

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



Gazettes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. PB-025
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(Vol. XXIX contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

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CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXIX, Eleventh Session 2002/1924 (Saka)]

No. 17, Thursday, December 12, 2002/Agrahayana 21, 1924 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
RE : SITUATION ARISING OUT OF REPORTED DEATH OF THREE FARMERS IN POLICE FIRING AT MUNDERVA SUGAR MILL IN BASTI DISTRICT, UTTAR PRADESH	1—10, 323—347
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 322—341	10—44
Unstarred Question Nos. 3493—3722	44—323
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	347—352
COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE	
Eleventh Report	353
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE	
(i) Twenty-fourth to Twenty-seventh Reports	353
(ii) Action Taken Statements	353—354
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	
(i) Hundred-twenty third and Hundred-twenty fourth Reports	354
(ii) Record of Evidence	355
OBSERVATION BY CHAIRMAN	
Committee to Inquire into the Incident of Assault on Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, MP	
Preliminary Report	355—365
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Reported situation arising due to delay in starting the Dabhol Power Project	355—370
Shri Kirit Somaiya	356, 361
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	356, 362, 365
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	363
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	364
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	366—370
(i) Need for separate building byelaws for rehabilitation colonies in Chandigarh for the benefit of the poor	
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	366
(ii) Need for early clearance to Arpa Bhaisajhal Irrigation Project of Chhattisgarh	
Shri Punnu Lal Mohale	366
(iii) Need to handover the management of M/s Sambhar Salt Limited to State Government of Rajasthan for its smooth functioning	
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	367
(iv) Need for proper maintenance of National Highway between Jhansi and Barman via Sagar	
Shri Virendra Kumar	367

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(v) Need to clear the proposals of Government of Karnataka for revival of sugar industry in the State Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi	368
(vi) Need to expedite construction of Yatri Niwas at Madurai, Tamil Nadu Shri P. Mohan	368
(vii) Need for a circular train service connecting Vijayawada-Guntur-Tenali stations in Andhra Pradesh Shri Y.V. Rao	369
(viii) Need to take steps for revival of handloom industry in Orissa Shri Prasanna Acharya	369
(ix) Need to open a Central School in Maharajganj district, Uttar Pradesh Kunwar Akhilesh Singh	370
TRANSFER OF PROPERTY (AMENDMENT) BILL	370—378
Motion to Consider	370
Shri K. Jana Krishnamurthy	370, 374, 377
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	372
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	375
Shri Suresh Kurup	376
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	378
Motion to Pass	378
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL	378—419
Motion to Consider	378
Shri K. Jana Krishnamurthy	378, 412
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	379
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	382
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni	384
Shri K. Malaisamy	391
Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav	394
Shri Somnath Chatterjee	399
Shri G.M. Banatwalla	404
Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann	408
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	410
Clauses 2 and 1	417
Motion to Pass	419
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	
Internal Security	419—434
Shri Prabodh Panda	419
Shri Chinmayanand Swami	424
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Agitation by Cane Growers of District Basti (U.P.) for Enhancing the price of Sugarcane	434—444
Shri Sharad Yadav	434
Shri Ramjilal Suman	436
Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav	438
Shri Prabhunath Singh	439
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	440
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	441
Kunwar Akhilesh Singh	441
Shri S.S. Palanimanickam	442
Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana	442

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am giving you chance. I have received your notice for Adjournment Motion. I will give you two-minutes to speak, please go to your seat. I have seen your notice. Please go back to your seat. I will give you chance.

11.02¹/₂ hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh went back to his seat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am giving you chance, go back to your seat, please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, I will give you chance, please go back to your seat. I have received your notice of Adjournment Motion. I will give you two minutes. Please do not behave like this. This is Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There should be some order in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion
...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

Thursday, December 12, 2002/Agrahayana 21, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE : ISSUES RELATED TO SUGARCANE GROWERS IN UTTAR PRADESH AND INCIDENT OF FIRING ON THEM

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please go to your seat. I will listen to you.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Three farmers have been killed in the police firing in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, you please resume your seat. I will give you chance.

[English]

I have received your notice for Adjournment Motion. You please resume your seat. I will give you a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I humbly submit that three farmers have been killed and more than 100 have been injured. They are facing problems regularly ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seat.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, my humble submission is ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you chance.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, farmers never faced such harassment.

11.02 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh came and stood near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have received the notices of Adjournment Motion from Ram Vilas ji, Akhilesh ji. I have received three such notices including yours, that is why, I am saying that I am giving you two minutes. Akhileshji, please, do not behave like this.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hazipur): I have not only given notice of Adjournment Motion, but I have given notice to suspend Question Hour also. Three people have been killed there. The Government are harassing farmers. They are being killed daily.

[English]

...(Interruptions). You should suspend the Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Three people have been killed there and dozens of people are likely to be killed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Please suspend the Question Hour ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The condition of the farmers have become worse ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It is worthless to run the House in such a situation ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am giving chance to those 2-3 persons who have given the notices of Adjournment Motion.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Farmer is dying and the Government is sleeping ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seat, I am giving you chance.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, this is a serious issue ...(Interruptions). Time and again this thing is happening in the State of Uttar Pradesh ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, my humble submission is that the entire proceedings of House should be suspended and only the issue of farmers should be discussed ...(Interruptions). There is no meaning of

Question Hour. Farmers are being killed in Uttar Pradesh ...(Interruptions) when sugarcane is being procured from farmers at the rate of Rs. 110 in Haryana and the sugar mills are facing no loss, why cannot farmers in Uttar Pradesh be given the same price ? ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Members who have given the notice of Adjournment Motion, I will give chance to them only. First, you go back to your seats, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Three farmers have been killed and number of them injured in police firing in Uttar Pradesh ...(Interruptions)

11.06 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you go to your seat please ? You do not want to hear me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the way to conduct yourself in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Why did the Government, in spite of two debates, remain quiet on this issue ? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since you have given the notice of Adjournment Motion, I am giving you chance to speak ...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The problem of farmers has been discussed here, but no reply came from the Government ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First, you go to your seat. You will get chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, I will hear you. First, go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

11.10 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: T.V. Cameras may please be switched off.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: T.V. cameras have been switched off and nothing is going on record. Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am telling you that I will hear you. But please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

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): We are also as much concerned for the interests of farmers as you are ...(Interruptions). Let me speak at least ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni, I have received four notices of Adjournment

Mention. I want to give them the opportunity to speak but they are not even hearing me. In this situation how can I conduct this House ?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has also given the notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are lowering the dignity of the House by coming into the well. You can give the notice of Adjournment Motion. I am prepared to hear. But this is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Government is prepared to say something. The Minister wants to say something. You are not prepared to listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister wants to say something.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister wants to say something. You hear him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not hear you like this. I am prepared to hear everyone of you but I cannot listen to you all like this. First of all, go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This way, you are insulting the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is run by some rules. You are a senior Member. This is not the way to conduct yourself in the House. You go to your seats first and then speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will have to take a serious view. You cannot behave like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am ready to hear you. Nothing is going on record

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are lowering the dignity of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will hear you when you will go to your seats and not this way. I cannot hear anybody this way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will certainly hear you, but not this way. Not at all at least this way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will hear you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever the issue is, this is no way to make yourself hear. Even the Question Hour is not suspended this way.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There should be some order in the House. I am ready to hear you. But this way you are ignoring the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: You please listen to me at least once ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ram Vilas ji, I am prepared to hear you also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You go to your seat, please. Nothing is going on record. All of you, please, go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to make a suggestion. The hon. Member should also be heard in whose constituency three farmers have been killed and other Members should also be heard ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Let us hear Shri Ram Nagina Mishraji, he also wants to keep his point ...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I suggest that first we should hear hon. Ram Nagina Mishraji and then we should have discussion on it ...(Interruptions) what happened to the farmers is unfortunate ...(Interruptions). Farmers are facing injustice everywhere in the country, they are being suppressed ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): You should know about Maharashtra also. Police attacked farmers in their own houses there ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, already half-an-hour has been wasted. By this time you could have allowed a Half-an-Hour Discussion. Now it is already 11.30 a.m. Either you allow a discussion or start the Question Hour ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking them to go back to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: We are interested to transact the business in the House. By this time we would have had a discussion ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): This shouting, screaming are not going to solve the problems of the farmers ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear them. Anything can be heard only if they go back to their seats. Otherwise, how could I conduct the House ?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: You can suspend the Question Hour and allow a discussion. What a waste of time and energy it is! ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anything can be transacted provided they go back to their seats. Nobody knows what is happening in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The issue can be solved by way of discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can give the notice of Adjournment Motion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the way to conduct yourself.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can hear to him also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, they have their own coalition Government in

Uttar Pradesh and in the Centre. Even then, the Government also do not want to take any responsibility ...*(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Regional Imbalance in Gauge Conversion Work

*322. SHRI K. MALAISWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for taking up Railway lines and Gauge conversion works;

(b) the cases of deviations, if any, with reasons;

(c) the reasons for regional imbalance in the matter of allocation of funds and taking up projects particularly those of Gauge conversion;

(d) Metre Gauge lines yet to be converted in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the regional imbalance in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (e) As per the policy enunciated by the National Transport Policy Committee (1980), new line projects have been taken up as project oriented lines, missing links, lines required for strategic reasons and lines for establishment of new growth centers or giving access to remote areas. In addition, gauge conversion of existing Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines to Broad Gauge has been taken up in a big way under Project Uni-gauge from 1992 to develop alternative Broad Gauge routes, establish new Broad Gauge links, minimize transshipment points and establish connection to ports, industrial centers and those required on strategic considerations.

Keeping in view the above, a number of new line and gauge conversion projects have been taken up for the development of backward, under developed and remote areas.

In order to have equitable distribution of funds about which concerns have been frequently voiced inside and outside the House, funds during 2002-03 for projects under plan heads New Lines, Gauge Conversions,

Doublings, Electrification in different states have been allotted based on a clear and transparent formula as mentioned in the budget speech. The funds have been allocated on the basis of area of the state, the population and the throw-forward of projects in the state.

The details of metre gauge lines yet to be converted falling Partly/fully in Tamil Nadu, as on 1.4.2002, is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of Metre Gauge Lines yet to be converted falling partly/fully in Tamil Nadu as on 1.4.2002

Metre gauge lines where gauge conversion works are in progress:

1. Katpadi-Villupuram
2. Trichy-Manamadurai
3. Villupuram-Thanjavur
4. Madurai-Rameswaram
5. Quilon-Tenkasi-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudunagar
6. Trichy-Nagore
7. Villupuram-Pondicherry
8. Salem-Cuddalore
9. Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati
10. Chennai Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpattu (under MTP)

Other metre gauge lines:

1. Manamadurai-Virudunagar
2. Dindigul-Madurai
3. Dindigul-Pollachi
4. Pollachi-Palghat
5. Tambaram-Villupuram
6. Mayiladuturai-Karaikkudi
7. Madurai-Bodinayakanur
8. Mettupalayam-Udagamandalam
9. Pollachi-Coimbatore
10. Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli.

[Translation]

Routes for Trainees

*323. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to review the routes of training sorties of fighter planes over residential areas;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be reviewed; and

(c) if not, the scheme formulated by the air Force to check the incidents of air crashes in the residential areas ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Adequate instructions exist in Indian Air Force to avoid flying over residential areas. Government of India have also issued a notification in January, 1988 regulating construction activities in the vicinity of airfields. However, over the years, lot of buildings and other constructions have come up around the airfields. Flying over these areas is inescapable during take off, approach and landing phases. In the eventuality of abandoning a sick aircraft, emphasis is laid to point the aircraft in a safe direction away from residential and prohibited areas before ejecting.

A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always afoot in Indian Air Force to reduce all types of air crashes, including those occurring in residential areas. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Extensive anti-bird measures are being taken to ensure safe flying environment. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and Original Equipment Manufacturers is also maintained to overcome any technical defects.

[English]

Offshore Supply Vessels Engaged by ONGC

*324. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marine Logistics Support Services in ONGC's Bombay High have come under severe censure by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India in the his report for the year 2002;

(b) if so, the lapses on the part of ONGC in engaging Offshore Supply Vessels (OSV) for Bombay High and the extent of losses to the public exchequer on this account;

(c) whether incorrect application of ceiling rates in respect of two OSVs hired from a Shipping Co. Ltd. by ONGC resulted in excess payment of Rs. 4.86 crores; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) in their Report dated 13th March, 2002, for the year ended March 2001,

reviewed Marine Logistics Support Services of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC); and commented, *inter alia*, about the following:

1. Deployment of Offshore Supply Vessels (OSVs) on standby duty.
2. Trips of OSVs on supply duty and cargo handling.
3. Transportation of potable water to Platforms and Rigs.
4. Non-availability of OSVs on account of downtime.

In the above report, C&AG also observed that day rate for two numbers of A-class OSVs belonging to M/s Essar Shipping should have been fixed on the basis of owner's contribution, but ONGC paid day rate on the basis of total capital employed, including the loan portion, for the periods July 1984 to July 1989 and July 1994 to July 1996, resulting in overpayment of Rs. 4.86 crores over the 7 year period.

However, ONGC in their response, communicated by this Ministry to C&AG on 31.1.2002, on the relevant points of the draft Audit Review relating to ONGC dated 10.10.2001 has given the operational background and brought out, *inter alia*, that engagement and deployment of OSVs did not suffer from any major infirmity and that there was no loss as such caused to ONGC, including the aforesaid payment of Rs. 4.86 crores.

Gorshkov Deal

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

(a) whether Government are satisfied that the deal of Admiral Gorshkov would be finalised and the delivery would be made within the schedule time;

(b) whether the ship has survived a major fire in 1985;

(c) if so, the damage caused to the ship;

(d) whether the Aircraft carrier would have to be taken to Singapore even for small repairs; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The negotiations for Admiral Gorshkov are going on. It is not possible to lay down a time limit for such a major acquisition.

(b) and (c) As a result of a steam pipe burst, a fire occurred in the ships boiler room in 1994. There was no major damage.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Recommendation of SAARC for Regional Power Grid

*326. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAARC Technical Committee on Energy has recommended a Regional Power Grid connecting Bangladesh, India, Bhutan and Nepal.

(b) if so, the details in this regard with the reasons for the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) The SAARC Technical Committee on Energy has recommended that the matter be discussed further among the concerned member states. The relevant extract of the Report of the Technical Committee is given in the statement enclosed.

India has bilateral arrangements for exchange of electricity with Bhutan and Nepal. Though India has no such arrangements with Bangladesh it has indicated to Bangladesh its willingness to discuss the same. It has also indicated that bilateral arrangements for grid connectivity need to precede consideration of possible arrangements for cross country flow of electricity through the Indian grid through displacement. The creation and growth of cross border transmission links also depends on the identification of commercially viable electricity flows.

In the meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Energy, the Indian point of view stated above was conveyed.

Statement

*Extracts from the Report of the First Meeting
of the Technical Committee on Energy
(Dhaka, 17-18 November, 2002)*

"Creation of a Regional Powergrid among India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan

The delegation from India stated that the creation and growth of cross border transmission links depends

on identification of commercially viable electricity flows from generating stations to load centres. Flows through the Indian grid could take place through displacement.

The meeting recommended that the matter be discussed further between the countries of India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh with a view to evolving suitable arrangements in this regard".

Setting up of Fast Track Courts

*327. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

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

(a) whether Union Government have warned the State Governments that for non-compliance of setting up of fast track courts by December 31, 2002, there shall be curtailment of funds allotted to the States, for the said purpose;

(b) if so, the response of the respective States in this regard;

(c) the total number of fast track courts instituted so far, State-wise;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to make the remaining fast track courts functional;

(e) whether State Governments have also been asked to expedite the disposal of human rights cases on priority; and

(f) if so, the details of such cases pending in courts and by when such cases are likely to be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) No, Sir. However, the States are being constantly persuaded to set up full number of fast track courts at the earliest.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State-wise number of fast track courts instituted/notified is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Government is taking necessary steps to improve the performance of the Fast Track Courts in closed association with the concerned State Governments, the High Courts and with the Minister of Finance. The Government has been constantly requesting the State Governments to make the remaining Fast Track Courts

functional at the earliest, and has also been drawing their attention to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 6th May, 2002 in TC No. 22 of 2001, Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India & Ors. The Supreme Court is also monitoring the functioning of the Fast Track Courts in the Brij Mohan Lal case.

