies which provided for giving option to the cooperatives for designing their producer companies in the form of cooperatives or companies. Some of the cooperatives demanded the right of voluntary options to them. This issue is also before the Standing Committee. Therefore, this is the third Bill and seeks to benefits small investors. I request the hon. Members of the House to support the Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, please be brief.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): I only want to remind the Minister that this Government is creating a bad precedent. They are always ignoring and bypassing Parliament. This amendment Ordinance was promulgated on 23rd October, 2001. Parliament Session was scheduled to start on 19th November, 2001. Why so much hurry on the part of Government to promulgate the Ordinance? If you wait for a few days, there would have been no harm. You have promulgated the Ordinance by passing and ignoring the Parliament. This tendency has grown up and increasing every day. You are always promulgating the Ordinance when the Parliament Session is approaching or near the corner. I would request the hon. Minister to please give up this procedure. Do not ignore Parliament, do not bypass Parliament. Anyhow, I am not insisting or pressing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty?

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I am not pressing.

I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Companies Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House would now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, Short title and Commencement

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 2,-

for "Companies (Third Amendment) Act, 2001",

substitute "Companies (Amendment) Act, 2001". (1)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.43 hrs.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES (MAINTENANCE) ORDINANCE REPEAL BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): On behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the hon. Members are aware that the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941 was promulgated by the Governor-General of India on the 19th December, 1941 to make provisions for the maintenance of certain essential services. The said Ordinance was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, dated the 10th December, 1941 and is of permanent nature as it was promulgated during the period when the time limit prescribed under section 72 of the Government of India Act, 1935, for operation of such Ordinances, that is, six months from the date of promulgation, had been omitted. It is continuing since 1941 because of that omission.

Subsequently, the Government of India enacted the Essential Services (Maintenance) Acts in the years 1968 and again in 1981. These Acts lapsed on the expiry of their life span. The Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941 was not repealed by these Acts and hence the Ordinance still continues to remain on the Statute Book.

The Commission on Review of Administrative Laws set up by the Government of India on 8th May, 1998 headed by Shri P.C. Jain, recommended the repeal of Central Laws/Ordinances including the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941.

In this background, the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941 is proposed to be repealed.

With these words, Sir, I commend the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance Repeal Bill, 2001 as introduced to this august House for consideration and passage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941, be taken into consideration."

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Respected Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill. At the same time, I would like to get some information from the Government because this Bill is repealing the Ordinance issued in 1941. At that time, the Government, which had to face the situation of the Second World War and also the Independence Movement headed by

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

Mahatma Gandhi, promulgated the Ordinance. Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress Party were leading the Non-Cooperation Movement and also the Quit India Movement. At that time, the Britishers wanted to stop the Non-Cooperation Movement. They also wanted to threaten the people way of this Ordinance.

For recollection, I am just reading the definition given by them at that time:

> "Employment' includes employment of any nature, whether paid or unpaid."

It was even for unpaid people, that is, those who were employed. At that time, even if they wanted to stop work, they would have been punished for one year. In the same way, the Government at that time wanted to have only this purpose. According to the definition in section (iii), it is for public safety, maintenance of public order or efficient prosecution of war or for maintaining the supplies and services necessary for the life of the community. Their intention was only to protect their Government and continue their imperialistic attitude at the time of the War and even subsequent to the War. In the same way, they wanted to say that discontinuance of employment of such a person or by closing an establishment in which such a person is engaged, caused the discontinuance of his employment. Even an individual cannot continue his employment. That was the prohibition made at that time. In 1968, there was an agitation throughout India. The essential services, especially the Railways, and also the Posts and Telegraphs and other public sector undertakings had gone on strike. Therefore, they brought forward this Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance It was made an Act in 1968 and continued for two years. In the same way, in 1980, the same thing happened. The Essential Services Maintenance Act of 1981 continued for nine years.

Now, I would like to suggest to the Government that a situation has arisen. The Government servants are agitated. The workers in the public sector undertakings are agitated. The Railway employees are agitated. There is a feeling that their grievances are not being properly redressed at a proper time. If they go on strike, then, the Government will again come forward with this type of Ordinance.

I would just like to bring forward the feelings of the employees. Now, the private sector is coming. The multinationals are coming. A person sitting in the Telephones Department—BSNL or VSNL—may be drawing a salary of Rs. 10,000. In case he goes to Airtel or Essar, he would get a salary of Rs. 20,000. A lot of perquisites are there. A lot of things are being given by them. Housing is given freely. Transport is given freely. So much is being given there. Naturally, the Government servants will also like to have them. When I am working in the same way, why should I not be paid in the same way as is being done in the case of employees in the private sector? Therefore, the Government should understand the situation. This type of Ordinance or Act need not come in future. The Government has to take a proper perspective and redress the grievances then and there.

Their problems could be solved by proper creation of the departments, proper conciliation, proper thinking and sitting with them across the table.

Then I hope these types of Acts and Ordinances need not come.

But I would like to suggest that it is high time to have a clear policy on the part of the Government to tell the employees that their grievances will be properly redressed. They need not resort to the last resort of strike and have immbolised the entire country. I can give an example of Tamil Nadu. In Deepawali days, the entire transport employees were on strike. People suffered a lot. The people are suffering, the employees are suffering, workers are suffering and the Government is suffering. I would like to know why. There should be a proper discussion with the people who are employed by us. They are our citizens. We should discuss with them and see that proper redressal are given for them, then there will not be any strike. There will not be any ordinance like this.

Therefore, this is the correct time to understand and the Government should come forward with a clear policy as to how they are going to solve the problems when it is faced in such a situation when these ordinance in 1968 or 1981 have come forward for this purpose.

Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Government should awake and see that the Government servants, especially those from the PSUs are taken care of. Public Sector Undertakings are suffering a lot. Their employees are not having a VRS. The Government is telling that they are giving VRS for NTC mills and they say that VRS is ready for them. But when we go and seek that, they say there are no funds, no money and that they cannot give it. In the same way, in every industrial sector, the same thing is happening.

Therefore, I feel that the Government should come forward with a clear idea and they should see in which

way they are going to protect the interest of the employees and workers.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member. He gave a number of suggestions and also suggested to take certain precautions while promulgating such ordinances so that there will not be any lapse of ordinance.

He was kind enough to highlight the problems of various employees. All the suggestions made by the hon. Member will be taken into consideration and at an appropriate time, we will use all the suggestions given by the hon. Member.

So far as this Bill is concerned, there is a limited scope. At the time of promulgation of ordinance in 1941, the time limit which was prescribed under Section 72 of the Government of India Act of 1938, it was omitted. Just because of that omission it continued upto that, otherwise this would have been lapsed. Though the other ordinances were lapsed, this could not be....*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): What are the implications?

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: There is no implication.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him reply. You can ask clarifications after the reply.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: How can he allow it to continue? It would have lapsed automatically.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: For six months it was not there and it was omitted at that point of time. It was not done by this Government, the provision was omitted in the year 1941 and because of that it is continuing happening. Like that there are a number of enactments. Shri P.C. Jain has recommended and amongst other recommendations, he made this recommendation. It deserves to be removed from the Statute Book, therefore, I would request the hon. Members to pass this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN. The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That 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 Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.55 hrs.

EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCES (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Sir, on behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to move.

"That the Bill further to amend the Explosive Substances Act, 1908, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, as the hon. Members are aware, the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1998 was passed by this august House on 17.12.1998 but before the consideration of the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, the 12th Lok Sabha was dissolved and the Bill accordingly lapsed.

For the information of this august House, it may be informed that incidents of bomb explosions have been on the increase in the recent past in various parts of the country, particularly in the States of Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and North East and have caused immense loss of life and property. The frequent occurrence of such incidents has adversely affected the security environment in the country and

[Shri Ch. Vidyasagar Rao]

created serious law and order situation. Enquiries have revealed that terrorists and anti-national elements are increasingly using sophisticated variety of explosives like RDX (Research Development Explosive), PETN (Penta Erythritol Tetra Nitrate) and other similar types of explosive substances in carrying out their nefarious activities. These improved varieties of explosives are difficult to detect in the normal course and are far more lethal and damaging than conventional explosives.

Since the existing Explosive Substances Act, 1908 makes no distinction between offences involving use of conventional types of explosives as compared with the improved and sophisticated types of lethal explosives, a review of the provisions of the existing Act was conducted by the Ministry of Home Affairs so as to make its provisions more stringent in respect of explosions carried with the use of sophisticated explosives like the RDX and PETN.

The Bill was introduced again in the Rajya Sabha on 23.12.1999 and considered by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs in its meeting held on 8.2.2000. In their Report, the Committee had made some recommendations which have been considered in consultation with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and had been accepted by the Government by and large and based on the recommendations of the Committee, certain amendments were also made to the Bill, mainly the following:—

1. Clause 2 (b) of the Bill to be amended to enable the Central Government to include any new special category 'explosive' substance by issue of a notification.

2. To recast the wordings of Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Act so as to prescribe minimum punishment for various offences and to enhance the level of punishment under these Sections of the Act to the level of death penalty and rigorous imprisonment for life in case where RDX, PETN and other similar types of explosives or combination thereof and remote control devices are used to cause such explosions; and

3. To add a new clause in the Bill as to provide for the exercise of powers of sanction of prosecution by the District Magistrate in the States/UTs in place of the Central Government.

I am happy to inform the hon. Members that this Bill has since been considered and passed by the Rajya Sabha on 20.11.2001.

With the above, I request that the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2001 as passed by the Rajya Sabha be considered and passed by this august House also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Explosive Substances Act, 1908, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the piece of legislation under the title, 'Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2001' was moved and it had already been passed in the Rajya Sabha, with an apparent aim of invoking more stringent laws in dealing with the ever explosive situation prevailing in India, which has been created by numerous terrorist outfits in propagation to their causes unmindful of the consequences whatsoever.

15.00 hrs.

Thus culminating into destruction of properties worth crores of rupees and the perishing away of thousands of innocent lives in India. Terrorist organisation is hard to be distinguished without having the expertise in triggering off explosion. It becomes a convenient tool to propagate their causes in a violent way so that it may easily draw the attention of the common people.

Sir this legislative document has sought new Sections for Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908. The origin of this Bill 1908, which consists of seven Sections, lies in Bengal which had erupted into a serious and severe political violence in the aftermath of Bengal Partition. This was conspired by the British imperialists to weaken the anti-British political agitation in Bengal. In the present world, more stringent measures are required to snuff out the menace of terrorism which has not only crossed the national borders but also assumed a global dimension I cannot but support the Bill. But a few questions need to be addressed with cogent clarification.

First, the Bill is not free from apprehension in its content. The proposed legislation, I must say, indicates a causal and superficial approach. A comprehensive and holistic approach is the need of the hour because the pangs of terrorism are being experienced not only by the people of India but also by the entire world. Here, only the provisions of Sections 2-5 of the principal Act are sought to be amended in order to intensify punishment. Here, the explosive material has been categorised in view of the lethality of the concerned substances such as RDX

and so many other materials which the Minister has said earlier.

15.04 hurs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

But discrepancies are at many places in this Bill. Here I would like to point out one thing. As far as punishment is concerned, one may be punished with death or imprisonment for life under clause 3, but the same is found guilty under clause 4 may be punished with only imprisonment for life.

It is like two kinds of rewards for the same results. May I ask the hon. Minister whether there is a semantic nuance between 'imprisonment for life' and 'rigorous imprisonment for life'? This needs to be cleared.

As per clause 5 of this Bill, 'Any person who makes or knowing has in his possession or under his control any explosive substance or special category explosive substance, under such circumstances as to give rise to a reasonable suspicion that he is not making it or does not have it in his possession or under his control for a lawful object, shall, unless he can show that he made it or had it in his possession or under his control for a lawful object, be punished.' Here, it is assumed that the burden of proof being incumbent upon the accused. How do you define 'reasonable suspicion'? What are the parameters in this Bill to denote 'reasonable suspicion'? This point needs to be clarified.