(e) Disposal of cases including Human Rights cases falls within the substantive function of the Judiciary. However, Fast Track Courts also promote the cause of human rights by speeding up the disposal of long pending sessions cases and cases of undertrials who have been in jails for a long time. Some of the State Governments have notified "Human Rights Courts" as provided in section 30 of the Protection of Human Rights Act '93, for disposal of cases expeditiously.

(f) No such information is maintained in the Department.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Fast Track Courts instituted/notified
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
3.	Assam	20
4.	Bihar	183
5.	Chhattisgarh	31
6.	Goa	3
7.	Gujarat	36
8.	Haryana	12
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	43
11.	Jharkhand	89
12.	Karnataka	13
13.	Kerala	27
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85
15.	Maharashtra	104
16.	Manipur	2
17.	Meghalaya	2

1	2	3
18.	Mizoram	3
19.	Nagaland	2
20.	Orissa	39
21.	Punjab	6
22.	Rajasthan	83
23.	Sikkim	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	49
25.	Tripura	3
26.	Uttaranchal	45
27.	Uttar Pradesh	206
28.	West Bengal	59
Total		1234

News Bulletins in Tribal Dialects on DD

*328. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

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

(a) whether news bulletins in Tribal Dialects are not telecast by the local stations of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details thereof, station-wise, dialects-wise; and

(d) the measures taken/being taken to bring the tribal populace into the national mainstream and to make them aware of the welfare schemes of the Government being run for them ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that due to shortage of manpower and resources, Doordarshan is not able to telecast news bulletins in Tribal Dialects.

(d) DD Kendras particularly those located in tribal areas in the North-East, Ranchi, Sambalpur, Jagdalpur, Raipur, etc., regularly telecast programmes show-casing the rich socio-cultural divergence of tribal life including their songs & dances, folklore & customs, traditions and lifestyles.

Programmes based on welfare schemes of the government, intended for the benefit of tribal populace are telecast, in their dialects, as far as feasible. Tribal artists are also encouraged to come forward and participate in Doordarshan programmes.

Performance of PFC for Implementation of Projects

*329. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of total investments made by the PFC during 2001-02 under various projects, State-wise; and

(d) the details of funds actually released to each State during 2001-02 and allocation made for 2002-03 ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The performance of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is periodically reviewed by the Government. PFC is signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of India for each financial year, wherein the performance targets like sanction, disbursement, realisation, resource mobilization, gross margin, ratio of net profit to capital employed, operating ratio etc. are fixed. These performance targets and also the PFC's financial assistance for the implementation of important power projects in the States are being reviewed quarterly by the Ministry of Power in the quarterly Performance Meetings wherein representatives from Planning Commission, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Department of Programme Implementation also participate. Based on the achievement under MoU, Annual targets, the performance of PFC is evaluated and rating is assigned to PFC by the Department of Public Enterprises.

(b) The parameters that are reviewed, as per the MoU and the rating assigned by the Department of Public Enterprises for PFC for the various financial years is given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) The details of investment made by PFC during the financial year 2001-02 under various projects State-wise is given in the statement-II enclosed. There is

no pre-allocation of PFC's financial assistance to any State and the financial assistance likely to be provided to States for power projects depend upon the requirements of funds for these projects; their techno-economic feasibility; and the States Power Utilities complying the terms and conditions for sanction/drawl laid down by PFC. The financial assistance actually released to each State during 2002-03 (upto November, 2002) is given in the statement-III enclosed.

Statement I

I. Performance against MoU/Annual Plan Targets

Parameters	Plan Target (MoU- Excellent) 2001-02	Plant Target (MoU-V. Good) 2001-02	Actual April-March 2002
1	2	3	4
Sanction	6650	6300	8506
Disbursements	4030	3840	5150
Resource Mobilization	2400	2285	5016
Realisation	95%	94%	98.0%
AG&SP Disbursement	1680	1600	3128
APDP Sanctions	600	570	651

1	2	3	4
Gross Margin	610	575	1004
NP to Closing Network	13.42	12.68	18.6
Op Ratio (%) (Op. Exp/Inc)	69.8	71.02	52.1

II. The Annual ratings assigned to Power Finance Corporation Ltd. by the Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India based on achievement against MoU Targets

1993-94	Excellent
1994-95	Excellent
1995-96	Excellent
1996-97	Excellent
1997-98	Excellent
1998-99	Excellent
1999-2000	Excellent
2000-2001	Excellent
2001-2002	Excellent

Statement II

Disbursement to various Power Utilities from 01 April, 2001 to 31 March, 2002

(Amount in Rupees Crores)

Projects located in	State power utilities	Private power utilities	Central power utilities	Joint Sector power utilities	Grand total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	311.26	1.47	0.00	0.00	312.73
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	100.36	0.00	100.36
Assam	1.198	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.98
Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Chhattisgarh	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
Delhi	280.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	280.00
Goa	3.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.47
Gujarat	190.21	57.00	0.00	0.00	247.21
Haryana	84.12	0.00	295.58	0.00	379.70
Himachal Pradesh	106.35	25.00	0.00	0.00	131.35
Jammu & Kashmir	23.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.65
Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	227.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	227.85
Kerala	3.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.43
Madhya Pradesh	188.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	188.21
Maharashtra	353.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	353.80
Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	23.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.52
Orissa	0.34	0.00	80.87	0.00	81.21
Punjab	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Rajasthan	1276.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	1276.66
Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	658.08	8.62	0.00	0.00	666.70
Uttar Pradesh	113.43	0.00	419.48	0.00	532.91
Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	75.0	0.00	0.00	29.59	104.67
Total	4131.49	92.09	896.29	29.59	5149.46

Statement III*Disbursement to various Power Utilities from 01 April, 2002 to 30 November, 2002**(Amount in Rupees crores)*

Projects Located in	State power utilities	Private power utilities	Central power utilities	Joint Sector power utilities	Loan to Equipment Manufacturer for supply of equipment to state power utilities	Grand total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	585.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.67	586.94
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assam	1.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.64
Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delhi	110.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	110.09
Goa	4.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.28
Gujarat	12.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.08
Haryana	400.27	0.00	377.67	0.00	0.00	777.74
Himachal Pradesh	139.92	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	154.92
Jammu & Kashmir	14.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.53
Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	119.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	119.87
Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	77.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	77.57
Maharashtra	221.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.33	227.69
Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	2.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orissa	9.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.50
Punjab	3.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.56
Rajasthan	1083.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.75	1088.72
Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	37.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.52
Uttar Pradesh	185.35	5.50	251.00	0.00	0.00	441.85
Uttaranchal	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
West Bengal	40.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.46
Total	3099.51	20.50	628.67	0.00	12.75	3761.43

Setting up of 1000 MW TPP

*330. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to install Thermal Power Plants of 1000 MW capacity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon and the States where such plants are likely to be installed on priority basis, location-wise, State-wise;

(c) whether the modalities to start such projects have been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (e) There are four Thermal Power Plants of 1000 MW capacity presently under implementation and proposed for benefits during the 10th Plan. The position regarding these is as follows:

- (i) Work on Rihand Super Thermal Power Station-II Units-3&4 (2 × 500 MW) of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), with approved cost of Rs. 3451.97 crore, is progressing satisfactorily

and the Unit-3 of the project is scheduled to be commissioned by August, 2005 and Unit-4 by May, 2006.

- (ii) Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station-III (2 × 500 MW) of NTPC estimated to cost Rs. 4201.50 crore has been accorded in August, 2002.
- (iii) Anpara 'C' Thermal Power Station (2 × 500 MW) of Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (UPRVUNL) is estimated to cost Rs. 4216.42 Crore. Ministry of Environment & Forests has yet to revalidate environment clearance given to this project. Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) to this project has not been accorded as yet.
- (iv) Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Station (4 × 250 MW) estimated to cost Rs. 4368.00 crore is proposed to be set up by Maithon Power Ltd. (a Joint Venture Company comprising Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) & Bombay Suburban Electric Supply (BSES). Techno-economic approval for this project could be accorded after all the necessary inputs/clearances are tied-up.

Further, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) on 12.7.2002 to set up a 1000 MW Power Plant at Ennore in Tamil Nadu. The implementation schedule of this project

is dependent on viability of the project and financial closure.

OMC's Conditions on Lease Land

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

(a) the terms and conditions offered by Oil Marketing Companies for taking the land on lease from Letter of Intent holders;

(b) whether the lease rent is provided keeping in view the market price of the land offered by them;

(c) if so, whether it is mandatory for the LOI holder to handover the site to the company on the price determined by the company unilaterally;

(d) if so, the remedy available to such dealer to avoid harassment from company officials;

(e) whether the Government are planning to have an inquiry in such cases, which are pending since last three years due to such incidents; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have their own internal guidelines for procurement of land from the holders of the Letter of Intent (LOI) for setting up of dealerships/distributorships. They determine the suitability of a particular plot of land, offered to them by the LOI-holders. If the land is found to be suitable, assessment of the lease rental is got done through Government approved valuers. Thereafter, terms and conditions for the lease agreement, including lease rental, are finalised by the OMCs after negotiation and in consultation with the LOI-holders.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of replies given with reference to parts (a) to (c) above.

[Translation]

Judicial Reforms

*332. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether there is an urgent need to bring about judicial reforms in the country to provide speedy and easily accessible justice to the poor;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard;

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the benefits of the free legal aid system for the poor ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has taken various steps to provide speedy and easily accessible justice to all including the poor. Judicial reforms are an ongoing and continuous process. Judicial Reforms include amendments to laws providing for time limits at various stages of proceedings, restrictions on adjournments, prompt delivery of judgments, setting up of new courts like Fast Track Courts and the use of information technology in courts to speed up disposal of cases.

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999 and 2002, *inter-alia*, contain provisions regarding fixing of time limits at various stages of a suit, granting of not more than three adjournments to a party to a suit, recording of evidence by the commissioner, delivery of judgement within 60 days after hearing of the case.

Various other measures have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases, like filling up of vacancies of judges, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/Tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/metropolitan Magistrates, etc.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 contains provisions for free legal services to the poor. According to the resolution adopted in the first annual meet of State Legal Services Authorities held under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority, every person whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 25,000 is eligible for free legal aid in respect of cases before High Courts Subordinate thereto. In cases before the Supreme Court, the limit is Rs. 50,000. Limitation as to the income does not apply in case of persons belonging to Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes, women, children, handicapped etc. as per provisions of the Act.

Upto 30.6.2002, about 1,39,172 Lok Adalats have been held in different parts of the country where about 1.42 crore cases have been settled. In about 7.3 Lakh Motor Vehicles Accident Claims cases, compensation amounting to over Rs. 3615.93 crores has been awarded. As on 30.6.2002, about 43.68 lakh persons have been benefitted through legal Aid and Advice throughout the country.

[English]

Pantry Cars in Trains

*333. SHRI RAM SAJIVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pantry Cars are provided in trains as an essential passenger facility despite heavy losses;

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring down the losses;

(c) whether the Government have decided to provide mobile library-cum-bookstall like pantry car in long distance trains as an essential facility to the passenger on non-commercial considerations; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not providing such facility in various long distance trains operating in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Pantry cars are provided on selected long distance trains as a passenger facility and not for profit. To improve financial viability steps have been taken to streamline working of departmental pantry cars and privatise unviable services. In licensee operated pantry cars two-packet system of technical and financial bids has also been introduced from October 2000.

(c) and (d) After review during 1986 it was decided that the facility of mobile library-cum-bookstalls, including hawking of books, Magazines etc., in long distance trains on Indian Railways should not be further introduced due to poor patronage from passengers. However, the existing mobile library-cum-bookstall on the trains already introduced were allowed to continue subject to their satisfactory working.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes for Ex-Servicemen

*334. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being implemented by his Ministry under the "Welfare Schemes for Ex-Servicemen" and "Rehabilitation Training";

(b) the criteria adopted by the Government for providing loans, grants and other financial assistance for these schemes alongwith the contribution/participation of the State Governments;

(c) the details of such schemes being implemented by the Union Government/State Governments since April 1, 1998; and

(d) the funds provided by the Union Government during the above period, year-wise, scheme-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The following schemes for the Welfare and Rehabilitation of ex-servicemen are in operation:

I. RESETTLEMENT SCHEMES:

(i) *Re-employment*: In order to provide re-employment opportunities to ex-servicemen in civilian departments the Central Government have provided for reservation in Group 'C' and Group 'D' vacancies for them. In Defence Security Corps 100% vacancies are reserved for ex-servicemen. In para-military forces 10% vacancies of Assistant Commandants are reserved for ex-servicemen. The Central Public Sector Undertakings and National Banks also provide for reservation in Group 'C' and group 'D' posts.

(ii) *Training*: Directorate-General Resettlement arranges various training programmes for ex-servicemen/retiring Defence personnel to improve their employability. The training programmes include vocational training, ITI training and on the job training.

(iii) *Self-Employment Schemes*: Ex-Servicemen are provided financial assistance for self-employment ventures under following schemes:

(a) *SEMFEX-I*: Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for establishing Tiny, Small Scale Industries, Small Scale Service and Business (Industry Related) Enterprises including Transport (Heavy Duty only), Travel and Tourism activities, Hotels and Restaurants, Nursing Homes/Clinics/Diagnostic Centres and other service activities.

Project Cost limit under this scheme is Rs. 15 lakhs and all eligible ex-Servicemen/Widows up to the age of

60 years are eligible to take the benefit of the scheme. Soft Seed Capital Assistance (SSCA) to the extent of 15 percent of the total project cost at 6% per annum rate of interest is also available under the scheme. The financial assistance is available through State Financial Corporations.

(b) *SEMFEX-II*: The scheme envisages provision of comprehensive package of credit measures for encouraging ex-servicemen, widows of deceased defence personnel and disabled Service Personnel to undertake agriculture and allied activities and set up non farm units in rural areas. There is no age limit for ex-Servicemen for availing loan facility.

There is no upper limits for financial assistance in respect of projects under farm sector. Loan assistance is, however, restricted to Rs. 15 lakhs in non-farm sector.

(c) *SEMFEX-III*: Under the scheme loan for Khadi Industries is provided to ex-servicemen by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) at a nominal interest

of 4% per annum. Maximum loan limit in case of Ex-Servicemen Co-operative Society/Institution is Rs. 25 lakhs whereas individual entrepreneurs can avail loan up to Rs. 10 lakhs. There is no age limit for ex-servicemen for availing loan facility.

(d) *National Equity Fund Scheme (Sena Se Laghudhyog)*: The objective of this Scheme is to provide equity type support to entrepreneurs for setting up new projects in tiny/small scale sector or for undertaking expansion, modernisation, technology upgradation and diversification by existing tiny, Small Scale Industries (SSI) and service enterprises. Under the Scheme the project cost ceiling is Rs. 50 lakh and soft loan assistance is provided @ 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakh per project. The promoter's contribution is 10% of the project cost. No interest is charged on the soft loan component. However, service charge of 5% per annum is levied, repayment period under the Scheme has been fixed for seven years (including moratorium up to three years).

Year-wise breakup of number of cases cleared for setting up production units in various schemes, loan amount sanctioned and actual disbursement of loan

(Amount in Lakh)

Scheme	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 ©
SEMFEX-I						
No. of cases	10	12	12	9	Nil	Nil
Amount	13.75	5.50	15.49	5.63	Nil	Nil
Sanctioned						
Disbursed	10.41	5.50	14.97	5.61	Nil	Nil
SEMFEX-II						
No. of cases	415	359	468	297	4679	469
Amount	289.16	179.76	379.17	274.51	2828.16	277.95
Sanctioned						
Disbursed	192.87	171.04	266.94	265.98	2574.37	261.64
SEMFEX-III						
No. of cases	39	45	13	83	703	36
Amount	119.39	57.13	27.24	135.54	581.22	20.4
Sanctioned						
Disbursed	105.47	48.84	25.19	100.79	380.36	20.4

© Figures for the year 2001-2002 is provisional. Information from all the states has not been received.