Further, this Bill has sought to amend Section 7 whereby the sanctioning authority would now be entrusted upon District Magistrate. It was hitherto under the control of the Central Government. May I know whether the District Magistrate's Office is equipped enough to dispose of this kind of cases? Here you have talked about special category explosives with high plasticity and low evaporation. I would like to know whether any special court is going to be installed to dispose of such case.

May I know how many explosions have taken place during the last ten years and how much amount of explosive materials have been seized so far? I would like to know whether you are going to deploy any special category of armed personnel to deal with the people who are in possession of highly explosive materials like RDX.

The aspect of *mens rea* has also been raised by the Standing Committee on this. It also has to be cleared.

We know that India is on tinderbox. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to the North-East, the entire country is awash with a plethora of terrorist organisations. Explosion has become the order of the day. The mournful demise of innocent passengers in 1985 when the aircraft Kanishka was blown in mid-air is still haunting us. Our beloved leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi was blown into pieces. In Bombay, explosions had taken a toll of hundreds of lives. In the recent past, there was a bomb fidayeen attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. It also took a toll of many innocent lives. These are just a few cases.

The entire world had observed with horror the crashing of passenger planes into the WTC towers and the Pentagon. This is the first time we are experiencing that passenger planes could be converted into fixed-wing missiles, which could create a horror. Only 19 terrorists had played havoc and we had observed it on our TV screens, where it was flashed 'USA under attack'.

Are we prepared to deal with such situations? All of us are familiar with car bombs, truck bombs and human bombs.

But, now, it is bio-terrorism; chemical-terrorism; and radio-active terrorism, which are appearing on the horizon.

Sir, today, I have observed in the newspapers that a balloon bomb is also in the arsenal of terrorist organisations, that is, Al Qaeda. I would like to know whether we are prepared to deal with such situations because these are all exotic explosives hitherto unknown to us. I would like to suggest to this Government that we should explore some preventive measures because without having effective preventive measures, we cannot snub out this terrorism.

Sir, first of all, we have to find out as to how these explosive materials have been penetrated into this country and whether the terrorist organisations are able to procure these materials indigenously or they are being catered by any foreign country.

Sir, as we all know, our terrorist organisations from Kashmir to North-East are being aided and abetted by hostile countries. Therefore, we have to build up such kind of Armed Forces. Our border post, our BSF men, so far, I know are not well equipped to detect such explosive materials with their equipment and machineries in their possession. Therefore, it needs a special category of armed personnel to deal with these anti-national activities.

Sir, it is also sometimes coming up in the newspapers that some kind of pilferage is also going on in our Ordnance factories. So, we are besieged by internal and

[Shri Adhir Choudhary]

external enemies. Therefore, these kinds of clandestine activities have to be stopped and more stringent laws are required in this regard.

Sir, as we all know, in foreign-airliners, sniffer dogs are being used to detect the explosives. Airline is a conduit for carrying explosive materials.

Therefore, I am supporting the Bill. However, again, I would request the Government not to say anything about POTO. I know to have it implemented is Government's moto. But this POTO should not be passed in toto because we have decided to put a veto.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2001. I spoke on this Bill when it came before the House in 1999.

Now, I shall confine my speech mainly on my amendments, which I am placing on the Table of the House.

Firstly, in this Bill, under section 2, the definition of Explosive Substances is not clear. It is very casually drafted. An explosive substance is defined as an explosive substance. Is it a definition?

Sir, I know that you are a Professor in Mathematics. An explosive substance is an explosive substance. Is it a definition? Also apparatus, machine or implement can it be called an explosive substance? It is very casually drafted.

Now, an explosive substance should be defined in a law. It should be very clear, without any ambiguity. It should be like this:

There are two types of explosive substances. One is the conventional one and the other is the non-conventional one, that is the nuclear explosive. According to my submission, in the conventional sense, the explosive substance is defined as a solid, gas or liquid material and not an apparatus. It is only a material which, when triggered, will release a great amount of heat and pressure by way of a very rapid self-sustaining exothermic decomposition. That is exactly the definition of an explosive substance. But here, in the Bill, it is an apparatus, it is a machine. These are all explosive substances as defined here. This should be corrected. It is a very weak definition.

As regards the non-conventional one, last time also I pleaded to include the non-conventional explosive, that is the nuclear explosive in this Bill. You know and every nuclear scientist knows that even a sub-critical mass is harmful. For a nuclear bomb, for an atom bomb, the critical mass is there from 2 kilograms of Uranium-235 to 100 kilograms and less quantity for Plutonium. Now, a sub-critical mass can be rendered to critical mass by suitable pressure and suitable configuration. As it is possible, a small atom bomb is now a reality. It is called a 'DAT' atom bomb or a 'trash can' atom bomb. The 'trash can' atom bomb has got a different mechanism. I will explain it later on. Now, if this sub-critical mass of small quantity, a few kilograms, say one kilogram or two kilograms of Uranium-235 explodes, it is a sub-critical atom bomb which is equivalent to 320 MT of TNT. It can demolish this Parliament House totally. So, the sub-critical atom bomb is a reality. The small atom bomb is a reality. The 'trash can' atom bomb is a reality. It is an explosive substance. It is like the suitcase bomb. You can see in the newspapers that Osama Bin Laden is carrying 125 such atom bombs. They can be carred in a suitcase which can be exploded anywhere.

The 'trash can' atom bomb is a very dangerous bomb. There is some nuclear waste, either Plutonium or Uranium-235 being sold in the black market in the world that is coming from the erstwhile Soviet Union, Kazakistan. That can be purchased. These terrorists are in possession of those nuclear waste of Uranium-235 and Plutonium. A 'trash can' bomb of a quantity of one kikogram or two kilograms can be put inside a conventional bomb. If such a thing explodes in Delhi, then radio-active materials will come in the air and instantaneously some hundreds of people will die and thousands of people will later on be attacked by cancer and the whole of air and water will be polluted radio-actively and the whole population will have to evacuate. This is the danger of this 'trash can' bomb. This is the opinion of the scientists of an institution CERN in Switzerland. This is the opinion of the topmost nuclear scientists there. I want to request the hon. Minister concerned, through you, to include this non-conventional nuclear device also in this Bill.

Sir, if you permit, I will read from *The Statesman* of 22nd September, 2001 a news story titled: 'Trash can bomb' can fall into the hands of terrorists. It is a small one. It says:

> "Top nuclear scientists are calling it the 'trash can' bomb. The bomb, actually a possible rough-and-ready nuclear device, could fall into the hands of terrorists in the next few years. Leading scientists from CERN or The European Council for Nuclear Research and the Commissariat a. 1' Energie Atomique, now in India, speak of the distinct possibility of large quantities of uranium falling into the hands of terrorists in the near future and then, a shower of radioactivity

over targets, usually big cities. There will be no conventional bomb, a CEA official said. What the terrorists do is package some nuclear waste or uranium or plutonium which are used to make nuclear weapons in an ordinary bomb."

"When the bomb, placed in the middle of a big city for effect, explodes, it would spray radioactive material over large areas. It would not mean a conventional fire ball as seen over say, Hiroshima or Nagasaki and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people. But surely, several hundred people would die immediately and thousands would receive huge doses of radioactivity causing cancer or other terminal disease in the future. The economic and psychological impact would be very high. The area would have to be evacuated and this would hurt the economy of the country, said Mr. Jarguen Schukraft, a senior CERN official. The area would be contaminated and unusable for years. Just how contaminated an area can become would depend on the quality and quantity of fuel used. Plutonium, for example, usually has a longer 'half-life' than uranium. Even with uranium, it has to be seen if it is weapons-grade uranium or depleted uranium or anything in between. The explosion, whatever the fuel, would cause tremendous panic, he felt. Such a possibility was very likely in the near future, he said. In Turkey, he said, officials found peple trying to sell one kg of weapons-grade uranium-235 in the black market. A kg. of U-235 would be enough to contaminate a large area for many years, he said. Much of these substances are being smuggled out of Russia and other Republics that were once part of the USSR, he said. There are defunct nuclear power stations even in the Central Asian Republics—at one time, Kazakistan had the largest stockpiles of nuclear weapons. Though terrorists may find it very difficult to get their hands on nuclear weapons or manufacture one, they are perfectly capable of making trash can bombs, he said."

So, 'trash can' bomb' is a reality and it should be included in this Bill.

Sir, now I would come to clause 2, sub-clause (B) about many explosives that could come up in future. Many of us would know that the RDX was invented in the year 1899 but it was used as an explosive in the year 1920. So, it took some 20 years to be used as an explosive. So, there are many such things that could come up on future, so, this clause must have this provision to include those substances that may come in future. I would give my amendments to Section 2, sub-clause (B) where mention has been made about explosions being effected by remote control devices and any such other substances. I would like to mention that it should not be mentioned as 'any other substances.' It needs to be qualified as to 'what substance'. I would give my amendment to the effect that it should be mentioned that any other substance that may come in future to be included in the special category of explosive substances. It should be made clear. There should not by any ambiguity in this regard. It has to be appropriately qualified that substance would be included later on as a special category explosive substances. You cannot name 'any other substances' to be included in the list of explosive substances.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, mention has been made about according heavy punishments from rigorous life imprisonment to giving death sentences.

Advanced countries are trying to abolish capital punishment and we are trying to introduce it here in this Bill! I want the Government to introduce here the words 'knowingly and wilfully' Apart from unlawfully and maliciously. Mr. Minister, a person must do this wilfully to be punished. I am a lay man. Suppose somebody puts one kilogram of this substance in my pocket and I do not know that it is illegal to carry it. What will happen under the provisions of the Bill is that I will be hanged. You are providing for death punishment for just possessing this substance.

A similar case came up under British rule in Calcutta High Court. At that time Ashutosh Mukherjee the lawyer pleaded the case on the grounds of the accused not doing it 'knowingly and wilfully'. It is very meaningful. Doing something only unlawfully and maliciously should not be enough. You are accusing somebody and you are trying to hang that person. You must be 100 per cent sure that he is guilty of the crime. In our law, there is the concept of benefit of doubt. As per Indian law, you cannot hang an innocent person. So, the words 'knowingly and wilfully' should be included here. Only 'unlawfully and maliciously' is not correct.

See how casually Section 3 (a) and (b) are drafted. According to 3 (a), any person who unlawfully and maliciously causes by any explosive substance an explosion of a nature likely to endanger life or to cause serious injury to property shall, whether any injury to person or property has been actually caused or not, be punished for life, etc. Under 3 (d), any person who unlawfully and maliciously causes by any special category explosive substance an explosion of a nature likely to endanger life or to cause serious injury to property shall, whether any injury to person or property has been actually causes or not, be punished with death, etc. So, if you kill a person with a pipe gun, you are imprisoned for life. And if you kill a person with a pistol, you will be hanged. Can it be like that? It is drafted like that. For the same

[Shri R.R. Pramanik]

consequence, punishment is different. One consequence is caused by an explosive substance and the other is caused by a special category explosive substance. The consequence is the same but punishment is different. How can that be? For killing a person, either by a sword or by a pistol, punishment should be the same. Moreover, nobody needs to die here. Whether any injury to a person or property is actually caused or not, the accused would invite this punishment.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would request the Minister concerned not to introduce capital punishment. That is my urgent request. In England, in the remote past, there was an anti-smoking law under which penalty for smoking was death. One person was hanged for smoking though he did not know that smoking would invite capital punishment. On that issue, the British people agitated. Death penalty was later abolished in Britain forever. At a time when many advanced countries are thinking of abolishing death penalty, you are providing death penalty only for possessing explosive substance! I would request the Minister to remove this portion that talks of capital punishment from the Bill.

Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi said, 'God alone can take life because God alone can give life'.

So, God can take life because he gives it. We cannot take life. Life is very precious. Many innocent people may be hanged, if this Bill is enacted. So, I will request the Minister concerned, through you, Mr. Chairman, not to introduce death punishment here; I would request him to have even rigorous imprisonment. For possessing ordinary explosives, he could give life imprisonment and for possessing high explosive substances, he could give rigorous imprisonment, and not death sentence. Kindly do not give that.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech will continue. Now we will take up Private Members' resolution.

15.30 hrs.