- (iv) The ex-servicemen are encouraged to float security agencies and coal transport companies. The Director General Resettlement sponsors ex-servicemen security agencies to various public sector undertakings. The Coal India and its subsidiaries give coal transport contracts to transport companies floated by ex-Servicemen.
- (v) Eight percent of petroleum product agencies have been reserved for allotment to widows/dependents of posthumous gallantry award winners, war disabled, war widows etc.
- (vi) Ex-servicemen are eligible for allotment of Army Surplus disposable Vehicles.

II. WELFARE SCHEMES

Medical Facilities:

- (i) Ex-servicemen, their families and families of deceased Service personnel drawing pension of any kind are entitled to free out patient treatment in 127 Military Hospitals and more than 1000 Medical Inspection Rooms including 24 exclusively reserved for ex-servicemen. In-patient treatment is also provided subject to availability of beds.
- (ii) Ex-servicemen who are not availing medical facilities from Military Hospitals may choose to draw Rs. 100 every month for medical treatment.
- (iii) Ex-servicemen/dependents suffering from serious diseases are given financial assistance from Armed Forces Flag Day Fund to the extent of 90 percent (in the case of Junior Commissioned Officers, Other Ranks) and 75 percent (in the case of officer level) of the total expenditure incurred for treatment in civil/authorized hospitals provided no financial assistance was available from any other source. These are by-pass surgery, Angioplasty, Angiography, Kidney/Renal Transplantation, Cancer/Spastic Paraplegic treatment, Coronary Artery Surgery, Open Heart Surgery, Valve Replacement, Pacemaker Implant. Financial Assistance is also provided to ex-servicemen/dependents for medical treatment in Civil/Authorized Hospitals from Army Group Insurance (AGI) at package rate for certain serious diseases.

Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS):

It has been decided to introduce a new medical scheme for providing medical care to ex-Servicemen War Widows and their dependents on the pattern of Central Government Health Scheme.

Education Facilities for Children:

- (i) Free educational facilities are provided to children of Defence personnel killed or disabled in war.
- (ii) 25 seats in the MBBS, two seats in BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) and two seats in Engineering are available through Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) to dependents/wards of certain categories of Defence personnel.
- (iii) 25 percent seats are reserved for the wards of serving and ex-Servicemen personnel in Sainik Schools.
- (iv) States/UTs have made reservation of seats in professional colleges/ITI/Polytechnics for wards of serving and retired Defence Personnel.

Travel Concession

- (i) *Rail Travel Concession:* Recipients of Chakra series of gallantry awards are entitled for free rail pass for travelling in I class/II AC class.
- (ii) *Air Travel Concession:* Recipients of Certain category of Gallantry Award and their widows are eligible to 50% concession in fare for air travel in domestic flights of the Indian Air Lines.

Other Facilities:

- (i) Ex-servicemen can avail of Canteen facilities from the nearest CSD canteens.
- (ii) Sainik Bhawans/Rest Houses spread all over the country have been established for ex-servicemen.

III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PROVIDING LOANS/ FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EX-SERVICEMEN

(a) Those un-employed ex-Servicemen who have not availed the benefit for any other rehabilitation scheme run by the Government, are eligible to avail loan facilities under Self-Employment Schemes (SEMFEX-I, II and III and National Equity Fund Scheme).

(b) Those ex-servicemen whose financial position is not sound are eligible for financial assistance for various

purposes viz., medical treatment, marriage of daughters, repair of houses, education of children from Raksha Mantri's Discretionary Fund (RMDF).

IV. FUNDS PROVIDED FOR WELFARE SCHEMES BY THE GOVERNMENT

(a) All the resettlement and welfare schemes except National Equity Fund Scheme (Sena se Laghudyog) were in operation prior to 1st April, 1998.

(b) There is no specific budget allocation for the rehabilitation and welfare of ex-servicemen and no financial grant is provided to State Governments for the purpose.

Joint Venture Project of NTPC with Private Sector

*335. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allow the NTPC to start joint venture projects with private companies and State Governments in order to achieve the power generation targets during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of targets set in regard to power generation during the Tenth Five Year Plan along with the targets fixed for joint venture projects in this regard; and

(d) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (d) Of the total capacity addition target of 41,110 MW for the Tenth Plan period, the target pertaining to National Thermal Power Corporation is 9160 MW through its own projects.

National Thermal Power Corporation has signed the following Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for developing power projects through joint ventures:

- (i) MoU was signed with Railways on 18th February, 2002 for setting up of power plants upto 2000 MW capacity with the locations to be finalized after selection of viable sites and based on feasibility.
- (ii) MoU was signed with Tamil Nadu Electricity Board on 12th July, 2002 to set up a 1000 MW power plant at Ennore in Tamil Nadu.

The schedule for the implementation of these Joint Venture projects is yet to be drawn up.

[English]

Propaganda by Foreign Channels in Border Areas

*336. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to weak signals of Indian Transmission as compared to much better quality of reception of Foreign Transmitters, people living in border areas particularly in sensitive border areas are tempted to watch foreign channels and fall prey to foreign propaganda; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to counter the strong foreign transmitters in Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttaranchal and North-eastern region ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Doordarshan has been assigning priority to expansion of TV coverage in border areas in its expansion plans. At present, there are 1347 TV transmitters functioning in various parts of the country and out of these, 271 transmitters are in border districts. The quality of reception of Doordarshan transmitters in border areas is generally satisfactory. However, TV signals from across the border are receivable in some areas.

For expansion and improvement of Doordarshan services in Jammu & Kashmir, Government had approved a Special Package involving an outlay of Rs. 234.44 Crores for hardware projects of Doordarshan, under which 86 transmitters have already been set up and the remaining 6 transmitters are expected to be set up in J&K by the end of current financial year.

For expansion and improvement of Doordarshan services in NE region, Government has approved, in principle, implementation of a special package. Even though the details of the schemes under this package are yet to be finally approved, as a part of this package, schemes for upgradation of 5 HPTs (1 KW to 10 KW), setting up of Earth Stations at Shillong and Aizawl and provision of Satellite video phones at 8 (eight) capital centers of NE Region (2 at each centre), besides establishment of 160 Cable Head Ends (20 in each of the 8 NE states including Sikkim) for expanding TV coverage have been sanctioned and are under implementation.

For expansion/improvement of TV coverage in the border areas of the country, including those in J&K, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttaranchal and North Eastern states, 40 transmitter projects are presently under implementation.

Fast Track Power Projects

*337. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Power Projects initiated by the Government during the Ninth Plan;

(b) the installed capacity of each of those power projects;

(c) whether there were some litigation problems in the execution of some of these Fast Track Power Projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present status of each of those projects ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) The Government of India (GOI), in 1994, had decided to provide counter guarantee to 8 initial power projects, cleared for making foreign investment in the power sector. The counter guarantee scheme was a transitory measure to boost private investment in the sector. The eight projects identified for GOI counter guarantee have generally been referred to as 'Fast Track Power Projects', since they were seen as pioneer projects, which would pay the way for further private investments. Out of these 8 identified projects, during the 9th Plan, GOI counter guarantee under revised procedure adopted in 1998, has been issued for the following projects:

- (i) Bhadravati Thermal Power Project of M/s. Central India Power Company in Maharashtra of 2×536 MW.
- (ii) Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Station of M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. in Andhra Pradesh of 2×520 MW.
- (iii) Neyveli Thermal Power Station (Zero Unit) of M/s. ST-CMS Electric Company in Tamil Nadu of 1×250 MW.

In addition to the above 3 projects, issue of counter guarantee under a revised procedure was approved during the Ninth Plan in respect of the following projects:

- (iv) Ib Valley Thermal Power Project (Units 5 & 6) of M/s. AES Ib Valley Corporation in Orissa of 2×250 MW.

- (v) Mangalore Thermal Power Project (Cogentrix) (4×253.3 MW) of M/s. Mangalore Power Company in Karnataka.

(c) and (d): *Bhadravati Thermal Power Project:*

A Public Interest Petition (PIP) had been filed in 1998 in the Nagpur Bench of Maharashtra High Court opposing the Bhadravati power project on various grounds. The petition has been admitted by the hon'ble High Court. The Court, in its order dated 26th March, 2002, has taken note of a submission made by Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) that they will not go ahead with the project unless the disputes and differences arising out of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and Dabhol Power Company (DPC) are sorted out amicably and the demand for power in the State has picked up to the extent that MSEB is able to absorb the power in addition to the Dabhol power. Accordingly, the Court has directed that no further steps should be taken for implementation of the project without further orders of the Court. A Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by the promoters of the project was dismissed by the Supreme Court of India with the observation that the party is at liberty to reapproach the High Court, which would give all the Respondents, including the promoters an opportunity of hearing.

Mangalore Power Company:

A PIP had been filed in the High Court of Karnataka against the State of Karnataka, the Karnataka Electricity Board and others on the award of project to M/s Cogentrix (M/s. Mangalore Power Company) seeking for investigation by appropriate agencies into various allegations. GOI had not been made a respondent in this case. On the basis of the facts and circumstances of the case, the Hon'ble Court had ordered that a First Information Report (FIR) would be registered with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by the Government of Karnataka. On the Special Leave Petition filed by State of Karnataka, the Supreme Court of India set aside the order of High Court.

One Shri Saba Rehman, an Advocate, filed an Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court of Karnataka against State of Karnataka and eight others including Government of India, challenging the order, dated 8.5.2000 of the Government of Karnataka whereby permission was given to replace M/s. Cogentrix Energy Inc. in M/s. Mangalore Power Company. The PIL has been dismissed.

Two petitions were also filed in the Karnataka High Court opposing the Mangalore project mainly on.

environmental aspects. These were also dismissed by the Court while directing the Ministry of Environment & Forests to take into consideration reports given by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and others on environment related issues and decide the issues arising therein.

(e) Of the 5 projects mentioned above, the Neyveli Thermal Power Project has recently been synchronized with the Tamil Nadu State Grid. The promoters of the Bhadravati Thermal Power Project and the Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project are yet to achieve financial closure and commence construction activities. Meanwhile, the counter guarantee in respect of these two projects have since expired due to inability of the promoters to fulfill some of the conditions prescribed in the counter guarantee. In the case of the remaining two projects, the counter guarantee could not be issued since the State Governments have not conveyed their acceptance to the conditions laid down for issue of the counter guarantee. Both these projects are also yet to achieve financial closure and commence construction activities.

Golden Quadrilateral Project

*338. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways propose to develop a golden quadrilateral railway network similar to the one being implemented for the national highway project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project has been approved by the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance;

(d) if so, the total cost to be incurred on this project;

(e) whether the three funding agencies, Japan, ADB and World Bank have shown interest in financing the project; and

(f) if so, the time by which the work on this project is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Railways (MOR) have decided to upgrade the Golden Quadrilateral and its Diagonals which forms the High Density Network (HDN) and is saturated in certain parts, by increasing the line capacity. The Golden Quadrilateral connects the four metro cities i.e. Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. The strengthening of this route will be done by laying of

additional lines, improvement in terminals, electrification of selected sections and raising the speed of freight trains upto 1000 kmph, upgradation of signalling and similar input options, thus enhancing the line capacity.

Some of the works already sanctioned have been made a part of this Project. The requisite approvals from Planning Commission/Expanded Board/Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), for these projects, wherever required, have been obtained. In addition, new sub-projects have also been identified. The project reports of these sub-projects are presently under finalisation. Once the reports are finalised, the requisite approvals from Planning Commission/Expanded Board/CCEA will be obtained, wherever required. The total cost of this project is yet to be finalised, however, it is expected to be in the range of Rs. 8000 crores.

(e) Asian Development Bank (ADB) has shown keen interest and a sector loan having a first loan component of US\$313.6 million is in the final stages. World Bank has also shown interest and dialogue has been initiated. Japan has yet to express any specific interest for the Project.

(f) Work on some of the sanctioned components of the Projects is in progress.

Bridge Inspection System

*339. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the systems followed by the Railways to check bridges;

(b) whether the system based on visual inspection and subjective assessment may vary from individual to individual;

(c) if so, whether the Railways maintain inspection records of physical parameters like deflections, scour, vibration or dynamic characteristics, strength of components of overall strength or residual life assessment of the component or the bridge structure;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) As per the system of inspection of bridges laid down in Codes and Manual, Railway Bridges are thoroughly inspected during (i) Routine inspections

and (ii) Special Inspections. The railway bridges are thoroughly inspected once a year before monsoons by the Section Engineer (Way/Works) and after monsoon by the Assistant Engineer. Divisional Engineer inspects all important Bridges once a year and all other bridges as referred to him by the Assistant Engineers. All inspections are recorded in a Bridge Inspection Register and put up to the territorial Chief Engineer for scrutiny and inspection of bridges which may be referred to him. Condition rating numbers are assigned to various parts of the bridge during inspection. The frequency of the inspection of distressed bridges at various levels is increased and laid down in manuals. The steel super structure of bridges is subjected to detailed technical check once in five years. The floor system of early steel girders are checked once every year. Special inspections are done when required e.g. during floods and/or during spells of heavy rain.

(b) Any system based on visual inspection anywhere in the world will have an element of subjective assessment. To minimise any detrimental effect, a multi-tier inspection system and inspection once every year have been introduced in the bridge inspection system on Indian Railways. Non destructive testing of bridge is being introduced for which preliminary work has been undertaken by Research Design and Standardization Organisation (RDSO).

(c) to (e) Recording of Camber of steel super structures over 12.2 metre spans is done during detailed technical checks for which a schedule is laid down. Scour of bridges is recorded during monsoon period. Strength of components or overall strength of bridge is calculated on condition basis where warranted. Guidelines have been issued by RDSO for the assessment of residual fatigue life of steel super-structures and this is also done on condition basis as assessed during annual inspection.

Preservation of All India Radio Archives

*340. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "what is the future for AIR's archive" appearing in 'The Times of India' dated November 15, 2002;

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

(c) whether any steps have been taken/proposed for preservation of these archives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that the archival material is not being neglected. In fact, a separate unit under a Senior Officer is looking after the archival tapes. These tapes are kept in air-conditioned rooms. In addition, AIR has, *inter-alia*, taken the following steps for preservation of its archives:

- (i) A Rs. 3 Crore project has been undertaken since November 2001 to digitalize the old recordings available on magnetic tapes;
- (ii) The contents of the magnetic tapes in the archives are being transferred in electronic formats, which are resistant to wear and tear;
- (iii) Special archival cupboards are being provided for storage of digitalized archival material, and a highly sophisticated refurbishing mechanism has been installed in Akashwani Bhawan with assistance of UNDP.

13000 hours of archival recordings have already been digitalized.

Railway Workshops

*341. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway workshops in various railway zones in the country as on date;

(b) whether the Government are aware that Matunga and Parel workshops in Mumbai and Kurdwari railway workshop of Solapur are on the verge of closure;

(c) if so, whether other railway workshops have also been facing the same situation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the action plan being formulated/proposed to be formulated by the Government for revival of the said workshops ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Indian Railways is divided in eleven zones. The list of workshops on these railway zones is as follows:

Mechanical Repair Workshops: (Total number = 43)

Central Railway—Parel, Kurduwadi, Matunga, Bhopal, Jhansi, Sithouli

Eastern Railway—Jamalpur, Kanchrapara, Lilluah

East Central Railway—Samastipur

Northern Railway—Charbagh, Alambagh, Jagadhari, Amritsar, Kalka

North Eastern Railway—Gorakhpur, Izatnagar

Northeast Frontier Railway—Dibrugarh, New Bongaigaon, Lumding, Tindharia

North Western Railway—Ajmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur

Southern Railway—Perambur (Loco), Perambur (Carriage), Golden Rock, Mysore

South Central Railway—Lallaguda, Guntapalli, Tirupati, Hubli

South Eastern Railway—Kharagpur, Nagpur, Raipur, Mancheswar

Western Railway—Dahod, Lower Parel, Mahalaxmi, Kota, Junagarh, Bhavnagar, Pratapnagar

Civil Engineering Workshops: (Total number = 10)

Central Railway—Manmad

Eastern Railway—Mughal Sarai (to be transferred to East Central Railway with effect from 1.4.03)

Northern Railway—Jalandhar, Lucknow

North Eastern Railway—Gorakhpur

Northeast Frontier Railway—Bongaigaon

Southern Railway—Arakkonam

South Central Railway—Lallaguda

South Eastern Railway—Sini

Western Railway—Sabarmati

Signal & Telecom Workshops: (Total number = 9)

Central Railway—Byculla

Eastern Railway—Howrah

Northern Railway—Ghaziabad

North Eastern Railway—Gorakhpur

Northeast Frontier Railway—Pandu

Southern Railway—Podanur

South Central Railway—Mettuguda

South Eastern Railway—Kharagpur

Western Railway—Sabarmati

Electrical Engineering Workshops: (Total number = 2)

Central Railway—Bhusawal, Nasik

(b) No, Sir. Matunga and Parel workshops in Mumbai and Kurduwadi workshop of Solapur are not on the verge of closure. These workshops are undertaking Periodic overhauling (POH) of Diesel locomotives, Broad Gauge (BG) Coaches, Air Conditioned (AC) Coaches, Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) and Narrow Gauge Coaches. Certain other activities like conversion of BG Coaches for Accident Relief Trains (ARTs), manufacture of brake blocks and POH of cranes are also undertaken in these workshops.

(c) to (e) Does not arise. However, workload in the railway workshops are periodically reviewed by the Railway Board and decision regarding closure of a shop is taken based on such reviews and the emerging trends of rail traffic.

[English]

British Gas and GAIL Stake In Mahanagar Gas

3493. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Gas and GAIL are considering to reduce their stake to 35% in Mahanagar Gas;

(b) if so, the present shareholding pattern in Mahanagar Gas; and

(c) the total investments by the Government in Mahanagar Gas and further reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Eventually the percentage of shares of both GAIL (India) Limited and British Gas is to reach 35%.

(b) and (c) M/s Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) is a Joint Venture Company promoted by GAIL (India) Limited, British Gas and Government of Maharashtra. There has been no direct investment by Government in MGL. The present share holding pattern of M/s. Mahanagar Gas Limited is given below:

GAIL	49.75% (Equity Rs. 44.45 Cr.)
British Gas	49.75% (Equity Rs. 44.45 Cr.)
Government of Maharashtra	0.5% (Equity Rs. 0.4416 Cr.)

[Translation]

Action Plan of National Power Grid Corporation

3494. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan of National Power Grid Corporation is under consideration of the Government to solve power problem in Bhagalpur area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Presently, power supply to Bhagalpur area is being extended from 132 KV substation of Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) at Sabour (in Bhagalpur), which is connected to Kahalgaon Power Station through a 132 KV Single Circuit (S/c) line. Sabour is also connected through a 132 KV S/c line to Lalmatia (in Jharkhand) which is further connected to Farakka and through a 132 KV Double Circuit (D/c) line to Sultanganj. BSEB has formulated a comprehensive scheme for strengthening of sub-transmission system in the State. The scheme, which is proposed to be executed through POWERGRID, envisages strengthening of power supply arrangement to Sabour by Loop-in-Loop-out of Sabour-Lalmatia 132 KV line at Kahalgaon and construction of a new 132 KV line from Sabour to Banka. BSEB has requested Planning Commission for grant for execution of the scheme.

[English]

National Power Policy for Development of Hydro Power Generation

3495. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated new National Power Policy particularly for development of Hydro Power Generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of review of progress in respect of ongoing hydro power projects in terms of physical and financial targets, set and achieved during the last three years, project-wise;

(d) the details of hydro power potentials identified and new power projects finalised with location and capacity, State-wise; and

(e) the investment proposed in general in each State, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Government of India had announced a policy on Hydro Power Development in August, 1998 in order to accelerate the pace of hydro power development in the country. The Policy envisages the following measures for this purpose:

- (i) Providing adequate funds to Central Sector and State Sector Hydel Projects.
- (ii) Basin-wise development of new hydro potential sites;
- (iii) Creation of shelf of projects and bankable DPRs through intensive survey and investigations;
- (iv) Promoting private investment through joint venture arrangement;
- (v) Establishing a dedicated fund for promoting hydel projects;
- (vi) Rationalization of hydro tariff;
- (vii) Providing an institutional mechanism for dealing with geological risks;
- (viii) Taking up projects locked up in inter-state issues or languishing due to want of funds; and
- (ix) Providing greater thrust for development of small hydel projects.

(c) The project-wise details of the physical and financial performance of on-going hydro-electric projects programmed for commissioning during the last three years are given in statement-I enclosed.

(d) and (e) The hydro potential of the country has been assessed at 1,48,701 MW. The State-wise hydro potential identified is indicated in statement-II. At present, 35 sanctioned hydroelectric projects aggregating to 14,344 MW at an estimated cost of Rs. 58,778.85 Crores are

under execution in the country for likely benefits during 10th Plan and beyond. The project-wise details indicating location, capacity and investment in various states including Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal are given in statement-III enclosed.

Statement I

Physical and Financial Targets and Achievements during the last three years

1999-2000

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/State	Physical Performance		Financial Performance	
		Target	Achievement	Allocation	Actual Expenditure
		(MW)	(MW)	(Rs. crores)	(Rs. crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6
CENTRAL SECTOR					
1.	Doyang (NEEPCO) (Nagaland) (3 × 25 MW)	50.0	Nil	110.00	190.00
2.	Rangit III (NHPC) (Sikkim) (3 × 20 MW)	20.0	60.0	106.55	104.49
STATE SECTOR					
3.	Sewa-III (J&K) (3 × 3 MW)	9.0	Nil	4.60	3.39
4.	Chenani-III (J&K) (3 × 2.5 MW)	7.5	Nil	5.80	4.82
5.	Upper Sindh-II (J&K) (2 × 35 MW)	Nil	35.0	9.09	35.68
6.	Ranjit Sagar Dam (Punjab) (4 × 150 MW)	300.0	Nil	145.00	208.39
7.	Rajghat (M.P.) (3 × 15 MW)	45.0	45.0	19.69	7.60
8.	Dudhganga (Maharashtra) (2 × 12 MW)	24.0	24.0	3.09	3.53
9.	Koyna St. IV (Maharashtra) (4 × 250 MW)	500.0	750.0	113.00	61.85
10.	Singur (A.P.) (2 × 7.5 MW)	15.0	15.0	6.57	3.78
11.	Kakkad (Kerala) (2 × 25 MW)	50.0	50.0	1.10	9.84
12.	Kalinadi-II (Karnataka) Kodasalli (3 × 40 MW)	40.0	40.0	21.22	14.79

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Parson's Valley (T.N.) (1 × 30 MW)	30.0	30.0	9.11	12.26
14.	Upper Indravati (Orissa) (4 × 150 MW)	450.0	300.0	94.65	148.79
15.	Teesta Canal Falls (W.B.) (3 × 3 × 7.5 MW) PH-III	22.5	22.5	16.10	23.02
Total (All India)		1563.0	1371.5		

2000-01**CENTRAL SECTOR**

1.	Doyang (NEEPCO) (Nagaland) (3 × 25 MW)	75.0	75.0	70.85	49.83
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STATE SECTOR

2.	Ghanvi (H.P.) (2 × 11.25 MW)	22.50	22.50	5.60	17.54
3.	Upper Sindh-II (J&K) (2 × 35 MW)	35.0	Nil	30.60	18.62
4.	Upper Sindh Ext. (J&K) (1 × 35 MW)	35.0	Nil	—	—
5.	Sewa-III (J&K) (3 × 3 MW)	9.0	Nil	4.26	4.58
6.	Chenani-III (J&K) (3 × 2.5 MW)	7.5	7.5	5.57	2.04
7.	Pahalgam (J&K) (2 × 1.5 MW)	1.5 1.5	Under MNES		
8.	Ranjit Sagar Dam (Punjab) (4 × 150 MW)	600.0	600.0	101.37	244.76
9.	Srisaillam LBPH (A.P.) (6 × 150 MW)	150.0	150.0	228.10	251.33
10.	Sharavathy Tail Race (Karnataka) (4 × 60 MW)	60.0	60.0	74.00	67.53
11.	Upper Indravati (Orissa) (4 × 150 MW)	300.0	300.0	70.00	37.67
12.	Bansagar Tons Ph-III (M.P.) (3 × 20 MW)	Nil (Inc. PH-I, II & IV)	20.0	92.00	65.19
13.	Kuttiyadi Extn. (Kerala) (1 × 50 MW)	Nil	50.0	6.50	30.92
Total (All India)		1297.0	1285.0		

1	2	3	4	5	6
2001-02					
CENTRAL SECTOR					
1.	Tehri-I (THDC) (Uttaranchal) (4 × 250 MW)	250.0	Nil	1081.93	993.88
2.	Ranganadi (NEEPCO) (Ar. Pr.) (3 × 135 MW)	405.0	405.0	214.31	174.84
STATE SECTOR					
3.	Upper Sindh-II (J&K) (2 × 35 MW)	35.0	35.0	N.A.	103.89
4.	Upper Sindh Ext. (J&K) (1 × 35 MW)	35.0	35.0		
5.	Sewa-III (J&K) (3 × 3 MW)	9.0	9.0	8.89	18.25
6.	Pahalgam (J&K) (2 × 1.5 MW)	1.5 1.5	Under MNES		
7.	Bansagar Tons PH-III (M.P.) (3 × 20 MW)	40.0 (Inc. PH-I, II & IV)	20.0	44.41	61.87
8.	Srisaillam LBPH (A.P.) (6 × 150 MW)	450.0	300.0	126.48	129.79
9.	Sharavathy Tail Race (Karnataka) (4 × 60 MW)	180.0	180.0	42.57	9.93
10.	Kalpong (A&N) (3 × 1.75 MW)	5.25	5.25	28.36	3.50
11.	Chandil LBC (Jharkhand) (2 × 4 MW)	8.0	Nil	6.00	2.42
12.	Potteru PH-I & II (Orissa) (1 × 3 + 1 × 3 MW)	6.0	Nil	3.00	2.25
13.	Likkim-Ro (Nagaland) (3 × 8 MW)	24.0	16.0	24.72	24.89
14.	Bansagar Tons PH-II M.P. (2 × 15 MW)	Nil (Inc. PH-I, II & IV)	15.0	44.41	61.87
PRIVATE SECTOR					
15.	Malana (H.P.) (2 × 43 MW)	86.0	86.0	N.A.	N.A.
Total (All India)		1536.25	1106.25		

Statement II

*Status of Hydro-Electric Potential Development/as on 01.11.2002
[Schemes above 3 MW Capacity]*

Region/State	Identified Capacity [as per re-assessment study] (MW)	Capacity Developed		Capacity under Construction		Capacity Developed+ Under Construction+ Stage-II Cleared Projects		Capacity yet to be developed	
		(MW)	%	(MW)	(%)	(MW)	(%)	(MW)	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Northern									
Jammu & Kashmir	14146	1473	10%	840	5.9%	3713.3	26.2%	10432.8	73.8%
Himachal Pradesh	18820	3668	19%	3896	20.7%	7564.5	40.2%	11255.6	59.8%
Punjab	971	1296	100%	168	17.3%	1463.5	100.0%	0.0	0.0%
Haryana	64	48	75%	14	22.5%	62.4	97.5%	1.6	2.5%
Rajasthan	496	430	87%	0	0.0%	430.0	86.7%	66.0	13.3%
Uttaranchal	18175	1109	6%	3134	17.2%	4242.9	23.3%	13932.2	76.7%
Uttar Pradesh	723	501	69%	0	0.0%	501.0	69.3%	222.0	30.7%
Sub Total (NR)	53395	8525	16%	8052	15.1%	17977.5	33.7%	35417.6	66.3%
Western									
M.P. & Chhattisgarh	4485	969	22%	1460	32.6%	2428.5	54.1%	2056.5	35.9%
Gujarat	619	405	65%	150	24.2%	555.0	89.7%	64.0	10.3%
Maharashtra	3769	2594	69%	0	0.0%	2594.3	68.8%	1174.7	31.2%
Goa	55	0	0%	0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	55.0	100.0%
Sub Total (WR)	8928	3968	44%	1610	18.0%	5577.8	62.5%	3350.2	37.5%
Southern									
Andhra Pradesh	4424	2018	46%	0	0.0%	2017.5	45.6%	2506.5	54.4%
Karnataka	6602	2909	44%	12	0.2%	2921.4	44.3%	3680.6	55.7%
Kerala	3514	1800	51%	30	0.9%	1829.8	52.1%	1684.3	47.9%
Tamil Nadu	1918	1580	82%	150	7.8%	1730.5	90.2%	0.0	0.0%
Sub Total (SR)	16458	8307	50%	192	1.2%	8499.1	51.6%	7958.9	38.4%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Eastern									
Jharkhand	753	234	31%	32	4.2%	266.0	35.3%	487.0	64.7%
Bihar	70	45	64%	0	0.0%	44.9	64.1%	0.0	0.0%
Orissa	2999	1844	61.3%	60	.0%	1903.5	63.5%	1095.5	36.5%
West Bengal	2841	157	6%	0	0.0%	156.5	5.5%	2684.5	94.5%
Sikkim	4286	84	2%	510	11.9%	594.0	13.9%	3692.0	86.1%
Sub Total (ER)	10949	2363	22%	602	5.5%	2964.9	27.1%	7984.1	72.9%
North Eastern									
Meghalaya	—	185	8%	84	3.5%	269.2	11.2%	2124.8	88.8%
Tripura	15	15	100%	0	0.0%	5.0	100.0%	0.0	0.0%
Manipur	1784	105	6%	90	5.0%	195.0	10.9%	1589.0	89.1%
Assam	680	250	37%	145	21.3%	395.0	58.1%	285.0	41.9%
Nagaland	1574	99	6%	0	0.0%	99.0	6.3%	1475.0	93.7%
Arunachal Pradesh	50328	416	1%	0	0.0%	3015.5	6.0%	47312.5	94.0%
Mizoram	2196	0	0%	60	2.7%	60.0	2.7%	2136.0	97.3%
Sub Total (NER)	58971	1070	2%	379	0.6%	4048.7	6.9%	54922.3	93.1%
All India	148701	24232	16%	10836	7.3%	39068.0	26.3%	109633.1	73.7%

Statement III*Ongoing Hydroelectric Projects (excluding renewables under Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources)*

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Latest Commissioning Schedule	Latest Cost (Rs. crores)	Expenditure Upto 3/2002 (Rs. crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CENTRAL SECTOR						
1.	Dhauliganga (NHPC)	Uttaranchal	280.00	2004-05	1578.31	647.75
2.	Chamera St. II (NHPC)	H.P.	300.00	204-05	1684.02	1064.62
3.	Dulhasti (NHPC)	J&K	390.00	2003-04	355.97	3275.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Purulia PSS (NHPC)	W.B.	900.00	2006-07	3188.90	232.49
5.	Teesta St. V (NHPC)	Sikkim	510.00	2006-07	2198.04	341.00
6.	Loktak D/S (NHPC)	Manipur	90.00	2008-09	578.62	16.48
7.	Parbati St. II (NHPC)	H.P.	800.00	2009-10	3919.59	148.70
8.	Indira Sagar (NHDC)	M.P.	1000.00	2004-06	3527.51	1289.21
9.	Nathpa Jhakri (NJPC)	H.P.	1500.00	2003-04	7666.1	6440.25
10.	Tehri St. I (THDC)	Uttaranchal	1000.00	2002-04	5690.64	4201.34
11.	Koteshwar (THDC)	Uttaranchal	400.00	2005-06	1301.56	72.65
12.	Tuirial (NEEPCO)	Mizoram	60.00	2006-07	448.19	59.80
13.	Kopili St. II (NEEPCO)	Assam	25.00	2003-04	99.35	55.20
14.	Kol Dam (NTPC)	H.P.	800.00	2008-10	4527.15	17.22
Total (Central Sector):			8055.00		36764.19	17982.35