[English]

MOTION RE : TWENTIETH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twentieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 28th November 2001."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twentieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 28th November 2001."

The motion was adopted.

15.32 hrs.

[English]

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTIONS

(i) Re : Review of Decision to Withdraw Quantitative Restrictions—*Contd.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before further discussion on the Resolution regarding review of decision to withdraw quantitative restrictions moved by Shri Sunil Khan is resumed, I would like to mention that a time of one hour and 57 minutes had already been consumed out of the two hours allotted by the House for this discussion. The House is now to extend time for further discussion on the Resolution.

Is it the pleasure of the House that time for this Resolution be further extended by half-an-hour?

The time is extended by half-an-hour if the House permits.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladaturai): We want more time.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will be considered when the need arises. Now, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this extremely important discussion, which began before the Doha Conference, has been resumed after the Doha Ministerial Meeting. It is therefore incumbent on us to take into consideration what happened at Doha on the subjects of agriculture and industry.

However, the hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry has laid a detailed statement on the Table of the House and I dare day that the House would wish to

consider the Shri Maran's statement which will, I think, be considered by this House on another occasion, I wish to confine myself to one remark that arises out of that statement and to reserve my right to return to that statement whenever a discussion on the statement as a whole is taken up by this House. That sentence is that, "the key concerns of India in agriculture have been adequately safeguarded in the Declaration."

It seems to me to be a dangerously complacement stand to take. It is true that some of our concerns have been met; it is true that we have moved forward to some extent with regard to our concerns in agriculture. But to boldly state that these interests have been adequately safeguarded appears to reflect a lack of adequate recognition of the problems that Indian agriculture and the Indian *kisan* and *Kheth mazdoors* are facing.

I would be the first to admit that Shri Maran's remit, which is limited to trade questions, does not constitute the totality of the economic imperatives relating to agriculture. Most of our problems with regard to agriculture have been caused more by Shri Nitish Kumar than by Shri Maran. But I would have hoped that Shri Maran would have taken into account Shri Nitish Kumar's feelings in this respect and expressed a less than satisfied or less than smug assessment of what happened at Doha with respect to agriculture.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): Shri Nitish Kumar prepared the draft.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: So, it means that you are allowing him to not only ruin domestic Indian agriculture but also our trade in agriculture. I would request Shri Maran, in whom I have far greater faith than I have in Shri Nitish Kumar to take up his responsibilities serisouly and ensure...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): He has now moved to the Ministry of Railways.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I meant the Ministry of Agriculture. Whosoever was in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture, we got his signatures and then only sent the draft of Geneva.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am certain, Sir, that the totality of the Indian stand with respect to agriculture, as initially stated by Shri Maran in his opening statement, did have the approval and the deep involvement of the Ministry of Agriculture. I was referring to the statement made by Shri Maran at the conclusion of the Doha negotiations, where he expressed the view here on the floor of the House that 'all our interests have been "adequately" safeguarded'. I do not think they have been adequately safeguarded. They have been safeguarded more than before Doha but there still remain deep concerns and I think it is to those concerns that Shri Sunil Khan's resolution addresses itself.

First and most important is for this Government to recognise, as the House and the country have long recognised, that India's performance in agriculture in the last decade of socialism, in the eighties, was far superior to the performance of Indian agriculture in the first decade of reform. In the first five years of economic reform, there was, up to some small extent, a certain parallelism between our performance in the eighties and our performance in the first half of the nineties. But there has been such a serious slide since then that I think that the Government, which is responsible to our *kisans*, responsible to our *khet mazdoors*, must take cognizance of this steep slippage in agricultural performance that the Indian economy has witnessed in the decade of reforms taken as a whole compared to the pre-reform decade. I do not wish to go into the details because that is not really the forum for it. But might I just flag the point that if you look at the Economic Survey for 2001 presented just before Shri Yaswant Sinha's Budget, you will find that except for jute and mestha, where the rate of growth in the nineties was marginally - 0.2 per cent or 0.3 per cent—higher than it was in the eighties and cotton where the rate of growth in the nineties was more or less broadly parallel to the rate of growth in the eighties, in every other product, in every single other product—be it wheat, rice, pulses, oil seeds, coarse cereals, plantation crops, above all oilseeds—the production performance in the nineties as a whole has been seriously below that of the eighties. There are, of course, very many reasons for this but one of the ways in which we can enable our farmers to escape from the trap of low productivity, low income and low employment into which they have fallen in the nineties, is to have a dramatically improved performance in the export sector with adequate safeguards with regard to the import of agricultural commodities.

Unfortunately, Sir, we cannot say that the Government have performed in this manner in the trade sector in the course of the last five years since the entry into force of the Marrakesh Agreement. For example, take the raising of tariff. You bind tariffs specifically in order to have the flexibility to raise your tariffs up to the bound limit whenever it is required. Yet, in the field of edible oil, which is a field which deeply concerns the poorest farmers of India because oilseeds are by and large grown in rain-fed conditions and not in irrigated conditions, where, in the 1980s, there was an astonishing and almost

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miraculous situation when we changed from edible oil being the second largest import into India after crude oil, into a situation in the mid-90s when we became a net exporter of edible oil, there has been a complete reversal since then and the oilseed farmers as well as the oilseed crushing industry have suffered serious reversal. While all this has been going on, there has been such a massive increase in imports of edible oil that this Government should have acted much in advance in raising tariffs of edible oil imports to protect the interest of Indian oilseed farmers and the Indian oilseed crushing industry. It completely failed to do so. It was very tardy. They have now raised it to 60 per cent on everything except soya bean oil. This is a step that could have easily been taken three years ago or four years ago. But they did not do it, with the result that there has been a very serious adverse impact upon our oilseed farmers as also the associated industries.

15.42 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

I would like to quote a few lines from an article by C.H. Hanumantha Rao, former member of the Planning Commission, in this regard where he says:

> "Despite high tariff binding at 300 per cent, it is due to the failure of market intelligence, lack of alertness and inability to act promptly to raise import duties that we have had this massive increase in imports of edible oil."

He quotes in this regard both the articles by Chand of 2000 as well as by Ashok Gulati of 2001.

Then, there was inadequate use of other types of safeguards available to us. In bilateral diplomacy, for the bilateral agreement under the overall umbrella WTO agreement, poor diplomacy and a dangerously poor understanding of Indian interests, combined with weak-kneed submission to outside pressure, has resulted in many bilateral agreements, including the one signed with the United States of America, not adequately meeting Indian interests, and bringing forward compliance dates without taking the full time permitted to make the necessary domestic adjustments.

Then, Sir, the Government have been targeting our subsidies instead of targeting the subsidies that are given in the developed countries who are preventing us from finding markets there while opening up our market to invasion from outside.

Finally, there has been an inadequate assault by our diplomacy on the kinds of pressures that are brought to bear upon us in institutions like WTO. Is it not a very saddening fact that the Prime Minister of India should have been received in the White House just a week before Doha, and, to the best of public knowledge he has not raised any of the significant issues which Shri Maran raised at the start of the WTO Conference? Should we not be protecting our interests? When the Government of India had pledged itself to the United States of America for isolating Osama Bin Laden, the US Trade Representatives was putting all the pressure possible on all our friends in the developing countries to isolate Shri Murasoli Maran at Doha. Is this the way in which foreign policy should be synergised with foreign economic policy?

Sit, it is essential in the area of trade that over the next 2-3 years that we have, before we come to revised Agreement on Agriculture, there be a very focussed and very targeted attack by not only Shri Maran but also by Shri Jaswant Singh preferably with the support of the Prime Minister, to bring to the attention of the world, to bring to the attention of the developing countries, to bring to the attention of the developed countries, and specifically to bring to the attention of the United States of America, our deep concerns in this regard.

Thus, for example, there is nothing at the moment which shows recognition of what is the share of agriculture in a country's GDP or the share of agriculture in a country's total employment structure. In India approximately 30 per cent of our GDP comes from agriculture and approximately 70 per cent of our population is engaged in agriculture. How does this compare with the developed world? According to the World Bank Report of 2000, where 30 per cent of India's GDP comes from agriculture, in Germany only one per cent of their GDP comes from agriculture. In the United Kingdom, in the USA and in France, it is just two per cent. With regard to employment, where 70 per cent of our people are employed in the rural sector, in Germany and United Kingdom, only three per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture; in the USA only four per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture and in France only six per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture. With merely two to three per cent of GDP arising out of agriculture and merely two to six per cent of the population engaged in agriculture, look at the massive subsidies that are given to agriculture in the developed countries.

According to Ashok Gulati's estimates, the Producers Support Estimate, PSE, support to agriculture in the European Union is 44 per cent; in Japan it is 61 per cent; in the Republic of Korea it is 65 per cent; in Norway it is 66 per cent; and in Switzerland it is 70 per cent. What is it in India? For product specific subsidies it is minus 38.5 per cent; and for non-product specific subsidies it is 7.5 per cent.

So, here we are in a curious situation where at the urging of the World Bank, the Finance Minister of India keeps returning to this House to tell us to reduce subsidies as a way of arriving at the macro-economic balance, and neither Shri Jaswant Singh nor the Prime Minister of India goes to these developed countries and says they are the sinners; we are only imitating them and therefore we must have the right to increase our subsidies to whatever level is required for the protection of Indian farmers, and at the same time, it is absolutely imperative that all the developed countries reduce these ridiculously high trade-distorting subsidies which they are giving themselves.

Yet, that is not being done. All we hear is the still small voice of Shri Murasoli Maran. The rest of his Government does not support him. According to newspapers reports, the rest of the Government even slapped him on his knuckles while he was in Doha. What would have been an outstanding performance had there been a DMK Government sitting in Delhi was reduced to what it was, there being an NDA Government sitting in Delhi. I feel very sorry for Shri Maran.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mani Shankarji, I did not want to stop you since your are delivering a good speech, but its time will end at 4.05 o'clock. One more hon. Member has to speak and then hon. Minister has to reply. It will be good if you state briefly what you have to speak.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I will try, but before you, I was told by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji that if the House desires, the time of half an hour could be extended up to one hour. Still I would obey your orders and speak as briefly as possible.

[English]

With regard to aggregate agricultural subsidies, just consider the position. The total Indian agricultural output is valued at some 90 billion dollars. But, in the United States, subsidies to agriculture—I am not talking about the value of their output—are 128 billion dollars, which is higher than the total value of India's agricultural output.

And in the developed countries as a whole, the total subsidy given is in the region of 325 billion dollars. How can our agriculturists or food processors export to these developed countries? Yet, it is the same developed countries which keep lecturing us about how trade liberalisation, arising out of the comparative advantage theories of David Ricardo written in 1817, is going to benefit us. If trade liberalisation in industry and services is going to be of such great benefit to the developing countries, then surely, by the same logic, trade liberalisation in agriculture which is fundamentally a question of developed countries reducing their subsidies and tariffs, should be of benefit to the developed countries. But unfortunately, when Shri Maran makes this technical argument at Doha in an economic forum, there is no political backing being given to him from the South Block. Now, when you consider that at the time when there was a synergy between foreign policy and foreign economic policy, when the Congress Party was in power, after all, if there had been no NAM, how could there have been a Group of 77? Just consider that we brought the Third World together on a political form and that is what enabled us to create a Third World grouping for economic purposes. Those economic purposes were reflected in Part-IV of GATT. When we signed GATT as a founder-member in 1948, there was no provision for special and differential measures in favour of developing countries, but it was India which took the lead under the leadership of great civil servants like Shri L.K. Jha and Shri K.B. Lal. It was at a time when people like Shri T.T. Krishnamachari were in charge of Commerce and Industry here. We took the lead in compelling the developed countries to give legal recognition to special and differential measures which are embodied in Part-IV of GATT. All that Shri Maran has been able to obtain is—he is a poor man fighting the battle on his own without adequate backing from the rest of his Government—to get them to piously state that they are in favour of special and differential measures but not to give legal recognition to this. What is worse, all kinds of exemptions are being sought, largely by developing countries even if a few developing countries are doing the same, of putting in requests for exemption from trade liberalisation in agriculture in what are called the blue and green boxes.