STATE SECTOR

Northern Region

15.	Bagliahar	J&K	450.00	2004-05	3810.00	1260.00
16.	Larji	H.P.	126.00	2004-05	908.64	381.60
17.	Maneri Bhali-II	Uttaranchal	304.00	2005-06	1249.18	165.15
18.	Lakhwar Vyasi	Uttaranchal	420.00	11th Plan	1446.00	246.09
Total (Northern Region):			1300.00		7413.82	2052.84

WESTERN REGION

19.	Sardar Sarovar	Guj/MP/Mah.	1450.00	2002-07	3267.25	2422.58
20.	Madhikheda	M.P.	40.00	2004-05	169.17	3.60
21.	Bansagar Tons Ph-IV	M.P.	20.00	2004-05	84.97	8.65
22.	Ghatghar PSS	Mah.	250.00	2004-05	1184.60	502.42
Total (Western Region):			1760.00		4705.99	2937.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Southern Region						
23.	Priyadarshni Jurala	A.P.	235.00	2006-07	547.00	N.A.
24.	Srisaillam LBPH	A.P.	900.00	2000-04	2482.00	2414.17
25.	Almatti Dam	Karnataka	290.00	2004-06	674.38	65.76
26.	Pykara Ultimate	T.N.	150.00	2003-04	373.06	211.91
27.	Bhawani Barrage I to III	T.N.	90.00	2004-05	241.82	19.06
Total (Southern Region):			1665.00		4318.26	2711.44
Eastern Region						
28.	Balimela Extn.	Orissa	150.00	005-07	200.09	21.58
29.	Balimela Dam Toe PH	Orissa	60.00	11th Plan	69.30	Nil
Total (Eastern Region):			210.00		269.39	21.58
North-Eastern Region						
30.	Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani)	Assam	100.00	2004-05	267.27	142.25
31.	Myntdu	Meghalaya	84.00	2006-07	363.08	2.68
Total (North-Eastern Region):			184.00		630.35	145.03
Total (State Sector):			5119.00		17337.81	7868.14
PRIVATE SECTOR						
32.	Baspa St. II	H.P.	300.00	2003-04	949.23	1310.41
33.	Dhamwari Sunda	H.P.	70.00	2006-07	139.96	4.10
34.	Vishnu Prayag	U.P.	400.00	2006-07	1614.66	407.00
35.	Maheshwar	M.P.	400.00	2005-07	1673.00	588.92
Total (Private Sector):			1170.00		4676.85	2310.43
Total (All India):			14344.00		58778.85	28160.91
Hydro Capacity already spun/commissioned out of above			700.00			
Net Hydro Capacity under execution			13644.00			

Basic Facility and to Improve Existing One

3496. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has decided to provide basic facilities and to improve existing one at South Eastern Railway's Itwari Railway Station at Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways has received any charter of demands from citizens leaving near station

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Railways thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTAREYA): (a) and (b) Itwari is a 'B' category station and Minimum Essential Amenities prescribed for a 'B' category station like waiting hall, shelter, Taps, lavatories, urinals, seats, etc. already exist at Itwari Station.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Acquisition of Oilfields in Egypt by Oil India Limited

3497. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil India Limited have expressed its interest to acquire two offshore discovered oilfields in Egypt;

(b) if so, whether the negotiations in this regard have been finalised;

(c) if so, the details of the terms and conditions; and

(d) the benefit to be derived from 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) and (b) Oil India Limited (OIL) alongwith M/s. Prize Petroleum Company Limited, a joint venture between Hindustan petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) and Housing

Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), submitted a non-binding bid on 13.8.2002 for acquisition of two exploration and producing properties in Gulf of Suez, Egypt offshore belonging to M/s. Devon Energy, USA. On being shortlisted, due diligence was carried out by OIL. However, considering the risk-reward scenario, no firm bid was submitted.

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

NIOC Stake in CPCL

3498. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has expressed its desire to exist with Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) a subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the equity held by the NIOC in the CPCL and whether IOCL have decided to buy out the NIOC stake in the CPCL; and

(c) if so, the amount required to be paid to NIOC for acquisition of its stake and the extent to which the same will be beneficial to IOCL ?

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) National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) continues to hold equity in Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL). NIOC has not indicated its intention to exit from CPCL.

(b) NIOC holds 2,29,32,900 equity shares of Rs. 10 each of CPCL, constituting 15.38% of the company's subscribed capital. Indian Oil Corporation Limited has not made any proposal to NIOC to buy the equity of NIOC in CPCL.

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

Funds to the Projects of Rajasthan

3499. SHRI JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing projects funded by the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) in the country, particularly in the State of Rajasthan; and

(b) the details of amount sanctioned and released so far, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details of on-going projects funded by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is given in statement-I. Details of amounts sanctioned and disbursed by PFC (Project-wise) in the State of Rajasthan are given in statement-II.

Statement I

Sanction and Disbursements by PFC to Power Utilities in Various States of India (Figures since Inception Upto 30-Nov,-2002)

(Rs. in crores)

State	No. of schemes	Sanction Amt.	Disbursement Amt.
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	189	5735.13	3659.80
Arunachal Pradesh	3	261.55	231.84
Assam	16	280.41	69.88
Bihar	16	257.35	180.39
Chhattisgarh	19	482.11	155.07
Delhi	1	700.00	390.09
Goa	8	45.43	29.22
Gujarat	98	3069.63	1308.27
Haryana	76	3865.18	1981.66
Himachal Pradesh	46	1062.78	720.99
Jammu & Kashmir	7	98.36	82.35
Jharkhand	1	0.10	0.00
Karnataka	149	3329.19	2188.87
Kerala	23	359.62	276.26
Madhya Pradesh	103	3121.10	1707.22
Maharashtra	162	3714.17	2743.37
Manipur	1	4.50	4.05
Meghalaya	4	180.03	0.03
Mizoram	5	37.79	37.79

1	2	3	4
Nagaland	23	240.56	234.60
Orissa	72	1797.49	1264.85
Punjab	46	2071.63	1557.52
Rajasthan	154	5653.88	4562.40
Sikkim	7	12.50	12.50
Tamil Nadu	151	3872.53	2231.50
Uttar Pradesh	111	4659.77	1601.32
Uttaranchal	2	170.19	50.00
West Bengal	55	1609.79	762.02
Total	1548	46692.77	28043.86

Statement II

Financial Assistance Provided to Power Projects Located in Rajasthan Upto 30.11.2002

Scheme name	Sanction Amount In Rs. Crores	Disbursement Amount In Rs. Crores
1	2	3
Khetari Ratangarh	5.08	5.08
Kota ST-II	10.00	10.00
199 MVAR Capacitors	5.00	5.00
Anta Kota Line 320 KV	2.75	2.75
Kota ST-II	30.00	30.00
Kota-Beawar-Jodhpur 220 KV	11.90	11.90
Buhana 132 KV Grid S/S	0.61	0.61
Raniwada 133 KV	0.81	0.81
220 KV Ratangarh-Suratgarh	10.77	10.77
98 MVAR Capacitors	2.99	2.99
Heerapura S/S	2.33	2.33

1	2	3
Kota 8th Plan	29.06	26.15
Bhakra Right	9.44	9.44
Kota TPS ST-III	30.00	30.00
150 MVAR	1.00	1.00
Pilibanga	0.95	0.95
300 MVAR	12.40	11.16
WB-Loan 3436-IN	0.02	0.02
Hindaun 220/132	10.20	10.20
Pipaliyakalan	2.66	2.66
Udaipurwati	2.51	2.51
Modak 220 KV	7.99	7.99
Bhiwadi 1 × 100 MVA Sub-Station	13.72	13.72
Ramgarh GPP 1 × 35.5 MW GT	36.00	36.00
WB-Bhinmal	11.56	11.56
Bilara 220/132	5.49	5.49
WB-Balotra	15.53	15.53
WB-Jaipur City	18.63	18.63
WB-Jodhpur City	16.60	16.60
WB-Sardarshahar	3.10	3.10
WB-Tinwari	9.09	9.09
WB-Udaipur City	15.35	15.35
WB-Kota City	16.14	16.14
WB-Bikaner City	17.45	17.45
100 MVA, 220 KV S/S at CHOMU	4.37	4.37
220/132 KV S/S at Hanumangarh	8.31	8.31
300 MVAR CAP. Banks	12.24	12.24

1	2	3
WB-220 KV S/S at Bikaner	40.09	40.09
220/132 KV S/S at Merta	7.66	7.66
WB-Ajmer City	18.18	18.18
1 × 12.5 MVA Amarpura (Theri)	2.52	2.52
1 × 12.5 MVA, 132/33 KV Bansur	2.52	2.52
1 × 100 MVA, 220/132 S/S at Bali	6.03	6.03
1 × 12.5 MVA 132/32 KV at Selomber	1.99	1.99
132 KV Line-Jaisalmer-Barmer	9.03	9.03
Ahwar City	10.08	10.08
Sikar City	9.45	9.45
Bharatpur City	4.84	4.84
Bhilwara City	12.16	12.16
Pali City	6.75	6.75
Sawai Madhopur City	3.79	3.79
Baran City	3.18	3.18
Beawar City	3.76	3.76
Chittorgarh City	5.28	5.28
Kishangarh City	2.70	2.70
SCADA Sys. for Jaipur City	2.40	2.40
Sri Ganganagar City	10.57	10.57
Tonk City	3.68	3.68
Jaipur-LT Less System	61.30	61.30
400 KV S/C Suratgarh TPS-Ratan	49.00	49.00
R&U of Ganguwal HPS Unit-3	2.02	2.02
R&U of Kotla HPS Unit-3	2.02	2.02
Suratgarh TPS Unit-1	125.00	125.00

1	2	3
300 MVAR Shunt Capacitors	6.67	6.67
Coal & Rly. Freight	50.00	50.00
Suratgarh TPS (2 × 210 MW) Unit-2	300.00	300.00
Coal & Railway Freight	20.00	20.00
Coal & Railway Freight	10.00	10.00
Coal & Railway Freight	50.00	50.00
RM&U of Ganguwal Unit III	2.66	2.66
RM&U of Kotla Unit II	2.66	2.66
Coal, Oil & Others	50.00	50.00
R&M of Kota TPS ST-I&II	5.83	5.83
Suratgarh TPS STG-II (2 × 7.2 MW)	400.00	400.00
Coal, Oil & Others	50.00	50.00
Coal, Oil & Others	20.00	20.00
Suratgarh TPS-II (2 × 250 MW)	400.00	392.37
Working Capital Loan-RSEB	35.00	35.00
Coal, Oil & Others	50.00	50.00
Coal, Railway Freight Etc.,	100.00	100.00
Purchase of Power	30.00	30.00
Purchase of Power	30.00	30.00
Purchase of Power	30.00	30.00
Inst. of Meters Upto 11 KV	0.00	0.00
Inst. of Meters Upto 11 KV	9.98	7.27
Inst. of Meters Upto 11 KV	9.57	3.83
Inst. of Meters Upto 11 KV	9.98	7.60
WCL to RRVPNL	20.00	20.00
WCL to RRVPNL	50.00	50.00

1	2	3
WCL to RRVUNL	40.00	40.00
Purchase of Power	15.00	15.00
Purchase of Power	15.00	15.00
Purchase of Power	15.00	15.00
WCL to RVPNL	35.00	35.00
WCL to RVUNL	20.00	20.00
WCL to RVUNL	5.00	5.00
WCL to Ajmer DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to Jaipur DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to Jodhpur DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to RVPNL	20.00	20.00
WCL to RVUNL	40.00	40.00
Consumer Level Metering	46.96	46.96
Consumer Level Metering	36.90	36.90
WCL to Ajmer DISCOM	45.00	45.00
WCL to Jaipur DISCOM	45.00	45.00
WCL to Jodhpur DISCOM	45.00	45.00
CCPP Extn Ramgarh (75.825 MW)	115.00	115.00
Suratgarh STG-III U-5(210 MW)	448.00	254.25
11 KV Feeders to Consumer MTRG.	39.36	39.36
WCL to RVPNL	50.00	50.00
WCL to Jaipur DISCOM	75.00	75.00
WCL to Ajmer	75.00	75.00
WCL to Jodhpur	40.00	40.00
WCL to RVPNL	45.00	45.00
WCL to RVUNL	45.00	45.00

1	2	3
WCL to RVUNL	40.00	40.00
WCL to Ajmer DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to Jaipur DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to Jodhpur DISCOM	15.00	15.00
R&M of Kota TPS	5.40	0.00
UPGR. of T&D Sys-Jodhpur Cird	36.57	0.00
WCL to Ajmer DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to Jaipur DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to Jodhpur DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to RRVUNL	25.00	25.00
WCL to RVPNL	35.00	35.00
WCL to Ajmer DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to Jaipur DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to Jodhpur DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to UPPCL	150.00	150.00
WCL to Ajmer DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to Jaipur DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to Jodhpur DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to RVPNL	50.00	50.00
WCL to Jodhpur DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to Ajmer DISCOM	15.00	15.00
WCL to Jaipur DISCOM	15.00	15.00
Kota TPS Unit 6 (1 x 195 MW)	445.00	148.80
400 KV Jodhpur-Merta Line	143.12	18.34
WCL to RVPNL	20.00	20.00
WCL to RRVUNL	40.00	40.00

1	2	3
100% Metering for All Consumer	43.62	0.00
100% Metering for All Consumer	46.04	0.00
STL to JDVVNL	35.00	35.00
STL to RRVUNL	50.00	50.00
WCL to AVVNL	15.00	0.00
Debt Refinance for HUDCO Loan	82.50	0.00
Debt Refinance Suratgarh S-I	100.00	0.00
WCL to AVVNL	15.00	0.00
WCL to AVVNL	15.00	0.00
WCL to JDVVNL	15.00	0.00
WCL to JVVNL	15.00	0.00
WCL to RRVPNL	50.00	0.00
WCL to JDVVNL	15.00	0.00
Total	5653.87	4562.40

WCL—Working Capital Loan

STL—Short Term Loan

Implementation of Jafa Committee Report

3500. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Government to implement the Jafa Committee Report; and

(b) the time by which the recommendations of said committee are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Jafa Committee are expected to have far-reaching implications for the work of the Military Engineering Service and Directorate General of Quality Assurance, their systems and procedures and the mix of civilian and defence personnel. Given the wide ramifications of these recommendations, a final view thereon would be possible only after an in-depth examination.

Survey for Jharsuguda-Raipur Rail Line

3501. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted survey for a new rail line from Jharsuguda to Raipur via Saranagarh.

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The field survey has been completed and the survey report is under finalisation. Further consideration would be possible based on the results of the survey.

[Translation]

Gallantry Awards

3502. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jawans awarded with gallantry awards by the Government during the last three years till date, separately;

(b) the number of Jawans who were awarded the said awards posthumously; and

(c) the facilities being provided to the family members of these brave soldiers ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) 124 Jawans have been awarded gallantry awards during the last three years by the Government. The year-wise details are given below. Out of these, the number of Jawans who have been awarded posthumously has been shown in brackets:

Gallantry Awards	2000	2001	2002
Ashoka Chakra	—	—	3(3)
Maha Vir Chakra	1	—	—
Kirti Chakra	2(2)	1	7(6)
Vir Chakra	11(6)	1	—
Shaurya Chakra	22(13)	40(11)	36(11)

(c) The facilities being provided to the family members of these brave soldiers are as under:

- (i) Monetary allowance of Rs. 850.00 per month by Government of India.
- (ii) Gallantry awardees are exempted from telephone registration and normal rental charges. A rebate of 50% only in normal rental charges for widows of Vir Chakra awardees.
- (iii) Issue of 1st class/2nd AC sleeper complementary card pass to recipients and their widows (along with one companion).
- (iv) Indian Airlines gives 75% discount in the Normal Economy Class INA Fare to the recipient of PVC, AC, MVC and KC.
- (v) Pension of gallantry awardees/widows is exempted from income tax.
- (vi) Various benefits like one time cash grant, land/cash in lieu of land, annuity/monthly allowance, free bus passes in state transports, quota in educational institutions etc. are also extended, as decided by the state governments from time to time.

[English]

Change of Operation of Chennama Express

3503. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to change of operation of Chennama Express on South Central Railway from Kolhapur to Bangalore in place to Miraj to Bangalore, has curtailed the facilities hitherto enjoyed by the people of Miraj-Sangli;

(b) if so, the reasons for change the operation of this train;

(c) whether the Government propose to facilitate the people of Miraj-Sangli avoiding the change in operation of the above train; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Unauthorised Occupation In Reserved Compartments

3504. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the Nizamuddin-Gwalior bound Taj Express, the unreserved ticket holders loiter all through the reserved compartments causing inconvenience and harassment to the reserved ticket holders;

(b) whether the Government propose to curb this practice by initiating appropriate action against such unauthorised persons so that bonafide passengers have hassle free journey and the prestige of the train is not tarnished further; and

(c) if so, the steps likely to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Some instances have come to notice.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Ticket checking staff have already instructions 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. Those apprehended are penalised as per the provisions of the Railways Act.

Purchase of Marker System

3505. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to USQ No. 716 dated July 18, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that HPDA has made representation about the involvement of President, FATPT along with some senior company officials in the scandal of illegal commission deal in the proposed purchase of Marker system;

(b) if so, whether some enquiry has been conducted to find out the facts of the complaint;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the AAC has already verified the cost of this Marker system;

(e) if so, the cost paid by the oil PSU's in purchasing of Marker system and the reasons for paying higher cost; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers involved in the purchase of such machines ?

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) to (f) The matter is being enquired into.

Revision of Remuneration of COCO Contractors

3506. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the remuneration of COCO contractors have not been revised from the last three years inspite of rapid increase in All India Consumer Price Index;

(b) if so, whether these contractors are performing all the jobs which are performed by the regular dealers;

(c) if so, whether the Government has restrained the oil companies to convert such COCO contractors into adhoc/regular dealers who are performing the job satisfactorily so that labour deployed on such COCO outlets may get the service benefits; 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) The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and the IBP Co. Ltd. revised the remuneration of labour contractors of COCO retail outlets in July, 2001, September, 2000, December, 2000 and June, 2001 respectively.

(b) The labour contractor of the COCO retail outlet provides only labour assistance to the Oil Company's officer, under whose over-all charge the COCO outlet is operated.

(c) and (d) Under the existing policy, there is no provision for the appointment of labour contractors as

regular dealers. These retail outlets are operated on COCO basis only till the selection of the regular dealers through the prescribed selection procedure.

Irregularities by Staff at Distributorships

3507. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the staff/deliverymen of distributors of petroleum products are indulged in various irregularities;

(b) if so, whether the distributors are unable to take action against such staff because of the present rules and guidelines which make the distributor responsible for all types of irregularities even committed by the staff without his/her consent;

(c) if so, whether there are some provision in the guidelines etc., which may protect the distributors and may initiate action against the guilty staff/employees/deliverymen; 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) It has come to the notice of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) that the staff/deliverymen deployed by distributors of OMCs indulge in the irregularities sometime while selling the product. However, these staff are appointed by the distributors themselves in discharging obligations which distributors are liable to discharge under the distributorship agreement signed by them with OMCs. In view of this, distributors are themselves competent to take the action against their staff on the establishment of complaints against them and Government/OMCs need not to prescribe any guidelines for taking action against staff of distributors.

War Histories

3508. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee has been set up to review the release of war histories;

(b) if so, whether the said committee has since submitted its report;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) whether said committee has specifically recommended release of Henderson Brook's Report on NEFA operations in 1962; and

(e) if so, the Government's reaction thereto ?

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

(c) The Report of the Review Committee on War History is under consideration of the Government.

(d) and (e) The said Committee was not tasked to review the release of the Henderson Brook's Report.

[Translation]

Marathwara Railway Development Corporation

3509. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal to set up a separate Railway Development Corporation for Marathwara region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has received a representation suggesting setting up of a separate Marathwara Railway Development Corporation.

The Ministry of Railways is agreeable to consider such a proposal, if it were received from the State Government, and modelled on the pattern of the Ministry of Railways has with the Government of Karnataka for taking up viable schemes in the State of Karnataka.

[English]

Promotion of Tourism

3510. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Railways for promotion of tourism in the country in a big way;

(b) if so, the tourist circuits identified and the Railways Zones under which they come;

(c) whether any special tour packages in cooperation with various State Tourism Development Corporations have been devised;

(d) if so, the number of agreements signed for running special tourist trains in collaboration with State Tourist Development Corporations;

(e) whether any proposal has been received from State Government of Andhra Pradesh for promotion of tourism through Railways in that State; and

(f) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Railways have taken steps for promotion of tourism by running special trains/coaches as per demand, luxury trains like Palace on Wheels, Royal Orient Express, providing Indrail Passes, reservation quota, facilitation centres for the foreign tourists etc. A new company, Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), has also been set up the Railways for providing value added tourism packages and it is actively engaged in promotion of tourism by rail. No tourist circuits have been identified for this purpose. The IRCTC has devised tour packages in cooperation with the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation and Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation.

(d) Indian Railways have an agreement with the RTDC for running the "Palace on Wheels" train.

(e) and (f) The proposals for running Special trains and Palace on Wheels type train in Andhra Pradesh so far have not been found viable.

[Translation]

Ticketless Travellers

3511. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested for travelling without ticket from Okha, Porbandar and Bhavnagar stations to Mumbai, Vadodara and Ahmedabad railway stations in Rajkot and Bhavnagar divisions in the Western Railway in Gujarat during the period from 1.1.2002 till date;

(b) the fine charged from each of them at above Railway Stations;

(c) the number of railway employees, officers and their relatives caught travelling without tickets and free railway passes;

(d) the amount of fine imposed on them; and

(e) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the railway department to nab ticketless travellers including the railway employees and their relatives ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) During the period from 01.01.2002 to 31.10.2002, 1757 passengers were arrested for travelling without ticket from Okha, Porbandar and Bhavnagar stations to Mumbai, Vadodara and Ahmedabad Railway stations in Rajkot and Bhavnagar Divisions of Western Railway in Gujarat and an amount of Rs. 1,03,901 charged from them.

(c) No such case has come to notice.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Regular and surprise checks are conducted frequently to check ticketless/irregular travel in association with Railway Magistrates and Police.

[English]

Cracks on Railway Bridge at Phaphamau

3512. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways Bridge on river Ganga at Phaphamau, Allahabad has developed cracks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways have initiated or propose to initiate remedial action to rectify the dangerous cracks for the safety of the bridge and the traffic; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. Minor cracks have developed at the interface of main box girder and cast-in-situ cantilever portion made for bridging the gap between the adjoining girders. However, after inspections, it has been inferred that these cracks do not endanger safety of the bridge.

(b) The minor surface cracks have developed at some locations because of differential shrinkage.

(c) and (d) Although cracks are not endangering safety, yet as an abundant precautionary measure, cantilever portions are being strengthened.

Air Surveillance Capability

3513. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a fairly wide air-corridor in country's South-Eastern region to let any enemy plane sneak into the Indian airspace right upto Bhopal according to security experts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to enhance lower level air surveillance capability of the Indian Air Force ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The air corridor in south-eastern region has lesser traffic density and threat perception. However, Indian Air Force has adequate air defence measures in place to thwart misadventures of any aircraft in this region.

(c) Modernization and enhancement of air surveillance capability is a continuous endeavour of the Government.

[Translation]

AIR Production Centre in Balaghat

3514. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIR Kendra at Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh is not producing the programmes despite having the production department and studio for it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) No Sir. Local Radio Station at Balaghat is originating around 5 hours in-house programmes spread over three

transmissions. The Station also relays programmes of Vividh Bharati Service, an entertainment Channel of AIR and that of AIR, Bhopal, the Capital Station of Madhya Pradesh.

Vegetable Oil to Run Trains

3515. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to run trains with vegetable oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No survey has been done so far. However, based on the characteristics of bio-diesel (derived from vegetable oil) and experience in other countries, potential for running diesel locos on bio-diesel exists. Indian Railways are in the process of initiating a pilot project jointly with Indian Oil Corporation for the trial of bi-diesel as a fuel in diesel locomotives. Details are presently under finalization. In the meantime, laboratory trials have been conducted satisfactorily on the test bed and field trials will be done shortly.

[English]

Security Surcharge on Passenger Tickets

3516. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Railway Safety Fund which is being collected through tickets from all level passengers;

(b) the methodology to utilise this fund for the safety measures of railways;

(c) whether the State Governments are eligible to get a dividend from this fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) 'Safety Surcharge' collected through tickets from all classes of passengers is used for Special Railway Safety Fund. An amount of Rs. 304.86 crore was collected during

2001-2002 and Rs. 295.41 crore have been collected during 2002-03 (upto September 2002).

(b) The Special Railway Safety Fund has been set up with a view to wipe out the arrears of replacements and renewals of assets on the Railways in a fixed time schedule of six years. The fund will receive contribution of Rs. 12,000 crore from Central Government and Rs. 5000 crore will be contributed by the Railways over the period. This fund is to be utilised on identified works under the planheads of Track Renewal, Bridge Works, Signalling, Machinery & Plant, Other Electrical Works, Other Specified Works and certain Safety Enhancement Works. These works have been listed in the Budget document titled 'Works, Machinery & Rolling Stock programme, Part-III (Green Book) for 2002-03'.

(c) No dividend is being paid to State Governments from the Special Railway Safety Fund.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Teleports

3517. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present position with regard to setting up of teleports in the country;

(b) whether VSNL proposes to set up teleports in the country particularly in Delhi and Mumbai;

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

(d) the number of private T.V. channels which have their own teleports and endeavours to make available service providers for uplinking to other private and regional channels ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Any company which is incorporated in India and whose foreign equity holding including NRI/OCB/PIO is not exceeding 49%, is eligible to set up as uplinking hub/teleport in India.

(b) and (c) As per information furnished by VSNL, it has teleports at Chennai, Kolkata, New Delhi and Mumbai, equipped with MCPC (Multiple Channel Per Carriers Platform for Uplinking Digital TV).

(d) Till date sixteen (16) companies have been permitted to set up seventeen (17) teleports of which nine (9) have become operational. Eleven (11) companies have been permitted to uplink own channels from their teleports. As per the liberalized uplinking policy, approved by the Cabinet on 25th July, 2000, the service providers can uplink not only their own channels but those of other companies as well. However, all these channels are required to be specifically approved/permitted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for uplinking from India.

Opening of Sainik School

3518. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open Sainik School in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if not, the reasons for sanctioning an amount of Rupees 17.50 lakhs during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The opening of a Sainik School is subject to the State Government/Union Territory Administration concerned agreeing to provide land, buildings, equipments, scholarships and necessary grants-in-aid for the opening (approximate expenditure Rs. 20 crore) and smooth running (about Rs. 1.5 crore per annum) of the School.

No proposal, meeting all the requirements for opening of a Sainik School in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, has been received by the Sainik Schools Society, Ministry of Defence from Andaman & Nicobar Administration, although Andaman & Nicobar Administration had made a budget provision in Ninth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Use of Military Vehicles

3519. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received a complaint to the effect that the Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi has kept security guards in civil dress at the school complex for personal security and the military vehicle is being unauthorisedly used regularly;

(b) if so, whether his ministry has conducted any inquiry in this connection;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the Government propose to conduct an inquiry or take action in this matter ?

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

(b) to (e) Facts of the case have been verified and it is found that the Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Shalimar Bagh who is the wife of a Defence Service Officer, had travelled to the school in an official vehicle with some escorts on few occasions apprehending violent action from one of the employees of the school against whom suspension order was issued due to his indisciplined behaviour.

[English]

Use of Development Fund

3520. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that authorities in Delhi Cantonment have been permitting use of Cantonment Board funds for development works on Class 'A-1' defence land whereas utilisation of M.P./M.L.A. development funds on similar type of land is not permissible;

(b) whether the Government would consider to issue necessary instructions for utilisation of M.P./M.L.A. development funds in Delhi Cantonment; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir, Cantonment Board funds have been utilized for development works on class A-1 Defence land in Delhi Cantonment after obtaining 'No Objection Certificate' from Local Military Authorities.

(b) and (c) Since A-1 Defence lands are to be used for specific purposes of Armed Forces, utilisation of MP/ MLA fund for development works on A-1 Defence land without seeking 'No Objection Certificate' from Local Military Authorities will not be desirable.

[Translation]

Production of Gas in Himachal Pradesh

3521. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that exploration for inflammable gas in Jwalamukhi in District Kangra (Himachal Pradesh) has been continuing for the last several years and of late there are signs that large quantity of gas can emanate due to which there is a panic among the local public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government have made any efforts to remove the panic among the public;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which commercial production of gas at the above site is 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) to (e) Since its inception, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has been carrying out exploration for hydrocarbons in the State of Himachal Pradesh, including Jwalamukhi area, through geo-scientific survey and drilling. As on 1.10.2002, a total of 3608 Ground Line Kilometers (GLK) of 2-D seismic survey has been carried out by ONGC in Himachal Pradesh. Six exploratory wells and five structural wells were drilled in the State, of which five wells were drilled in Jwalamukhi structure. One well is under drilling. On 10.7.2002, one of the well, Jwalamukhi 7 drilled earlier, was reported to have become active leaking minor gas and water. On receipt of the information of leakage, senior officials from ONGC alongwith safety officials visited the drill-site. They interacted with the local authorities and local public, apprised them about the situation and made it clear that there was no need for any panic because the well activity would soon be controlled and all efforts would be taken to minimise environmental pollution, if any. ONGC officials thereafter took measures to cap the well and currently there is no activity. Nevertheless, the well has been kept under observation and area continuous to be cordoned off under 'round the clock' security.

At present, ONGC is carrying out exploration in Kangra-Mandi area in Himachal Pradesh and feasibility of production of gas can only be assessed after a discovery and establishment of commercial quantity of gas reserves in the area, for which no timeframe can be laid down.

*[English]***Introduction of 5 Kg. Cylinder**

3522. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:
SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

(a) whether Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies had launched 5 Kg. cooking gas cylinders for the hilly and rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for launching similar coking gas cylinders in the North Eastern States; and

(d) if so, the time by which such cooking gas cylinders are likely to be made available to each of the North Eastern States ?

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 (OMCs) have launched the marketing of 5 Kg. Cylinders on pilot basis in hilly/rural areas of the some of the States of the country, in the first phase.

(c) and (d) OMC's have launched the marketing of 5 Kg. cylinders in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya in North Eastern States on pilot basis. After assessing the response in these States, the marketing of 5 Kg. cylinders will also be introduced in rest of the North Eastern States.

Allocation of Gas for Ramgarh Extension Project, Rajasthan

3523. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Government of Rajasthan for allocation of additional Gas for Ramgarh Extension Project in the State;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which additional quantity of Gas is likely to be allocated for Ramgarh Extension Project ?

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) Yes, Sir. Request has been received from the Government of Rajasthan for supply of additional quantity of gas of 0.20 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) for Ramgarh Power Plant in addition to the existing supply of 0.50 MMSCMD. To increase the production by additional 0.20 MMSCMD Oil India Limited will have to drill 9 wells in addition to carrying out work operations which will require about two years time and will require an investment of about Rs. 150 crore. The decision to invest will depend on commensurate rate of return.

*[Translation]***Pollution in Power Project**

3524. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power projects cause environmental pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to minimize the pollution caused by these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Thermal Power Stations during their operation release Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM), ash, Sulphur Oxide (Sox), Nitrogen Oxide (Nox) and also discharge water effluents which may cause environmental pollution.

The Government has notified environmental protection rules under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986. These rules provides for norms to limit the suspended particulate matter discharges, ambient air quality standards and water quality discharges standards. The compliance of norms and standards prescribed by the Government under the Act are monitored by the State and Central Pollution Control Boards so as to ensure that the emissions and discharges are within the regulatory standards prescribed by the Government.

*[English]***Allotment of New Bogies to South Central Railway**

3525. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the system adopted by the Government to allot new bogies to various Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps taken to adopt same system for allotting the bogies;

(d) the number of new bogies given to South Central Railway in 2002-2003;

(e) whether there is any proposal to provide more new bogies to South Central Railway; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) New coaches are allotted to Zonal Railways for introduction of new services/augmentations as planned and also for replacement of overaged stock to the extent possible within the allocated resources.