When it comes to tariffs, if you think that we are protecting ourselves excessively with 300 per cent binding on edible oils other than soyabean oil, just consider the case of peanuts. Do you know what is the tariff in the United States for groundnuts? It is 174 per cent! It is 174 per cent fro groundnuts for the richest country in the world and we accept this as fair and just! As regards wheat, we have got huge stocks lying here. There should be a possibility of India being a major exporter of wheat and wheat products. In the European Union, the tariff is 168 per cent and in Japan it is 353 per cent on what in a rice-growing and rice-eating country. And we are saying that we have to liberalise trade and bring down tariffs. On butter, in Canada, the rate of tariff is 360 per cent. And here, the milk products are coming into India free of tariffs! There has been no protection for us. So, it is extremely important to recognise that if international trade in WTO is going to be based on Ricardo's principles of comparative advantage, then, as per the definition of

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]
comparative advantage given in David Ricardo's book, which was called "The Principles of Plitical Economy" in 1817, there was no reference to subsidies or taxes. His understanding of comparative advantage was in the absence of taxes and subsidies. In the real world, the world with which Shri Maran has to deal, there is nothing but taxes and subsidies, to be seen particularly in the developed countries.

All that we have been able to progress towards is, with the multiplicity of these multi-coloured boxes, somewhere blue and somewhere green, while we have been pressurised to dismantle our public health system in the interest of a few U.S. producers, neither the External Affairs Minister nor the Prime Minister of India is assisting the Commerce and Industry Minister. ESCAP, in 1995, estimated that the welfare gains of complete liberalisation, including textiles, for developing countries could be two and half a times the welfare gains to be obtained through agricultural globalisation alone. Yet, we do not find any progress in matters of particular interest to us in the industrial sphere or in the agricultural sphere. Apart from procrastination, we have not secured any real commitment that would help us to protect the Indian farmer in the Indian market and promote his interest in the global market. In these circumstances, for Shri Murasoli Maran to say that the key concerns of India in agriculture have been adequately safeguarded, appears to me to not reflect the true interests of our country. I hope that by a passionate intervention today, he can assure us as—neither the External Affairs Minister nor the Prime Minister is present and all his supporters are sitting here in the Opposition benches, that we will hear from once again, that voice which he raised in Doha at the beginning and not the whimper that we heard at the end. There is no point in a dog barking if when the watchman comes out, it puts its tail between its legs and retreats. We expect Shri Murasoli Maran's bark at Doha to become the roar of a tiger, (but not of the liberation tigers) on behalf of the developing countries, because he has shown that he alone has the courage to stand up for India's interests and not submit to the Americans as every one of his colleagues is doing. Therefore, I call upon Shri Murasoli Maran to please speak for the Indian *kisan* and *kheth mazdoor* when he replies to this debate.

Sir, I regret that I have not had the opportunity to deal with the second half of Shri Sunil Khan's Resolution which is with regard to industry. With your permission, I would like to add just one sentence so as to be able to complete my intervention. It is that small and medium industries have been gravely damaged by the very slow action taken on legitimate anti-dumping measures and imposing countervailing duties. We hope, Sir, now, with your new anti-dumping machinery, we will see much quicker action on your part. Our only hope of seeing quick action is from you. In a Sinha-driven Government or Jaswant-driven Government, there is no hope at all because they receive their orders from the White House. But you receive your orders, I hope, from the people of India.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the resolution introduced by Shri Sunil Khan is both in the interests of the people and the country. The interests of the people will be served greatly if the Government accepts it without discussion. At present, whole country is discussing the ill-impact of WTO which is causing concern to all sections of population, including farmers and the poor. Earlier it was GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariff), then it was Dunkel proposals which caused turmoil in the country. The hon. Ministers George Fernandes and Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, had opposed Dunkel proposal then and now they are silent and restive.

16.00 hrs.

The knowledgeable Member, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has spoken about Doha Conference. Doha will be discussed separately. Though hon. Minister had consulted opposition Members before leaving for Doha, but it appears that the interests of the country are still endangered. Terms such as agriculture, excess market were added in the resolution. Thereafter, five sections including TRIPS, TRIMS and GATT were added which are adversely affecting. Sir, we can discuss these issues for hours, since it concerns public interest. It is true that the duration of the debate has been fixed at two hours with the concurrence of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this resolution expires at 16.05 hours. If the hon. Members agree, the time may be increased by half an hour so that Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh may deliver his speech and hon. Minister may reply and also Shri Sunil Khan may have the opportunity to speak his mind. Therefore, the time for discussion may be increased by half an hour more

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The resolution is in public interest and topical. Quantitative restrictions were discussed there. 714 article in first stage, 715 in second, thus a total of 1429 articles have been discussed and agreements thereon have been signed. Now there will be no quantitative restriction on imports. There is no scope for any restriction. After the implementation of Dunkel proposal, the markets of small and developed

countries were saturated, that is why the Indian market is now being sought. If quantitative restrictions in this country of 100 crore are removed, imports will flood the market. For instance, if a country with one crore population imports television from a country which produces one crore TV sets, each house in that country will own a TV. Then the factory will have to be closed. Then they will proceed towards the market of India. Hon. Minister should say there, that apart from goods, services should also be exchanged. Even in it, exchange should not be limited only to sophisticated services. There should be free passport for movement. We are ready to do our work with diligence. India and other developing countries are backward in modern services while developed countries are far ahead in it, a serious situation may evolve. Our advocates, doctors and labourers will not be able to go out. They will remain here while intelligent persons from abroad will come here. In view of these implications, the future seems dark.

The edible oil producing farmer is dying today. Quantitative restriction on that item has been lifted. Shri Aiyar calculated for us that developed countries are providing subsidy worth crores and billion of rupees to the agriculture sector. Thus, the produce of the subsidy assisted farmer will be priced far below than our grains.

Sir, it has been heard that the leg piece of chicken is delicious. Indians term it so, but Americans do not eat it because it contains fat. Thus the leg piece is lying in the fridge for years which will be dumped in India. If that happens what will our poultry farmers do? That will be sent on cheaper rates because they do not eat it and it is useless there while we find it delicious. This item will be sold in our market while domestically produced chicken will not be bought, even though its taste is best in the world. Eggs are also considered better but once the cheap materials start coming in our country, the farmers will not be able to survive. Quantitative restrictions have been lifted and we could not prevent it. They have already signed. Hon. Maranji says that it is essential and we are trying to remove its shortcomings. We should all try to find out ways to save India from its drawbacks. All our efforts should be in that direction. All developing countries should unite. Intensive labour and exploration need to be applied otherwise the future of India and its farmers is endangered.

Now India has emerged as the largest milk producer of the world and we have beaten even the USA in it. USA produces just 79-80 million tonnes from 78 million tonnes last year. USA is now lagging behind. Last year we had equalled it.

Now even the import of milk powder, crud made from milk and other dairy products has been permitted. These people have signed the agreement Research is going on in our country till now. The milk gets spoiled within two to three days but they will send the pasteunsed milk, which will not get spoiled for three months. The powdered and polypacked milk is being imported. I saw an apple in the market having a sticker on which Washington was written. ...*(Interruptions)* I inquired from a person of my acquaintance as to whether apples are not produced in Washington for Washington is written on it. ...*(Interruptions)* Apples are being imported in India. Similarly flour, sattu, salt and turmeric etc will also be imported. As the agreement has been signed hence all the items should be read out. ...*(Interruptions)* Now China has also becoming signatory of WTO. ...*(Interruptions)* You visit Chandni Chowk market in Delhi. Ganesh Chaturthi festival is celebrated in Maharashtra. The Ganesha idol costs Rs. 500 have while idol made in China costs Rs. 85 only. The Chinese have start exported the Ganesh idol there.

The electric chandelier made in India costs Rs. 2000 while the cost of that made in China is only Rs. 500. In this way the small scale industries in the country are being ruined. Similarly, the farmer has not been gettinn the proper support price for their crops. While the cost of agricultural inputs like electricity, irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides etc. is increasing the subsidy is being reduced. It is owing to this that the farmers are forced to commit suicide. The Government have no way to protect them. If this Government do not hold WTO responsible for the worsening condition of the farmer then it should clarify as to why the farmer has reached on the verge of starvation. Nitish Kumarji has arrived. He used to vehemently oppose the Dunkel draft and now when the farmers and labourers of India are suffering he has just arrived after signing the WTO charter at Doha. We do not know as to when the WTO meeting take place again. However whenever it takes place, the Government should participate in it with a firm revolution to protect the interests of 100 crores Indians who constitute 16 percent of the world's population and also to negate the anti-farmer and anti-labourers agenda. It is high time that the anti-poor, anti-farmer and anti-labourer laws are done away with.

Today mental bankruptcy is prevailing in our country. The Government should have reacted strongly at WTO forum. WTO cannot survive without India. We comprise 16 percent population of the world and all kinds of things are produced in our country. Hence, there is a need to remove the weakness arising due to the Quantitative Restrictions. The import duty to the tune of 10 to 20 percent is imposed but all kinds of things are being imported here. The Government should give the item wise detials of the import duty. The farmers and the small

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

traders are not secure in the country today. The House is concerned over it. Hence, the Government should take into account all these things before signing the agreement. We will have to save the country from the adverse effects of WTO else we will get trapped in this vicious circle. Hence, I am warning the Government. The developing countries will have to collectively fight against the developed countries for protecting their rights and interests. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently we had been to Germany to attend a Conference and have just arrived in the morning today. Hon. Mani Shankar Aiyar also participated in that Conference. Many other people like Martin Core, Mr. Lambi from France who had also participated in Doha Conference also participated in this Conference. A lot of discussion on this subject was also held at that neutral venue. Some people were in favour and some were against it. Though, I agree with many of the things said by hon. Mani Shankar Aiyarji, Yet I do not agree to the conclusion at which he has arrived. The only conclusion is that while signing GATT, had we shown the same grit as has been shown by Shri Murasoli Maran here then it would have been better. Everyone praised India and other third world countries and as their name has repeatedly been mentioned. I do accept that result was not achieved but we should try to look into the cause behind it? The only reason is the lack of consensus among the third world countries. We were told that in the end the Chairman had agreed not to prepare any agenda without consensus as suggested by India. This has been told by the neutral persons like Martin Khore. This thing was not followed here. Hence, in order to avoid this thing we will have to bring changes in the system and increase our representation besides finding out new solutions. ...*(Interruptions)* I would take just a minute. It is very necessary because we are losing our way for we have simply been criticisng the Government. We have to remember that we had resolved in Singapore to change the system. Everyone including our opponents praised Shri Murasoli Maranji during the Conference. I would like to emphasise this thing and even hon. Mani Shankarji will agree to it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is reported in the newspapers that the Prime Minister was pressurising not to adopt a stringent attitude on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Till date nobody has said as much as he has said. It is all I wanted to say.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to hon. Member Shri Sunil Khan for having focused an important issue and I will congratulate all the hon. Members and thank them for the contributions they have made.

But today, the hon. Member and my brother Thiru Mani Shankar Aiyar and Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh's—driven discussion have turned around agriculture and WTO, therefore, I would like to take it up first.

In the Doha Declaration, if there is one paragraph which is giving the most comfort to India and developing countries, it is with regard to agriculture because AOA, (Agreement on Agriculture) has come into effect from 1995 after Uruguay Round. Therefore, it is the seventh year of its implementation and so far no adverse effects have taken place. You know the Uruguay Round was signed by the Congress Government and the credit goes to them. We have signed it in good faith. We expected liberalisation of agriculture would open up our agriculture market to international market and we can compete successfully with those other countries.

The hon. Member, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was correct that the subsidies given by the European Union and the other OECD countries are so huge that we could not compete with them. His figures are correct. For example, I would put it in a different manner. The subsidies given by the OECD countries is equivalent to the entire GDP of all the African countries combined together. That is why, the international prices are so low and we could not compete. So, what have we gained in Doha?

According to the Agreement on Agriculture from 2000 negotiations are going on. That is for further liberalisation. But the European and other vested interests are saying, 'Okay, let us continue to discuss. It is open-ended. There is no time frame when it should end.' Therefore, all the Developing Countries and Cairns Group also were fighting. We should fix up the time limit. That is why, what we have gained in Doha was a paragraph, which is article 20 plus i.e. further liberalisation. What we have achieved was this: Now, it is stated that they would reduce and phase out their agricultural subsidy. So, it is a great achievement for all the developing countries, and at the same time, we have to protect our interests. What are our interests? Our interests are food security and rural development. I would say with all happiness that for the first time, food security has entered into the lexicon of WTO. It is a success for all Indian farmers but at the

same time, as Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has said, we have to improve our agriculture. We have to increase our productivity, and we should be able to take the opportunities because this Doha Declaration will be effective from the year 2005. So, during the interregnum of five years, we have to negotiate, negotiate hard, and win laurels for our agriculturists. I agree with the hon. Member, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. He has said that we are all worrying about industrial tariff and its reduction but not this tariff. We have been worried, in the sense, hon. Shri Pranab Mukherjee had gone on record saying, 'India played a bigger role in bringing agriculture into the discipline of WTO'.

That is a fact. It is estimated by some economists that every one per cent which will divert—terms of trade—about Rs. 8,500 crore additionality in favour of agriculture, and that about 20 billion dollars, that means over Rs. 60,000 crore will be transferred to the agriculture sector from the non-agriculture sector in the next few years, provided we internationalise our agriculture, provided we establish links with the international market. So, there need be no worry.

The Agreement had come into being from 1954. Even in 1995, when Shri Pranab Mukherjee participated on behalf of India, they had assured us, and still that assurance holds good because nothing had happened. So, they cannot touch our Public Distribution System, they cannot ask us to reduce our subsidy. So, our marginal farmers will be taken care of. Still we made a rough calculation, that is we can increase our subsidy to the extent of Rs. 42,000 crore provided the Government has money. So, WTO does not come in the way, it will not, so far. The question is, how to raise the revenue. Therefore, I would say that there are problems in agriculture but they are not because of WTO in spite of WTO, which I want to point out.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has said about movement of persons. I agree with him, that is mandated negotiation for review of services, which is going on in Geneva. There, we have stressed the point, 'movement of persons'. Those who are service-providers should move freely. The services negotiations are going on. I remember the Editorial in *The Guardian* some time back—'a can of beans or a can of worms can travel all over the world but a person cannot travel'. That is the present position. We have to change it, and services mode-IV is in our favour. Therefore, we have to negotiate hard and we will negotiate.

The hon. Member, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has said that I should not or we should not be a barking dog. I would say to him that we would be a biting dog. He has also said that I should not or we should not be a paper tiger. I would assure him that we will be the springing tiger and the springing Bengal tiger and fight hard for the interest of the country and for the interest of the nation.

Then coming back to the QRs, I think much has been said in the sense why do we have to remove QRs. If there is no balance of payments problem, we have to remove QRs. This Government did not do it. In 1947, in GATT, we had agreed to that provision. Probably, they thought the balance of payments position might not be comfortable for ever. So, thanks to Dr. Manmohan Singh and his reforms, since 1991 our BoP position was increasing and after 1995 we have a very comfortable level of BoP. What happened was that other countries like Switzerland and Japan started pressing hard. Your position is very comfortable. Why do you not remove Quantitative Restrictions? We negotiated. Bilateral negotiations took place. I think with countries of Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Switzerland, European Commission and Japan as a third party, we started this discussion in 1997. In the meanwhile, they have almost agreed to allow us to phase out our QRs by six years, that is, from 1997 to 2003.

What happened was, the USA went to the Dispute Settlement Body. They have not agreed. We went into bilateral dialogue with them. They had put some impossible and humiliating conditions. Therefore, we argued our case in the Dispute-Settlement Body. We lost. Then we appealed. It went to the appellate body. Again we lost. Then, the next step was to go to the arbitrator or again to have bilateral talks with the USA to fix reasonable period of time (RPT). If you go to arbitrator, it will take 17 months. Therefore, we negotiated with the USA and got more than 17 months, that is, about 18 months. So, here is an advantage.

Now, not only that we have been removing Quantitative Restrictions autonomously on our own, but also it is there right from the Congress regime. For example, the total number of tariff lines as on 1.4.1996 is 10,202. The number of tariff lines freed as on 1.4.1996 is 6161. Tariff lines freed for import during 1996-97 was 488. In 1997-98, it was 391; in 1998-99, it was 894; in 1999-2000, it was 714; in 2000-01, it was 715. So, we have removed all Quantitative Restrictions. I think it is not a sin. In fact, we will be happy.

Only four countries are keeping Quantitative Restrictions in the world. I think it is not good to keep on company with them. Which are the countries? They are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Tunisia and Sri Lanka. These countries alone in the world are keeping up Quantitative

[Shri Murasoli Maran]

Restrictions because of BoP reason. Even now they are phasing it out. Therefore, we do not want to keep on comparing with them. Therefore, we removed Quantitative Restrictions consciously. Not only that but you may also ask why and what will happen if you keep it. It is because the Dispute-Settlement Body and the appellate body have given orders like that. Not only that, somebody is watching our BoP position. Who is watching? It is WTO. In the WTO, there is a Committee called BoP Committee. They are watching it. Then how will the Committee know? IMF is giving information. Not only that but also we are an open society. Our Economic Reviews and Budgets are read all over the world. There we can see our balance of payments position. Now, I think it has crossed more than 45 billion dollars but we have got safeguards.

As Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has said, we have to calibrate the tariff rates. He said, in agriculture, they are not reducing the tariff. In Japan, there is a much more level of tariff. Sir, I want to correct him. In Japan alone, for various kinds of variety of rice, the tariff is not 100 per cent or 200 per cent. It is between 500 per cent and 1000 per cent.

It is much more; it is unimaginable. Therefore, they have agreed to reduce it. We have to negotiate for that.

Even now, we have been calibrating the tariffs and increasing the tariffs. For milk powder, we have increased the tariff from zero per cent to sixty per cent. For poultry meat and chicken legs, the tariff has been increased from 35 per cent to 100 per cent. We have increased the tariff on Spelt (Wheat) from zero per cent to fifty per cent; in respect of rice in the husk brown and broken rice, the tariff increase has been zero per cent to eighty per cent. For semi-milled or wholly milled rice, we have increased the tariff from zero per cent to seventy per cent. For millet, jowar, sorghum and maize, the tariff has been increased to fifty per cent from zero per cent. In respect of arecanut, the tariff has been increased from 35 per cent to 100 per cent; while in respect of apple, it has been increased from 35 per cent to 50 per cent.

In respect of tea, the duty was 15 per cent. We increased it initially to 35 per cent and then increased it to 70 per cent. For coffee, we first raised the duty from 15 per cent to 35 per cent and then tc 70 per cent. In the case of sugar, the tariff has been increased to 60 per cent from 27.5 per cent. For wheat, the tariff has been raised from zero per cent to fifty per cent. The tariff for coconut, including desiccated coconut, has been raised from 35 per cent to 70 per cent; for copra, the tariff has been increased to 70 per cent from 35 per cent. For second-hand cars, the tariff has been increased from 35 per cent to 105 per cent. For crude palm oil, tariff has been raised from 25 per cent to 65 per cent; for refined palm oil, it has been increased from 65 per cent to 85 per cent. For other crude vegetable oils except soyabean oil, the tariff has been increased to 75 per cent from 35 per cent. So, it is going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Can you increase the tariff beyond the bound rate?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: To go beyond the bound rate, we have to negotiate with other countries but first let us raise it to the bound rate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, would you require more time?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I am just about to conclude now.

We have appointed a Committee, which is called 'war room'. They are keenly watching every month. They are receiving information. The inter-ministerial Committee is watching 300 sensitive items. So, if the import level goes up, we will clamp action. You will be surprised to know that our non-oil import levels are negative. So, nothing adverse has happened.

I can assure you that even otherwise a Bill is before the House. If there is a surge, we can temporarily clamp quantitative restrictions. That provision is in the Bill. The Bill is already before the House. It will be examined when the Report is given. Therefore, I would assure the House that no harm would be done because of the removal of QRs.

I would say especially regarding agriculture that those who are having employment opportunities for three per cent to five per cent, as Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar said, are protecting their interests. So, in our country, where more than 70 per cent of the people are employed in agricultural, we have to protect their interests. I would say, not only this Government but any Government would not survive if they do not protect the interests of agriculturists. I once again assure you that it is the duty of any Government to protect the interests of agriculture. Otherwise, there would be unrest and revolt. Therefore, I would like to assure the House that we would take constructive and sensitive measures and also re-engineering measures to increase the tariffs if necessary. Negotiations are going on in Geneva. They have agreed to reduce the tariffs. We have to modernise our agriculture. We have to link it up with international methods. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this resolution is going to be over. With the permission of the House,

I would like to extend the time by fifteen minutes more so that the hon. Minister may be able to give reply and further proceeding may start.

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: That is why I have given this assurance.

Usually, it is customary in this House that such Resolutions are withdrawn on the basis of assurances given by the Ministers. The hon. Member has made his points; and all points made by all hon. Members have been taken on board. I have to especially thank my brother Shri Mani Shakar Aiyar for his left-handed compliments.

With these words, I request the hon. Member Shri Sunil Khan to withdraw the Resolution.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): For palmolein oil, Malaysia is putting pressure on us to decrease the import duty. Though we increased it up to 85 per cent, but, again, it has been decreased.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: We have got refining capacity.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The problem is that Shri Murasoli Maran's war room is like Osama Bin Laden's cave. He has set it up after losing the war.

Now, in the area of edible oil, I plead with you since your have been so tardy that you can go up to 300 per cent for all edible oils other than soyabean oil. In the case of soyabean oil, you can go up to 45 per cent and take into account countervailing duties. Alas, what you have done, what the hon. Prime Minister has done is to try to get Quattrochi from Malaysia and in exchange you have agreed to import so much palmolein oil from there. This is the kind of mismanaged foreign trade policy for political reasons which you should stand up against.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Your points have been noted. But we have reduced some duty on refined crude oil. It is because we have got refining capacity in India. Probably, that may be the reason.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the NDA partners are thumping that Shri Murasoli Maran has won the battle. But it is not like that. We appreciate the resistance put up by the hon. Minister, but why was he not successful in his efforts?

Sir, Doha declaration is a clear gain for the developed capitalist world. It has catered to the needs of global capital in crisis. The Indian view point was that before going in for a fresh round and opening up new issues, the WTO had to examine whether the existing rules and policies, from the Uruguay Round, were fairly implemented or not. They were not implemented.

The developed countries, America and European countries are not following the first Uruguay Round, but we are following. That is why, we have lifted the ban on 1,429 items. As a result, the agricultural sector is in a disaster position because 75 to 80 per cent people are dependent on agriculture. However, you have crushed the agricultural sector.

Sir, one of my dear friends from Kerala has mentioned about some items. Do you know that the price of coconut has declined by Rs. 4 per coconut? What about cashew nut price in Kerala and in other parts of India? What about rubber? Tea industry is facing a serious crisis. What about paddy? The cost of production is increasing. You have lifted subsidy on fertilisers by 15 per cent whereas in other sectors, my dear colleague, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, has elaborately mentioned, regarding the subsidies provided by the European countries. So, if they have subsidised and we have not subsidised, then what will happen?

Sir, I have already spoken elaborately regarding domestic products for example *moori*. Even though in Hindi it is called *Moori*, in Mumbai, it is called *churmura*. What about our rural sector poor widow mothers who are producing *moori*? The cost of production increased due to increase in the freight charges by two per cent in coal. What about for America and other European countries? They are giving more subsidies in case of food production. They will come with a laminated packet of *moori*. Everybody will take up the laminated packet like *Uncle chips*.' Will the poor mothers be able to compete with the Americans in that market? They will not be able to compete.

So, this is the fate of our agricultural sector. I do not want to go into details. But in the case of Agriculture, your have failed in your round of talks. Sir, please go through paragraphs 20, 22 and 23 of your statement about Doha. I am not referring to them because it will take some time.