(d) to (f) South Central Railway have been allotted 26 new passenger carrying coaches during 2002-2003. Presently, there are no further plans to allot more coaches to South Central Railway.

Agreement for Supply of Crude Oil

3526. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of countries with whom the Government have long term agreement for supply of crude oil; and

(b) the price mechanism to be adopted to import the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Public sector oil companies have entered into term contracts with the national oil companies (NOCs) of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Malaysia and Libya for supply of crude oil during the current year.

(b) The price paid for crude oils under the term agreements are the Official Selling Prices of the respective crudes declared by the exporting NOCs from time to time.

ONGC Pipeline from Tripura to West Bengal

3527. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC are considering to set up 345 Km. long international gas pipeline to bring Tripura Gas to West Bengal; 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.

Setting up of Biogas Plants

3528. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds provided to Andhra Pradesh by the Union Government for bio-gas plants since January, 2000;

(b) the details of the subsidies given to the institutions and Andhra Pradesh for setting up these plants;

(c) the details of the repayment made by these companies, State Government; and

(d) the action taken on such companies/institutions which have not repaid the loan amount since January, 2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—National Project on Biogas Development, which is now called as National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMP), details of funds sanctioned since January, 2000 to the state nodal agency, namely, Non-Conventional Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited, are given below:

Year	Amount sanctioned
1999-2000 (January-March, 2000)	Rs. 3.15 crore
2000-2001	Rs. 6.16 crore
2001-2002	Rs. 4.68 crore
2002-2003 (April-November, 2002)	Nil

Besides, Khadi and Village Industries Commission and a non-governmental organization, namely, Sustainable Development Agency have been given funds for setting up of family type biogas plants in Andhra Pradesh and other States.

(b) For setting up of family type biogas plants, fixed amount of Central subsidy is given to individual families and not to institutions and companies. The rate of Central subsidy is Rs. 1,800 for general category and Rs. 2,300 for scheduled castes/scheduled tribes/small and marginal farmers/landless labourers.

(c) and (d) The Government do not provide loan for setting up of family type biogas plants and hence there is no question of any repayment.

Travel Facility to Army Jawans

3529. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways were not able to provide travel facility to army jawans at the time of withdrawal of army units from Western Border; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Use of Solar Energy

3530. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of solar energy is far less in comparison to the capacity available;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to popularise the solar energy in the country; and

(d) the details of schemes sanctioned for the State of Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Solar energy can be used through two principal routes: the thermal route and the

photovoltaic route. Both routes are relevant and important for India. The Indian programme on solar energy is one of the largest national programmes in the world. A number of solar devices have been developed for different applications and are being installed all over the country. A total of 4,31,271 solar lanterns, 2,06,997 solar home lighting systems, 41,776 solar street lights, 5113 solar water pumps, 6,50,000 sq. meters of solar collector area for water heating, 5,26,250 solar cookers and 3.5 MW capacity of solar power plants have so far been installed in the country. Nevertheless, it is true that the use of solar energy so far in the country is very small in relation to the potential for this. The major reasons for this are:

(i) Solar energy is a highly dispersed resource and is available in day time only. Its use requires efficient devices, many with provisions to store the energy for use at nights.

(ii) The initial cost of most solar devices is high compared to conventional energy devices. This is a deterrent to users although many solar products can be competitive on a life cycle basis.

(iii) Lack of awareness among various categories of users.

(iv) Inadequate infrastructure for the distribution, sales & servicing of solar energy products.

(c) The Ministry is implementing several programmes to promote awareness and to support the use of various solar energy devices in the country by providing fiscal and financial incentives like subsidy, soft loans, 100% accelerated depreciation, concessional duty imports and excise duty exemption on certain devices and systems. The following steps have been taken in recent years to popularize the use of solar energy:

(i) Soft loan schemes have been introduced for solar thermal and solar photovoltaic devices through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and some banks.

(ii) A soft loan scheme for supporting photovoltaic manufacturing activities has been introduced. New schemes on solar generators and building integrated photovoltaics have also been introduced during current year.

(iii) Higher levels of subsidy are being provided to users in the North-Eastern States.

(iv) Special demonstration projects in new application areas and for developing new markets are being funded through grants.

- (v) A model building bye-law for making solar assisted water heating systems mandatory in several categories of buildings has been drafted and circulated to all State Governments.
- (vi) A demonstration scheme for installation of concentrating solar cookers in community kitchens is being implemented.
- (vii) Solar-power plants and solar home lighting systems are being used to electrify villages in remote areas.
- (viii) A scheme on establishment of Aditya Solar Shops for making solar products available in major cities of the country is in operation.
- (ix) The Ministry has been carrying out publicity and awareness promotion through advertisements, brochures, exhibitions, mobile vans and electronic media.
- (x) R&D projects aimed at improving the efficiency, reliability and economics of solar products are being supported.

(d) The various schemes of the Ministry are being implemented in the state of Gujarat by the state nodal Agency namely, Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA). Projects sanctioned to GEDA under the solar energy schemes, in the past few years relate to sale and promotion of different types of solar cookers, establishment of Aditya Solar Shops in a few cities of the State and installation of solar photovoltaic devices like solar lanterns, solar home lighting systems, solar street lights, solar water pumps, solar power plants, etc. A total of 31,603 solar lanterns, 2,552 home lighting systems, 1,764 street lights, 43 water pumps, 19,615 solar cookers and 14 kW capacity of power plants have so far been installed in the state of Gujarat under the sanctioned projects. Three Aditya solar shops sanctioned during 2001-02 are also in the process of establishment. Twenty small power systems for milk collection centers have also been installed. During the year 2002-03, 2000 solar home lighting systems and 200 solar street lights have been sanctioned to GEDA till date.

Demurrage Charges on Storage Tankers

3531. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the storage tankers at various marketing terminals and depots of various oil companies are out of order for maintenance and repair;

(b) if so, whether the demurrage charges are mounting day by day on those storage tankers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such demurrage losses ?

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) Storage tanks at marketing terminals and depots are sometimes required to be decommissioned for cleaning, recalibration and repairs/maintenance. However, such issues are discussed in advance during Industry Logistics Plan (ILP) meetings and product receipts to concerned locations are accordingly regulated and product/ullage assistance with other oil industry members are finalised for ensuring market demand in full.

(b) Since product inputs and assistance are finalised in advance during ILP meetings, product receipts are regulated and thus demurrages are avoided.

(c) No, Sir, in view of (b) above.

Service Tax from Advertisements

3532. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have lost Rs. 150 crores as 5% service tax from advertisements through television channels including Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether there is any dispute between broadcasters and advertisers and liability of service tax is on "service providers";

(c) if so, the action taken against the officials who are responsible for this policy, which has resulted in huge losses to the Government; and

(d) the measures taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

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.

Leasing of Railway Land

3533. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been increasing their income through leasing of parking lots and such other facilities;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued by the Railway Board to various zones on how to administer such facilities for the benefit of the public;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any specific objective has been stated for spending money through leasing of various sites and facilities outside railway stations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Guidelines have been issued from Railway Board to Zonal Railways for various uses of land/spaces including leasing of parking space at station premises, commercial use of land/air-space at selective locations, depending upon the potential. The parking space at the station premises is leased to the highest bidder through open tender.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The expenditure on Railways is incurred out of the Railway revenue. No distinction as to the source of revenue is made while incurring the expenditure.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Thermal Power Stations of DVC

3534. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Damodar Valley Corporation regarding modernisation of thermal power stations and completion of its useful life span;

(b) if so, whether the equipments of thermal power stations being run under the Damodar Valley Corporation are not as per the environmental standard;

(c) if so, whether the Government have received any proposal in this regard;

(d) if so, the number of such thermal power stations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has drawn up an action plan for Renovation & Modernisation (R&M)/Life Extension (LE) work of ten old and ageing thermal power units viz. Bokaro 'A' Thermal Power Station (BTPS 'A') Units 1, 2 & 3 (3×45 MW), Chandrapura Thermal Power Station (CTPS) Units 1 to 6 (3×130 MW + 3×120 MW) and Durgapur Thermal Power Station (DTPS) Unit 3 (1×140 MW).

(b) to (e) Bokaro Thermal Power Station 'A' (BTPS 'A') Plant (3×45 MW) of DVC does not meet environment standard. This plant has been under shut down since July, 2000 due to non-fulfillment of Pollution control measures. The revival/restoration of BTPS 'A' Plant has been taken up in the priority agenda of DVC. The comprehensive Renovation & Modernisation (R&M)/Life Extension (LE) programme of BTPS 'A' Units 1, 2 and 3 (3×45 MW) includes revamping of the main plant and auxiliaries as well as installation of Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) and other pollution control devices to meet the latest standards prescribed by the Pollution Control Board. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been requested to furnish techno-economic viability assessment for renovation and modernisation/life extension work. The decision in regard to start of construction work for revival of these units could be taken up only after techno-economic viability of reviving the operations is established.

[English]

Running of Bangalore-Jodhpur and Bangalore-Ajmer Express

3535. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangalore-Jodhpur and Bangalore-Ajmer express trains are running triweekly;

(b) if so, the average number of persons on the waiting list of these trains; and

(c) the steps being taken to convert these triweekly trains into daily trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) At present, 6507/6508 Bangalore-Jodhpur Express (weekly) and 6509/6510 Bangalore-Ajmer Express (biweekly) are available.

(b) The waiting list position varies not only from day to day but also from time to time within same date.

(c) Increase in frequency of 6507/6508 Bangalore-Jodhpur Express (weekly) and 6509/6510 Bangalore-Ajmer Express (biweekly) to daily has been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Defence Land

3536. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of Defence land at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the policy of Government leasing out or sale of defence land for various purposes;

(c) the details of land acquired and sold to the State Governments/NGOs during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the details of policy changes effected in recent years and/or under consideration for release of unused defence land; and

(e) the justification of the proposals seeking allotment of defence land and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The details of Defence land holdings, State-wise are given in statement-I enclosed.

As per the extant Defence Land Policy, no Defence land are to be declared surplus and if at all any land is to be given up, it should be on the basis of exchange of equivalent value. However, the policy provides for consideration of requests of State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings, social service organisations etc. for transfer/lease of Defence land, on the merits of each case. As per instructions issued by PMO in 1997, no transfer/alienation of Defence land shall take place without prior Cabinet approval.

The details of land acquired and transferred to the State Governments/NGOs during the past three years are given in statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	Total Land holdings (in acres)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35042
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4156
3.	Assam	24548
4.	Bihar/Jharkhand	15893
5.	Delhi	11423
6.	Goa	3095
7.	Gujarat	23248
8.	Haryana	33698
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5973
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	16216
11.	Karnataka	29183
12.	Kerala	5228
13.	Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	219927
14.	Maharashtra	137317
15.	Manipur	1284
16.	Meghalaya	5294
17.	Mizoram	114
18.	Nagaland	1646
19.	Orissa	23226
20.	Punjab	78411
21.	Rajasthan	827787
22.	Sikkim	2520
23.	Tamil Nadu	20954
24.	Tripura	1782

1	2	3
25.	Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	152709
26.	West Bengal	39498
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8374

1	2	3
28.	Chandigarh	2679
29.	Diu & Daman	202
Total		17,31,427
Say		17,31,430

Statement II

Name of the State	Year	Land acquired for defence purposes (in acres)	Land transferred to State Govt/NGOs (in acres)
1	2	3	4
Gujarat	2000	59.875	—
	2001	343.529	—
	2002	500.880	—
Haryana	2000	5.51875	—
	2001	—	—
	2002	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	2000	—	—
	2001	6.000	—
	2002	10.620	—
J&K	2000	161.4305	—
	2001	828.9552	—
	2002	194.6750	—
Karnataka	2000	—	—
	2001	2.667	—
	2002	—	—
Rajasthan	2000	472.560	—
	2001	—	—
	2002	102.080	—
Maharashtra	2000	—	—
	2001	—	42.675**
	2002	—	—

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	2000	1.830	—
	2001	45.310	—
	2002	—	—
West Bengal	2000	—	—
	2001	—	4.82**
	2002	—	—
UT Chandigarh	2000	—	—
	2001	12.68125	—
	2002	—	—

**Transferred to State Governments on exchange basis.

Sput in Crude Oil Prices

3537. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the extra amount to be spent by Government on the import of crude oil due to sput in international prices;

(b) the impact of the increased international price on consumers; and

(c) the action proposed or measures taken to check the impact of the increased international price on consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) A comparison of the quantity and value of crude oil imports for the period April-October 2002 with the period April-October 2001 is given below:

April-October 2002		April-October 2001	
Quantity (TMT)*	Value (Rs. crore)	Quantity (TMT)*	Value (Rs. crore)
49,294	44,368	45,714	38,197

*TMT: Thousand Metric Tonnes.

The crude oil import bill for the remaining period of the current year will depend upon the actual imports and the crude oil prices during the balance period.

(b) and (c) With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April, 2002 the fluctuations in the international oil prices are bound to get reflected in the domestic consumer prices of petroleum products. In the case of excessive volatility in the international oil market, the Government may intervene to partially contain the impact of such volatility on domestic prices.

Survey for New Rail Lines

3538. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the routes which have been surveyed for laying new railway lines in the country during the Ninth Plan Period;

(b) the action taken or getting administrative clearance and funds for the said railway lines;

(c) whether the allocation of resources for laying of new rail lines in the current plan period has declined steeply;

(d) if so, whether the Railways has demanded funds from Central Government and Planning Commission for laying of new railway lines;

(e) if so, the details of the funds demanded; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The list of routes surveyed for laying new railway lines is given in the statement enclosed. There are total 226 new lines which have been surveyed during IXth Plan out of which 44 projects have been included in the Budget. The total cost of these 44 projects is about Rs. 13,000 crore.

(c) to (f) This will be known only after finalisation of the 10th Plan.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Project
1	2
A.	<i>Surveys for New Lines Completed in 9th Plan and Projects Taken up Partly/Fully</i>
1.	Munirabad-Mahbubnagar
2.	Giridih-Koderma
3.	Monghyr Bridge
4.	Abohar-Fazilka
5.	Etawah-Mainpuri
6.	Kalka-Parwanoo
7.	Dera Baba Jaimal Singh-Beas
8.	Ganga Bridge at Patna
9.	Bogibeel Bridge
10.	Diphu-Karong (Ph.I)
11.	Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli, Mahoba-Khajuraho
12.	Baramati-Lonad
13.	Daurandha-Maharajganj restoration of line
14.	Kottayam-Erumeli
15.	Gulbarga-Bidar
16.	Macherla-Nalgonda
17.	Bishrampur-Ambikapur
18.	Puntamba-Shirdi
19.	Taran Taran-Goindwal
20.	Chandigarh-Ludhiana

1	2
21.	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi
22.	Bangalore-Satyamangalam
23.	Dharmavaram-Penukonda
24.	Angamali-Sabrimala
25.	Ara-Sasaram
26.	Gadwal-Raichur
27.	Ranchi-Koderma
28.	Deoghar-Dumka
29.	Rajgir-Tilaiya
30.	Fatua-Islampur (Restoration)
31.	Kakinada-Pithapuram
32.	Agra-Etawah via Fatehabad
33.	Kotipalli-Narsapur
34.	Jogighopa-New Maynaguri
35.	Ramganj Mandi-Bhopal
36.	Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur via Arambag
37.	Sultanganj-Deogarh
38.	Ajmer-Pushkar
39.	Gandhinagar-Adrej Moti-Kalol
40.	Angul-Sukinda Road
41.	Koderma-Tilaiya
42.	Bongaon-Petrapole
43.	Azimgaj-Jiaganj-Nasipur
44.	Kolayat-Phalodi
B.	<i>Surveys for new lines completed during 9th Plan but works not included in the Budget</i>
1.	Pune-Nasik
2.	Hamirpur-Hamirpur Road
3.	Wardha-Pusad-Nanded
4.	Bye pass line between Idgah and Falehpur
5.	Kalyan to Ahmednagar via Murbad
6.	Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur
7.	Dholpur-Sirmutra-Gangapur