You take the case of small-scale sector. In Karnataka 50 per cent of the small-scale sector is closing down and next year it will be 75 per cent. You take the case of garments. You cannot send your products to America how much you want. But you have lifted the ban here. So, all the garments will come in here. But what will happen to the garments that are produced in Maharashtra

[Shri Sunil Khan]

and Gujarat? Two lakh fifty thousand people in the unorganised sector are involved in stitching and cutting etc. They are now in a dilapidated condition due to 16 per cent increase of excise duty in garments. All the goods are coming from the foreign sector. I have already spoken on the agricultural sector and the small-scale sector earlier discussion at the time of moving the resolution. But you have not answered the points.

You tried your best that the developing countries are united. It is better. We have to fight unanimously. But what about the decisions taken at the first Uruguay Round? Why are they not implementing it? Why is it that America and other countries are not implementing the decisions of the first round of talks? You are talking of the second round of talks. But they are not implementing the written documents. Here, you are implementing them and you have lifted and ban. Please clarify this point. Why is it that the first-World countries are not implementing the decisions taken in the first round? Why are you so eager? You said the year 2005 will be the destination. That means that the next round of agreement is due in that year. But you have signed it earlier. Why did you do that? I want you to clarify these things.

In case of the drugs, we know that under TRIPS you have made some resistance. In case of life-saving drugs for diseases like AIDS are costlier. You have already closed down our IDPL, our own domestic producer of pharmaceuticals. You have closed it down. All the medicines will come from foreign sector at a higher rate. You clarify this point. How will our patients survive? These are the condition of the small-scale sector.

In you Budget customs duty is already withdrawn on Rs. 2,000 crore and excise duty is already imposed on Rs. 3,200 crore. If our domestic units are closed down, who will give you excise duty of Rs. 3,200 crores? Please clarify on all these points

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sunil Khan, the hon. Minister has already assured the House to protect the Indian interests.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, they always assured the House. But the people are in crisis. The farmers of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are committing suicide.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear me. The hon. Minister has said that he would take all necessary steps to protect the Indian economy also. He has already requested you to withdraw your Resolution. Are you going to withdraw your Resolution or not?

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: No, Sir. I am not withdrawing. I am in favour of the general people, the 100 crore people of India. I am not against these 100 crore people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, you are not going to withdraw your Resolution. Then, I am putting it to the vote of the House.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, generally the convention is that the hon. Member withdraws it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On your behalf I have told him. You also request him.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I would request the hon. Member once again to consider it. It was never done before. I think it is better.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: No, I an not withdrawing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sunil Khan, the hon. Minister has also assured to look into all these things.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: No, Sir. I am not withdrawing. Why should I withdraw? All these small-scale sector units are being closed down. The workers are not getting their salaries. In HSCL salaries for 25 months are due to the employees. How can I withdraw this Resolution?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"As the decision to withdraw the quantitative restrictions with effect from 1st April, 2001 will seriously affect Indian economy and result in closure of domestic industries and severe unemployment, this House urges upon the Government to review its decision and to renegotiate the terms of General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) in order to protect the industrial and agricultural sector."

The Resolution was negatived.

16.45 hrs.

[English]

(ii) Re : Legislation on Measures to control Population

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House would now take up item no. 17. The time allotted for this is two hours.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur): I beg to move:

"In view of the unabated population explosion in the country which has thwarted all development works,

perpetuated inequalities in society and resulted in poverty, unemployment and illiteracy, and which has to be addressed to as a national issue shorn of any political or sectarian consideration, this House calls upon the Government to—

(i) expedite the passing the Constitution Seventy-ninth (Amendment) Bill, 1992 providing for disqualification for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament or either House of the Legislature of a State for violation of small family norm; and

(ii) bring forward a suitable legislation to bar persons having more than three living children from holding provisions and appointments in Government services and to disentitle such persons from availing of benefits under any welfare scheme of the Government."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am expressing my views in regard to the Resolution which is extremely important for the country. The Resolution favours the framing of very stringent laws to check the population growth and the compliance thereof. The prospects of living a better life have been threatened to a great extent due to increasing population and decreasing resources, and this alarming trend had been set when our population increased from 35 crore to 100 crores within fifty years without registering any proportionate increase in the amenities to lead a good and better life. We want the all round development of our country and the growth of conditions conducive to lead a good life. However, this hope of leading a better life is being shattered. The Union Government and the State Governments framed separate policies in 1992 to control the population explosion but owing to their improper implementation, our country is leading to a situation whose consequences will be disastrous.

Out neighboring country, China which is the most populated country in the world, has controlled its population, I will not ask to follow as to how China has achieved its growth rate and the way it has provided better health and education facilities to its country men. Our country itself is so scholarly and capable that if we go through its knowledge and past history, there is no doubt that our country can develop sufficiently. There is one saying, which is as follows:

"Janyo kab tabar ghana, Sita Gouri mat,
Jayo eak Shakuntala Bharat Sarikho Lal"

We have having a tradition of giving birth to two or one child and he has shown such a miracle to the world that his name became immortal and he gave name to this country. Our citizens should become like that child and take inspirations from him but unfortunately this has not happened. The way the population of our country has increased in a span of fifty years, the Governments have not given any care towards this aspect. I would say that development of our country was made in an imbalanced way in the last five decades. Cities were developed more and the villages were neglected. Its consequence can be described as follows:—

"Makhmal ke pardon ke bahar phoolon ke us par,
jyon ka tyon hi khada hua hai marghat sa sansar.

The illiterate men and women residing in Jhuggies, jhopaires and kutcha houses of the villages are increasing the number of unhealthy children and creating hindrance in the development of our country. We should also think that the number of jhuggies and jhoparies do not increase regularly. In last five decades we have been unable to implement strict rules, the reasons for this may be political, social or any kind of our tradition or any conservative hypocrisy. Under such circumstances, we should not allow to increase the birth rate. We will have to control the birth rate for the persons of 21st century. We have controlled our death rate to a better extent but I want to draw the attention of the House towards the factors which are responsible for the birth rate and the effect of birth rate.

Sir, in 16th century tyrants invaded our country and misbehaved with our mothers and sisters which resulted in marriage at tender age. There should have been ban on marriages at tender age after the independence of our country but it was not done. Consequently the population increased. By performing marriages at tender age a healthy lady cannot deliver a healthy baby. Although by performing early marriages the reproduction rate becomes high due to marnage at tender age and it will cause the birth of more unhealthy babies. This aspect was never considered that a ban should be imported on early marnages.

Sir, I belong to Rajasthan and I feel shyness while saying that Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar etc. are ill States. We want to take foreign aid through UNICEF by showing the bad condition of these states. It is not proper to only protect their health or provide food and shelter to the people of these states by taking foreign aid. We should make them capable to lead a better life. This can be possible only when we make strict rules for the control of the population and also implement them properly. The biggest hurdle in this case is perhaps politics. I am not talking about religion. But there are such communities, religious tradions, where in men use to perform five

[Shrimati Jas Kaur Meena]

marriages and have 50 children. Besides, the situation is that they have started forming Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha constituencies. Under such situations it is a violent stroke on the congenial atmosphere. This is not a emotional situation. There was a provision in the population policy of 1992 under which no marriage would be performed at tender age. We have controlled this by passing the 73rd and 74th amendments through Panchayati Raj institutions. The participation of Public representatives must be based on the number of their children. If they are having more children, they must be banned to participate. They should be declared ineligible if they have more children. It is my request that if we want to develop the country, we must enforce this law through Panchayati Raj institutions and local bodies.

It should be implemented in Legislature and in the Parliament also. In this regard my opinion is that we have sentiment of Bharat Mata in our Indian heart and that sentiment has power of goddess but now a days this concept is losing its ground and the people are diverting their faith towards Devta (God). I mean to say that our families are creating a line of daughters in the hope of a son. In this process they are not taking proper care about their nourishment provide better health and better life to the daughters. It is a belief that only a son can perform our last rituals and thus we desire for a son. Such conservative traditions are also an hurdle in controlling population.

In my opinion for this purpose the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Human Resource Development or the policy implementation bodies—whether they are state Governments or voluntary institutions, should spend adequate funds and they should give more and more publicity to this fact that salvation could also be got without son. The main reason for this conservative belief is illiteracy due to which we are unable to explain this fact to the rural community. Each member, who is sitting in the House has been got elected on a population of 10-30 lakhs. If we want, we can also become an example for them. If we have more children and we teach the people of small family norms, no one will listen to us. There is a saying charity begins at home. If we follows this, only then we can influence public. I feel this august House will certainly consider this fact. Besides, it was being told that India has been a country of saint and a number of God and goddess reside in this land. They were known due to their good instincts. Whether we have those instincts? If not, this is also one of the reasons in increasing the population.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, progress has been made in the fields of medicine and science. We have also got sufficient achievements in these fields but these achievements should be used to a better way for the development of human being and thus I think that our future generation will be more careful for population control and their health. We should try to wash out the conservative concept of traditional families. They have a deep tendency of having a son. There are many states including my Rajasthan State and my tribal society, I belong to that society, where it s a tradition that women and daughters are not made successor of the property. The laws are set aside for this purpose. Here in our state social laws are enforced. The 'Panch' of that village deprives them from the rights of property and other privileges. That is why women must also be given the protection of the law for their property rights so that they may come forward in controlling population even after giving birth to one or two baby girls and thus they may give their cooperation in controlling the population of the country.

Sir, due to inaction of the different governments during the last five decades, the population is increasing. Today a child is born in every 30 seconds. I would like to urge the Minister that today it is an opportunity. Today the country has faith in the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. If a concrete step is taken in regard to controlling of population perhaps no one will be going to oppose it.

Today, even the people living in villages know about the fact that if the population of the country is controlled, they will get all the facilities like roads, hospitals and schools and all other facilities for spending better life. I would like to give an example about the demographic profile of villages, suppose, a person has ten bighas of land, and also ten sons.

1700 hrs.

He has in a way made a grave offence because by giving birth to ten children he has literally made each of his children inherit only one bigha of land while he himself owened as much as ten bighas of land. Assuming that all of his children may have five sons each, none may be able to have enough land even to build a house for himself and may have to remain shelterless without finding enough space. Do we want our children to live under conditions of stark starvation and abject poverty before our own eyes? I am of the view that if we want to serve our country sincerely and honestly, the Government should implement the population policy, 1992 strictly and also ask the State Governments to follow suit or there should be some legislation to make the State Governments follow suit. Only when the State Governments do so honestly in a bid to control population, our country will move forward.

Today, we discuss about the birth-rate and death-rate and some voluntary institutions organise seminars just to get money by presenting wrong picture of our country while expressing identical views. If we are able to control the population of our country by controlling our natural resources, we will certainly be able to build an India which will make progress in the coming decades and will become a powerful country in the world and will scale the heights.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Members must support my resolution because there is nothing in it to be opposed. I think no Member is of the view that population should increase leading to a situation where a handful of breadwinners may have to feed a large number of dependents. There are only a few communities which are in favour of increasing population. Their attention is not towards the quality of life. Only those people think about the quality of life who have respect and love for our country. We should move forward in implementing population control policy on each and every citizen of India rising above politics and irrespective of communal feelings so that the country can move forward towards strengthening two hundred crore hands instead of towards poverty and starvation.

I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that a workshop of all parties may be organised on this subject so that a good decision can be taken soon unanimously on this policy and all parties can co-operate in implementing it because the Governments budget allocation for this purpose is insufficient and its trickle-down-effect to the countryside is only negligible.

There is a fund named as Member of Parliament Local Area Development Fund. So far as this fund is concerned, I would like to tell about it that when we go to the villages we find that there are no rooms in the school. The State Governments claim that one school is opened for the population of one hundred and fifty and not 500-700, but the ground reality is that there is one school for two hundred students and only one teacher. If a mother is not able to properly call out only five children of hers by name, how can a teacher control two hundred students. This is an imbalance in the development of our country today.

The number of Anganwadi Centres has been fixed. According to it, 150 women will be benefited from one centre. But one thousand families are covered under one Anganwadi Centre and there must be at least two thousand women in these one thousand families. Today, joint families live together in the villages and it is not like nuclear families in the cities. I feel pain when I see that three male members in a joint family go out to earn their livelihood by their labour and their wives run their family with the earning of these male members. Our Government has launched several schemes like Anna (Food-grains) Yojana, Antyodaya Yojana and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana but due to increasing population these schemes are proving to be of no avail. In such a situation, increasing population has affected each and every person be it a farmer, labourer, an employee, or any one else engaged in any other work.

Many of my colleagues moved resolutions but luckily permission has been given for my resolution only through which I have requested that a thought may be given to population control and for that, measures may be ensured. In this resolution, I have made two points. First of all we have to control overselves. There should be a limit on the number of children for persons seeking their entry into the legislatures, Parliament and Government services, as has been done in the case of Panchayati Raj institutions and autonomous bodies, as a first step towards population control. The Rajasthan Government had formulated a very good policy in 1994 which was given a very serious thought by the voluntary institutions but it has not been implemented till today. When the number of school-going children increased, Rajiv Gandhi Pathshalas were opened and teachers not properly qualified for the job were appointed to teach in them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will not stop you. If you want the support of other hon'ble Members on your resolution, be brief so that you can get the support.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: This is a very important resolution. I would like to request all my colleagues present here to express their views on this resolution so that a big and proper step can be taken towards the development of this country.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Hon. Chairman, Sir, hon. Member, Shrimati Jas Kaur Meena has just now moved one Resolution on Legislation on measures to control population. Sir, we are all aware that increase in population is becoming a grave threat not only for India but also for the Third-World countries. Sir, if our population policy goes wrong then nothing else will have a chance to go right.

Now, we are in a State of demographic transition. If we look at the entire global population, then we find out that 60 per cent of world's population increase is contributed by only 10 countries with 21 per cent contributed by India and 15 per cent by China.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhary]

Sir, in almost all countries of the more developed region, fertility is significantly below the replacement level. Fertility in the developing world, however, is much higher than in the more developed region. For example, the total fertility rate in sub-Saharan remains high at an average of six life-time births per women. In most of the developing countries the fertility is declining. In some countries such as China and India the decline has been rapid. However, 98 per cent of the world's growth comes from developing countries.

Sir, I would like to mention countries which are on top population-wise. In 1998, it was estimated that in China, the population was 1256 million and in India, 982 million. But as per the projected figure, by the year 2050, India would be a land of a total population of 1529 million and China of 1478 million. Now, we are going to surpass China in the matter of population.

The Resolution is intended to introduce some coercive measures which are not tenable because we have already signed the International Convention on Population and Development at Cairo in 1994. The Government of India has already issued the National Population Policy which affirms the commitment of the Government towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizen while availing of reproductive health-care services and continuation of the target-free approach in administering the family planning services. Therefore, the content of the Resolution is contrary to the Population Policy declared by the Central Government.

We believe in persuasion rather than coercion. The anticipated growth in population as per the National Population Policy is stated as 14.8 million in 1997, 14.0 million in 2000, 11 million in 2002 and 11.75 million in 2010. That means, as per our National Population Policy, the population of our country is going to be stabilished. For that, total fertility rate has to be declined significantly.

If we support this Resolution, then the worst victims would be the most backward classes in our society, that is, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Because the National Family Health Survey for 1998-99 shows that total fertility rate was 3.15 for Scheduled Castes, 3.0 for Scheduled Tribes, 2.66 for Other Backward Classes and 3.47 for illiterate women as a whole. In contrast it is 1.99 among the better-off and educated beyond Class X women. Therefore, if we deprive those backward classes of having ameliorative and welfare measures, then the worst sufferers in India would be the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population for whom we are pleading every day here. Just day before yesterday we had passed the Constitution (Amendment) Bill unanimously for the welfare and well-being of these Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people.

Further, the National Family Health Survey notes that the infant mortality rate among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes is 83, 84 and 76 respectively, as compared to 62 for others. Similarly, the under-five mortality is 119 among Scheduled Castes, 126 among Scheduled Tribes, 103 among Other Backward Classes as compared to 82 among others.

Therefore, if we punish the population of backward class due to their literacy and inaccessibility to their health care, then it does not behove us because we are in a welfare State and a country like India. What China can do it, then it does not mean that we should also follow the policy of China because China is not a democratic country. There is no democracy and there is no freedom of speech of the people of China, the freedom which Indian people enjoy. Therefore, I think that Shrimati Meena has attempted to throttle the voice of the common people. I think she is doing wrong. She has mentioned about Rajasthan while she has just cited some other States also. You know that some State Governments have already introduced their respective State policies where they are resorting to coercive measures on controlling population. But after a long endeavour and struggle, this Parliament has passed the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments. Now, whether we should allow the common people to obtain the fruits of those amendments or not has to be decided because if we extract and snatch away the rights of the common people of India which they are enjoying now, then certainly, they would be deprived of enjoying the fruits of the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments.

Sir, there is the Kerala model in India. Actually, the genesis of our population explosion lies in illiteracy and ill health care because now, 35 per cent of our people are below the poverty line and 37 per cent of them are illiterate. Without addressing this social evil, we cannot move in for drastic measures so as to curb the population explosion. Sir, 11th May, 2000 is a day which will be remembered in Indian history because on that very day, we had crossed the Rubicon of one billion. This is the second explosion because the first explosion, in this regime, took place in Pokhran. The second explosion took place on 11st May, 2000 and it is called the population explosion. We have achieved this explosion also! But I appeal to the hon. Members of this House that we have to realise the reality of our society, in terms of the backwardness of our society, the illiteracy of our society and the inaccessibility of health care of our society. Due to the structural adjustments, globalisation and liberalisation, there is no doubt that a large section of our population has been seriously affected. And therefore, infant mortality rate has been growing up. So, the entire gamut of our society should be taken into consideration

before we pass any resolution. I would urge the hon. Members not to support the Resolution because this Bill is inherent in coercive policies. We should pursue the policy of persuasion and not coercion because coercion will not help us, rather persuasion will help us to achieve our goal.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, I must appreciate the steps taken by Shrimati Meena to present this Resolution to the House. In this Resolution, she has indicated that population explosion, to some extent, can be curbed by adopting certain coercive methods. I fully agree with her. There is a saying in English, 'Better one suffer than the nation grieve'. Some people who are recalcitrant, who do not see the doom that is awaiting us, must be made to toe the line so as to ensure that the population does not grow in a rapid stride. You will kindly agree with me, Sir, that the main objective of any Government is to see that there is overall economic development and consequent social development in order to improve the quality of life of. How do we improve the quality of life of people unless we have certain amount of control over the exploding number of people? The statisticians say that in 1951 the replacement level or fertility level was six. In 1997 it has come down to 3.3. Our goal must be to ensure that by 2010, the replacement level should be below two. Unless the replacement level comes down to two, it would be impossible to check the explosion of population in this country. The rate of population is growing further. In the television we saw today that population in this country is 103 crores. Shrimati Meena has indicated that when there is an explosion of population, illiteracy increases, poverty increases. When population increases, there will be no shelter and there will be no food. There is a Biblical saying that God has created birds and he has created food for them. But he does not throw food into their nests. From where will the food come to be thrown into the nests of birds and human beings? Unless we check this rate of increase in the population and unless it is stopped in a drastic manner, as she has indicated, in a coercive manner, it would be very difficult to do it.

I would invite your attention to the mid-term appraisal of the Ninth Plan. It has been indicated therein that every year we add one crore and fifty lakh children to the population of this country. With one crore and fifty lakh children being added to this country, what are the number of children being added to this country who have to go to schools? It has been indicated that in 1997-98, forty-five lakh children were to go to the schools, whether they were enrolled or not, that is immaterial. But they were to be enrolled. But the end of Ninth Plan, that is 2002, totally two crore and fifty lakh children would have been enrolled in the schools. I am not going into the drop-out ratio. In my State, 95 per cent of the girl children in the tribal areas are in the drop-out category. In other places also, the drop out ratio must be quite high. But two crore and fifty lakh children to be enrolled in the Ninth Plan. In the Tenth Plan the projection is 300 lakh, that is three crore children will be enrolled. Where is the infrastructure and where is the money for any Government which wants to look after this number of children in a proper manner?

Where is the money with the Government to see that they are educated, literate, they are clothed properly and to see that they are given proper shelter? So, poverty, illiteracy, hunger and despondency will come one after the other. That is why, when we have to think of giving proper food, shelter, education and health not only to the children but also to the grown up people, the total fertility rate has to be brought down.

The National Health Policy has taken into account all those things. When the National Health Policy has taken it into account, they have thought of a little bit of coercion. I am not going into the details of the National Health Policy itself because the main aim of the National Health Policy has been to see that the basic reproductive and child-health services are attended to. There are many other things as to how the basic reproductive and health measures are to be taken into account. What I am interested in is to see what are the coercive methods which have been indicated by the legislations which have been made from time to time.

First of all, let me come to the girl child. Mrs. Meena has mentioned about the girl child. There is some sort of feeling that the girl child is not required for the family. For getting a boy, the parents have been going on for one-child, two-children, three-children and four-children. I have seen five to six daughters in a family waiting expectantly for a boy to be born. Let me tell everybody that our forefathers have thought of it very carefully. They have given due importance to the girl child. In the *Yajur Veda*, there is a beautiful hymn. It says:

"Aham Rashtri Sangmani Vashunam
Chitkutushi Prathama Yagyiyanam"

She says "I am the State". From this *Vagdevi Sukhta the Durga Saptha Sathi* has come. It says "I am the State." In Political Science, somebody might be reading the term; *L'eat, c'est Moi* (I am the State.) Louis XIII said: "I am the State." No. It was stated long back by our forefathers about mothers. *Aham Rashtri* (I am the State.) *Sangamni Vasunang* (I am the coordinator of all the *Vasus*. *Chitkitsushi* (I am the judge) *Prathamam Yagyanam* (Whenever you have a holy ritual, you must

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

call me. Otherwise it will become infructuous). That is the contention which we have been having. *Shankaracharya* in his Devi Apradh Kshamapan Stratum. has said very beautifully:

"Bhutesho Bhajati Jagdishaika Padvi
Bhawani twatt Panigrahan
Paripati Falam Idam.

The translation of it is: "Shiva, you have been called *Jagadesha* because you have married *Parvathi.*" That is the high pedestal on which we have kept the women folk. Because of certain historical features or certain diabolical activities of some people who had come to this country at a later stage or whatever it is, we have subjected or subjugated our women-folk in a sort of derogatory manner. That is why, the pre-natal diagnostic work has been going on. That has to be stopped. That is why, I said that certain coercive measures are absolutely necessary to ensure that the girl child gets the proper place and that there is no explosion of population.

You might be aware of it that the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 has been enacted. It has to be implemented in a very enforceable manner to see that by pre-medical diagnosis, a girl child not deprived from coming to this earth.

The second point, which is absolutely necessary, of course, is about the medical termination of pregnancy. There is an absolute necessity. Sometimes, anti-medical termination of pregnancy has to be taken into account. It has been indicated in a statistical survey that 12 per cent of maternity deaths are due to unsafe abortional practices. Why not we take recourse to medical termination of pregnancy in proper manner? It is also necessary that it has to be ensured that proper termination of pregnancy is taken up.

There might be unwed mothers. It is not a taboo now a days to have unwed mothers. There should not be any taboo also because things are changing; social ethos is changing; approaches are changing; and the mindset is changing. Why get into the difficulty of going in for termination of pregnancy in a different manner. It has to be ensured that the mother does not die under difficult situation? So, it is absolutely necessary now to think in a better manner as to how we can be able to legalise and enforce medical termination of pregnancy without attaching any taboo to it. Till June, 1999, 120 lakh termination has taken place. There is absolute necessity of going for new and radical changes in our approach to the problem of population explosion. The Child Marriage Restraint Act is to be properly enforced. She has indicated about the Constitution Seventy-Ninth (Amendment) Bill and suitable legislations to bar persons having more than three living children from holding positions. Why three living children, who not two? We have to bring it down, of course, through coercive methods.

She had indicated—only as a passing reference—about the Uniform Civil Code. Why should anyone, because of religion, have two or three or four wives? Why not curb it? By curbing these things, it would be possible to ensure that population does not go up. Once the population does not go up, illiteracy will come down; poverty will also come down; and unemployment ratio will come down. A large number of people, that is, 25 per cent, are unemployed in the disorganised sector. I am not talking about organised sector. We do not know as to how many people are not having work. So, first and foremost is to see that some coercive methods are adopted. She has brought a good Resolution. Since the Chairman is looking at me, I think, I should stop here itself by supporting the Resolution which has been brought by Shrimati Jas Kaur Meena.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I do not find any reason to oppose the Resolution. When we think of population control, we have to bear in mind certain bare realities. In today's newspaper, an international agency has made an assessment that the United States of America is the richest in sex whereas India is the richest in reproduction. We are having the largest number of people in the world and we have been professing about family planning and population control for a long time. Stringent measures are also launched to control population. But where do we stand now? That is the main issue to be discussed.

I am coming from a State, Kerala, which has strictly implemented family planning. In Kerala, this year, the Government have taken a decision to close down nearly one thousand schools in a phased manner. You would be surprised to hear that in my constituency, there is a school, which has 12 teachers to teach ten boys. This is due to the non-availability of school children. The decision of the State Planning Board for the closure of nearly one thousand schools is not only on this ground alone. This is one of the reasons. The starting of schools in the vicinity or even in the lawns of Government schools might be one of the many other reasons.

But the foremost reason is non-availability of children for the first standard. Most of the schools find it very difficult. There will be a shortage of students for the first standard. You know that our State, Kerala, has achieved cent per cent literacy. So, the non-availability of students for the first standard is a major issue for people who are conducting private schools. During the month of June, there is a cry for students. They will go to each and every family and try whether there is any boy. Even up to the age of four, they will admit him because the schools will have to be continued. That is the present experience we have in Kerala. You will hear that within s short time, nearly 1,000 schools will be closed for want of students. The mover of the Resolution may please hear me. This is the situation we are facing.

We do not have children to study. In each and every family, you will see one or two children. We should make it an obligation or a constitutional provision that MLAs, MPs and Members of the Panchayats must have only two children or one child. That is not there. Even without that, the people themselves have voluntarily implemented the programme of family planning. This is our experience not only in Kerala but also in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and, to some extent, in Andhra Pradesh. They have, more or less, implemented the programme of family planning. But what is the state of affairs in the State of Bihar? Each and every family will have a minimum of one dozen or one-and-a half dozen children. The population is increasing day by day. I am told that the Chief Minister of that State is having more than a dozen children.

The hon. Members will remember that when we were discussing the delimitation of constituencies up to 2025, we discussed that fact also. We also had to support it because the number of constituencies for the Lok Sabha as well as for the State Legislatures would be considerably reduced if it was taken on the basis of population. Not only Kerala will be the loser, but other southern States will also be the losers. Having implemented the family planning programme, they should not be punished. That is why we have amended the Constitution that the delimitation of constituencies will take place only in 2025.

The Minister of Health has given a soleman promise that he will look into the population problem of northern States and the family control measures will be strictly implemented. How will they do it? I do not know about it. So, there must be a coordinated effort to control the population. The control of population is uneven in India. It must start from the north. The authorities in the northern States must take it seriously to bring down the population. Mere speeches, mere screaming or mere feeling alone is not sufficient. You must make it a reality. People should realise that until and unless we reduce the population, we would not be anywhere in the 21st century. The people who have done it should not be punished. The southern States should not be punished for having implemented the family planning programme in a strict sense. So, I would request the Government of India to take stern steps. They have implemented it in Maharashtra. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has also done it. The States of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have also implemented it. But what is the difficulty for the northern States to implement the family programme strictly? They are not doing it. In that case, we will be facing an explosion.

We will surpass China within a short time. The Chinese people, to some extent, are controlling their population. In a democracy, we will always boast of that we are doing something. But until and unless there is a coordinated effort to control population, we will not reach anywhere.

We have been given a population policy by the Government of India during the previous Session. But how are they going to implement it? We can implement it by mass education and people taking the lead. I am a politician, I am in the political field for more than 50 years. One of my primary concerns is to control population. We are doing all that is possible to teach people, to make them understand that until and unless you have a small family, your income will not be sufficient to maintain the family.

That was the teaching which we are imparting in each and every family at the grassroots level, that is, in the villages. We should go there and tell them and for that we should be an example that you must have one or two children and not more than that. If people like Shri Laloo Prasad go and teach people to control the population, they will not be impressed. They will be impressed only if you show the example. So, I would request all the leaders of the North to see that the family is small with only two children. Then you go and teach people. They will hear you, and they will understand you.

Poverty and unemployment are other reasons for this explosion in population. So, we must find out norms to prevent this. People, who are idle, do not find any other means to keep them busy but think of sex, resulting in production of children, creating a liability for the entire nation. If you are really engaged, if you are really employed, then the time for production will be less and the number of children in a family will be considerably reduced. But if the people are unemployed with no other job, they will think of some happiness in life, which will result in the production of a large family. So, unemployment and poverty are one among so many reasons.

There must be a coordinating central agency to implement family planning and mere lip service will not serve the purpose. We must be sincere in our effort. All of us should pledge that our population must be reduced. I am speaking from my own experience that family planning can be controlled if you take it seriously with a commitment. There must be a commitment. There is no commitment on our side. So, people with commitment should come forward and see that this population explosion is prevented and our nation is saved.

We are doing our part, but the difficulty is that thousands of teachers will be thrown out of employment.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

So, teachers are to be provided in every school. Where there is a shortage of teachers, they can be sent from other schools. But in the long-term some arrangement will have to be made to see that thousands of teachers who are not working should get some work and they teach students properly.

So, I would request the mover of the Resolution and also my friends in the North to see that family planning is strictly implemented in our respective States. We will make a concerted and coordinated move to prevent the explosion of population.

With these words I support the Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHAI LAL BHARGAWA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support the resolution moved by Shrimati Jas Kaur Meena ji. After all, people get inspired by their leaders and fortunately Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee ji is unmarried, therefore, we should derive our inspiration from him. The hon'ble Minister should take a pledge from today itself. If he wants to remain a minister, he will have to implement the family planning. This should be applicable to the Members of Parliament also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief. There are many other hon. Members in the queue.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAWA: We should go for population control. India's population has almost reached the one billion mark and as we see in 'Aaj Tak'; a child is born in every thirtieth second. so population control is necessary. Resources are limited and control is essential. We see in Delhi or you might have been seeing in your constituency how people are moving in a rellpell. Pollution is also increasing in the cities. I think imbalance between towns and villages is increasing, and we must pay heed to this also. When I visit my constituency, people complain of water tanks going smaller but I tell them that the water tank has not become smaller rather it has begun to look smaller because of population growth.

Land is being divided which is causing bad effect upon irrigation. Rules are there since 1973-74 but these rules were made applicable for the Panchayats. The Government of Rajasthan have also made these rules applicable for the Panchayats but it is unfortunate that this law does not apply to members of legislative assemblies and members of Parliament. I think, this must apply to them also.

Besides, I would also like to say that unmarried persons, should be given incentives. What to speak of Atal ji, but there are Kailash Nath Meghawal from Tonk Constituency and Girija Yyas ji who are unmarried, they should be given incentives, they should be provided with better health and other facilities. The Government have not paid attention towards this for the last fifty years.

Due to indifferent attitude of the Government, this problem has become worse. All are concerned about the growing population whether they are MPs, Union Ministers or state Ministers. They are of the view of that population growth should be controlled. Hon Bhairo Singh Shekhawat ji, former Chief Minister of Rajasthan and the likely Chief Minister of Rajasthan in future pleads for population control wherever he visits. The situation is quite disappointing in villages about population control. I am sorry to state that population is growing in villages also because of lack of sources of entertainment and theaters. There are no good programmes on the TV also. If they get these things, they would not go in for their women and this will put a check on population growth. And also, there is a need to put a ban on TV programmes which are telecast after 10 p.m. these programmes are highly erotic. So it is very much necessary to pay attention to the late night programmes. TV has become a malady today. Small children see them and put embarrassing questions leaving their parents answerless. So as long as dirty programmes are telecast on the TV, population growth cannot be controlled. Such thinges do help increase population. This needs to be heeded.

Sir, Sharda Act was passed which put restriction on the marriage of minor children. There is a festival in Rajasthan, namely "Akkhateej....*(Interruptions)*. This act provides that minor children should not get married, but parents of three year old grooms and two years old brides get their marriages soleminsed. This act should be implemented properly. Government of Rajasthan have made efforts in this direction and provided for stringent action against those who violate the Sharda Act, but all this is meaningless. The Government should not provide the facilities in Government hospitals and employment in the Government service to such people, and also, the persons who violate this act should be debarred from contesting elections for MPs and MLAs. By doing this only, I think, population can be controlled, otherwise it is not possible.

Sir, I beg pardon of you to say that Lalluji has nine children. His men are not present in the House. It is easy to preach than to act. I think he need not be preached. We talk of civil code in the country. But today the Muslims perform four marriages and giving birth to four children in a year. At this rate can you imagine as to how many children will be born in twelve yeas. And with one last thing, I shall conclude. In the hope of getting, a son, the number of daughters keep on increasing. Girls,

too, are like boys. Son is necessary to continue the clan and to cross the 'Vaitarni'. A daughter cannot perform 'Kapal Kariya' which is done by son. Daughters have been given equal rights in properties. Daughters are not curse. Daughters add good name to their parents. A son may get spoilt but a daughter cannot.

In the end, I would tell that the population of this country is increasing rapidly. In this regard, we must deliberate on the resolution of Behanji that the village Sarpanch decides everything for us. It is the only duty of everybody be it a leader of any party, BJP or Congress or Samajwadi party, to make efforts for population control. The Government should bring a bill in this regard. Whether the bill may be brought or may not be brought on behalf of Jaskaur Meena but the Government must bring and implement it strictly. This bill should apply to the people of Rajasthan and other States, the Members of Parliament also. This is my humble request to you.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Jaskur Meena ji is a member of the ruling party and this is private members business. I think this should be amended. Jaskaur Meenaji has proposed that if we fail to put control on population, many big problems can arise in the country which we cannot face. The population of our country was 30 crores in 1930, but today it has crossed even 100 crores in 1930 but today it has crossed even the 100 crore mark. Bhargawa Sahib has just told that every third second a child is born. This means that every year one crore population is being added. We do not have enough fund to provide facilities to them. The Government is unable to provide adequate facilities to them.

For population control China has experimented with the norm of three children per family, but we should make a norm of one child per family, a law for this is required to be made. It would not be wise for the Government to deny rights to those who have got more children before the law coming into force. If we make a law now, the cooperation of one and all will be required for its implementation. It is not proper to apply this law only to the members of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies but it should apply to anybody who wants to contest an election be it for the Gram Panchayat or anything. If one person gets elected, ten persons are defeated. This law should apply to every person who contests an election. Similarly Government officials from class I category to class IV category should be brought under its purview. This work is to be done by all of us. The age of marriage for girls and boys should be 21 and 25 respectively. Marriages should not be allowed before this age. If such a law is made it would be good for family planning. During emergency in the regime of Indira ji much work was done regarding family planning. We should try to control population growth by bringing legislation.

18.00 hrs.

Population is not going to come down by any other method. We are famous in the world for our tendency to increase population. But now we will become famous in the world for our efforts to control population. We shall have to work hard to achieve this goal which is an urgent need of the hour.

"If Atalji's Government fails to provide food, clothing or housing to the poor, they will be defeated in the coming elections." So population control is everybody's responsibility. Your party will have to change its manifesto and put stress on population control instead of Ram Mandir. So it is my suggestion that we all should work collectively for upliftment of society and this will help in decreasing the population. But one thing is that the lesser in the population the lesser will be the voters. I support your motion but you must tell your Government to bring such a law at the earliest.

18.00 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-ninth Report

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I beg to present the 29th Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Monday, December 3, 2001.

18.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 3, 2001/ Agrahayana 12, 1923 (Saka).

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