1	2
8.	Agra area provision of Bye pass line
9.	Kopargaon to Shirdi
10.	Biyavra-Rajgarh-Sirong and Bina
11.	Manmad-Dhule <i>via</i> Malegaon
12.	Linking Bad with Bhainsa
13.	Banka-Nawadah
14.	Murshidabad-Kandi <i>via</i> Khagraghat and Behrampur
15.	Dehri-on-some to Banjari
16.	Berhampur-Kandi
17.	Budge Budge to Falta
18.	Burdwan to Tarakeswar
19.	Gaya to Daltanganj <i>via</i> Gura Sherghati and Imamganj
20.	Dehri-on-Sone—Akbarpur
21.	Dankuni to Seakhala
22.	Chunar to Sasaram
23.	Danapur-Fatuah <i>via</i> Daniwan, Punpun
24.	Bakreshwar-Siuri
25.	Gaya-Chatra
26.	Koparia-Bihariganj <i>via</i> Sonbarsaraj-Alamnagar
27.	Badlaghat-Alamnagar-Bhawanipur-Purnea-Dalkhola
28.	Tanakpur-Purnagiri
29.	Sitamarhi to Jayanagar <i>via</i> Sonbarsa
30.	Supaul-Araria <i>via</i> Triveniganj and Raniganj
31.	Pratapganj—Bhimnagar—Bathnaha
32.	Madhepura to Pratapganj <i>via</i> Singheswar and Triveniganj
33.	Bihariganj-Chattarpur Rd. <i>via</i> Murliganj
34.	Kursela-Rupoli-Saharsa
35.	Hajipur-Samastipur <i>via</i> Mahuwa
36.	Hassanpur to Barauni

1	2
37.	Deoria Sadar-Padrauna
38.	Ghuguli-Pharenda
39.	Darbhanga and Saharsa <i>via</i> Kusheshwarasthan
40.	Laheria Sarai to Kusheshwarasthan
41.	Muktapur to Kusheshwarasthan
42.	Simri-Bakhtiarpur to Bihariganj
43.	Hazipur and Sagauli <i>via</i> Vaishali
44.	Khalilabad to Naugarh
45.	Kiccha-Sitarganj-Nanak Mata-Khatima
46.	Salauna (Bakhri) to Alauli
47.	Koparia/Simri Bhakhtiyarpur Alamnagar, Bihariganj
48.	Janakpur Road to Jayanagar <i>via</i> Madhubani
49.	Sitapur-Bahraich <i>via</i> Laharpur-Tambore and Mahirpuwa
50.	Motihari to Sitamarhi <i>via</i> Shivhar
51.	Hajipur-Motipur
52.	Nirmali-Saraigarh
53.	Murkongselek to Pasighat
54.	Agartala to Sabroom <i>via</i> Belonia
55.	Makum to Saikhova Ghat
56.	Dangri-Dhola
57.	Sivok to Gangtok <i>via</i> Giellekhole and Singtam
58.	Sarthabari to Changasari
59.	Araria-Forbesganj-Galgalla (Thakurganj)
60.	Barpeta Rd to Tihu.
61.	Lekhapani-Kharsang
62.	Digar-Bymihat
63.	Katihar-Tezrainpur with extn. to Bhalukaroad
64.	Karimganj-Mahisashan
65.	Sahnewal-Ladowal
66.	Badowal-Sahnewal

1	2
67.	Kolayat-Pokaran Barmer
68.	Hoshiarpur to Una
69.	Rishikesh to Dehradun
70.	Jalore-Falna
71.	Sirsa-Hisar <i>via</i> Fatehabad and Agroha
72.	Jakhal-Fatehabad <i>via</i> Bahuna-Ratia
73.	Churu to Taranagar
74.	Panipat-Muzzaffarnagar <i>via</i> Kairana
75.	Jind-Sonepat
76.	Panki to Mandhana
77.	Maripet-Tuglakabad
78.	Rail linking Hastinapur
79.	Daurala near Meerut and Bijnor <i>via</i> Hastinapur
80.	Muzaffarnagar to Haridwar <i>via</i> Roorkee
81.	Dehradun and Saharanpur
82.	Rewari to Rohtak
83.	Rishikesh-Karanprayag
84.	Hanumangarh to Ratangarh <i>via</i> Sardar Shahr
85.	Laksar to Baksar
86.	Patiala to Jakhal/Narwana <i>via</i> Samana
87.	Merta City to Beawar
88.	Chola to Bulandshahar
89.	Bijwasan to Bahadurgarh <i>via</i> Ghumankera-Hasanpur-Jaffarpur
90.	Jammu to Poonch <i>via</i> Akhnoor-Rajouri
91.	Bar-Bilara
92.	Kapurthala to Beas
93.	Nagore to Phalodi
94.	Panipat to Meerut
95.	Zaheerabad-Secunderabad
96.	Hyderabad-Raichur

1	2
97.	Patancheru-Adilabad
98.	Kolhapur to Ratnagiri on Konkan Rly <i>via</i> Talwade
99.	Bagalkot-Kudachi
100.	Bijapur-Athani-Shedbal
101.	Dharwad Belgaum <i>via</i> Bailhongal and Kitur
102.	Nipani-Raibag <i>via</i> Chikodi
103.	Pattancheru-Jogipet
104.	Pandurangpuram-Bhadrachalam
105.	Chandrapalem-Sarpavaram
106.	Ongole-Donakonda
107.	Ghatnandur-Ambajogai
108.	Beed-Jalna
109.	Gadag-Wadi <i>via</i> Yelburga
110.	Cuddapah to Madanapalli
111.	Kachiguda to Chityal
112.	Cuddapah to Bangarpet <i>via</i> Madanapalli
113.	Armoor to Adilabad
114.	Chittur to Bangarapet
115.	Cuddapah to Nellore <i>via</i> Badvel, Atmakur
116.	Patancheru to Akkanapet
117.	Kurnool-Kamalapuram
118.	Motumari-Jaggayapeta BG line to Miryalguda
119.	Bhadrachalam Rd (Kothagudem) and Vishakhapatnam
120.	Kovvur to Bhadrachalam
121.	Almatti to Yadgir
122.	Nadikudi to Srikalahasti <i>via</i> Karempudi, Kanigiri, Podili and Darsi
123.	Gulbarga-Hospet
124.	Yerraguntala to Dharmavaram <i>via</i> Pulivendla
125.	Puri-Konark

1	2
126.	Dankuni-Champadanga <i>via</i> Seakhala & Seakhala to Bargachia
127.	Bimlagarh to Talcher
128.	Wadsa-Gadchiroli
129.	Jhargram-Purulia
130.	Kharagpur-Dankuni-Sealdah
131.	Jeypore-Kotametta
132.	Kantakapalli-Ankapalli
133.	Jolarpettai to Hosur <i>via</i> Krishnagiri
134.	Tindivanam to Cuddalore <i>via</i> Pondichery
135.	Katpadi-Chennai <i>via</i> Guindy-Poonamallee to Tindivanam
136.	Dudda-Tiptur
137.	Thakazhi-Tiruvalla-Pathanamthitta
138.	Kayankulam-Trivandrum <i>via</i> Adoor and Kottarakkara
139.	Nilambur Road and Feroke <i>via</i> Manjeri and Mavur
140.	Sabarimala to Dindigul
141.	Arakkonam to Tindivanam <i>via</i> Walajapet
142.	Ranipet and Arcot
143.	Avadi-Sriperumbudur
144.	Bangalore City-Belur-Mudigere-Shringeri
145.	Guruvayoor-Edapalli
146.	Medikere-Chennarayapatna
147.	Kushalnagar-Chennarayapatna <i>via</i> Kananur
148.	Davangere-Bhadravati
149.	Port Blair to Aerial Bay-Andaman Islands
150.	Pandvapura to Shravanbelagola
151.	Manamadurai to Tuticorin
152.	Edappalli to Tirur
153.	Thanjavur-Pottukkottai

1	2
154.	Talguppa-Honnagar
155.	Tumkur to Davangere
156.	Mettur and Chamarnagar
157.	Nanjangod and Badagara <i>via</i> Vyitri-Poozhi-Hithod
158.	Punalur to Trivendrum
159.	Bisanatham to Marikuppam
160.	Gadag-Harihar
161.	Tellicherry-Mysore
162.	Ujjain-Ramganjmandi <i>via</i> Agar, Susner, Jhalawar
163.	Baran-Shivpuri
164.	Indore and Budhni
165.	Dhanu Road-Nasik Road
166.	Veraval to Kodinar
167.	Kodinar to Pipavav coastal line
168.	Porbandar to Porbandar port
169.	Ajmer-Merta Rd
170.	Palwal to Alwar
171.	Jaipur-Tonk
172.	Vaikam-Vaikam Rd
173.	Jabalpur-Panna-Damoh
174.	Jalna-Khamgaon
175.	Ferozepur-Taran Taran
176.	Sama-Madhapur
177.	Haridwar-Kotdwar-Ramnagar
178.	Sambhal-Gajraula
179.	Nokha-Sikar
180.	Ramtek-Gotegaon <i>via</i> Khawasa, Seoni and Dhuma
181.	Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga
182.	Kursela-Bihariganj-Saharsa

Delimitation of Constituency

3539. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to complete the delimitation of constituency both Lok Sabha and State Assemblies;

(b) if so, the state-wise progress thereon; and

(c) the date by which the delimitation would be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the provisions of the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Act, 2001 and the Delimitation Act, 2002, a Delimitation Commission has been set up on 12.7.2002, which has taken up the work of delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies on the basis of the census figures as ascertained at the census held in the year 1991. The draft proposals in respect of the State of Himachal Pradesh and Tripura have been already published and proposals for Nagaland and Meghalaya are under discussion. The Commission under sub-section (6) of section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 has been asked to endeavour to complete the work within two years with effect from 12th July, 2002.

Bombs Hurlled at 301 Up

3540. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether bombs were hurlled at 301 Up Rampurhat-Barharwa passenger train near railway station Kotalpurkhar, in Pakur District of Howrah Division on Independence Day;

(b) the number of persons died and injured;

(c) whether any investigation report has been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. No such incident took place. However, there was an incident of explosion of bomb on 15.8.2002 in train No. 803 Up (Rampurhat-Sahebganj Passenger) in between

Tilbhita and Kotalpukur Railway stations of Howrah Division.

(b) 11 passengers were injured without any casualty.

(c) and (d) Government Railway Police (GRP), Barharwa has registered and investigated the case under section 324/307 IPC and 3/4 Explosive Act.

Use of NCES

3541. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the major schemes in different States for supplementary power requirements and their capacities;

(b) the new schemes/plans to encourage use of non-conventional energy sources in different States; their capacities and the rates at which power/electricity is made available; and

(c) the steps taken to make optimum use of solar energy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Various schemes/programmes such as wind power, solar power, biomass and bagasse based cogeneration, biomass gasifiers, small hydro power and energy-from-wastes are being implemented for generation of power from non-conventional energy sources in different States. A total of 3636 MW cumulative power generation capacity has been installed as on 30th September, 2002. A capacity addition of 400 MW is envisaged during the current financial year 2002-03. The details of the average cost of electricity generation through non-conventional energy sources is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The Ministry is implementing various programmes for utilization of solar energy such as solar photovoltaic lighting and water pumping systems; solar cookers; solar thermal water heating systems and solar power generation, throughout the country. Fiscal, financial and promotional incentives which include Central Financial Assistance; 80% accelerated depreciation; relief in customs duty, excise duty, sales tax, soft term loans; and State policies for wheeling, banking, buy-back, third party sale of power, are being provided to encourage use of non-conventional energy sources, including solar energy.

Statement*The details of average cost of electricity generation through Non-Conventional Energy Sources*

S.No.	Name of Scheme/Programme	Average cost of electricity generation per unit (in rupees)
1.	Wind Power	2.25—2.75
2.	Biomass Power	2.00—3.00
3.	Solar Power	9.00—20.00
4.	Biomass Gasifier	2.25—2.75
5.	Small Hydro Power	2.00—3.50
6.	Energy from Wastes	1.75—3.50

*[Translation]***New Rail Lines in J&K Hilly Areas**

3542. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation had conducted any survey for laying new railway lines in some hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Flight Trials of Laser Pods**

3543. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether delay in flight trials of laser designated pods has restricted use of Jaguar Aircraft to only light hours;

(b) if so, the reasons for such delay; and

(c) the steps being taken to stem this risk to national defence preparedness ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Laser Designated Pod (LDP) has not restricted the operation of the Jaguar aircraft to light hours only. The Jaguar aircraft is cleared for operations in both day and night. There has been some delay in the LDP integration on the existing Jaguar aircraft owing to the limited capacity of the mission computer. It has now been decided to integrate the LDP on the upgraded Jaguar. The upgrade programme is in progress.

Fire in Gardenreach Shipbuilders

3544. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind the devastating fire that broke in Gardenreach shipbuilders on November 5, 2002;

(b) the details of loss of property and life suffered thereby; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A high level Committee constituted by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) has established that the fire originated from a short circuit inside the Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) located in the Adjacent room of Computer Aided Design (CAD) Centre.

(b) The fire destroyed computers and associated hardware, furniture, electrical fittings, air-conditioning, air ventilation system and the steel structure supporting the roof of the Central Design Office complex. The book value of the assets destroyed was about Rs. 1.5 crore. There was no loss of life.

(c) Necessary instructions already exist with regard to fire safety measures. A high level committee was constituted to establish the cause of the fire at Gardenreach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. The company has been asked to take precautionary measures to avoid occurrence of such incidents in future.

Hike in Cable Charges

3545. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether cable operators in different cities have of late started increasing subscription rates arbitrarily; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to bring down these rates to a reasonable limit ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has received complaints/representations from subscribers, resident welfare associations and representatives of the people regarding arbitrary and frequent increases in the cable subscription charges. Till now there was no legal provision enabling the Government to regulate subscription charges. The Government, therefore, moved a Bill to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to provide for mandatory viewing of pay channels through an Addressable System. The Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 15th May, 2002 and by the Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 2002. This legislation is expected to help consumers in making choice regarding channels they wish to see and pay for.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps, LPG Agencies and CNG Agencies

3546. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Petrol Pumps, LPG agencies and CNG agencies allotted in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the target of allotting such outlets during the current plan period ?

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) During the last three years, i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, 1561 retail outlets and 2038 LPG distributorships were allotted in various States in the country.

It is not possible to indicate the number of Retail Outlets/LPG distributorships likely to be allotted during the current Plan period since the process of allotment of Retail Outlets/LPG distributorships has to undergo various stages like advertisements, selection of dealers, etc.

At present, 137 CNG stations are in operation in Delhi and Mumbai. These are operated by the respective

companies themselves, i.e., M/s Indraprastha Gas Ltd. in Delhi and M/s Mahanagar Gas Ltd. in Mumbai. By June, 2003, the CNG stations are expected to be increased to 173.

[*English*]

Setting up of National Judicial Commission

3547. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to reach at national consensus for the setting up of National Judicial Commission;

(b) whether the broad framework of the Commission has been drawn up; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTY): (a) to (c) The recognised political parties have been requested to convey their views on the question of setting up a National Judicial Commission for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts and for evolving a Code of Ethics for the Judges, and also on its composition.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Bhartiya Vidhi Vishwavidhyalaya

3548. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up a Bhartiya Vidhi Vishwavidhyalaya in the capital city of Delhi in order to introduce specialisation in the field of law education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) A proposal to establish a National Law University with its three National Centres in the northern, western and eastern regions of the country on the pattern of National Law School at Bangalore, is under consideration of the Government. No time-frame has yet been finalized.

*[English]***Procurement of Defective Fuses**

3549. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had procured 9000 defective fuses at a total cost of Rs. 60.86 crore from a foreign firm during 1995-99;

(b) whether the delivery of the said fuses was received without pre-shipment inspection by the Air Force in violation of contractual provisions;

(c) whether the payments were released illegally;

(d) if so, whether the Government have enquired/looked into the matter and taken any action against the officials responsible for causing irrecoverable financial loss to the State; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the measures taken to ensure non-repetition of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Ministry of Defence had procured serviceable fuses Qty. 9000 at a total cost of Rs. 60.86 crore. Certain technical defects were, however, observed in the battery of the fuse and the same are now being replaced free of cost by the vendor.

(b) The first batch of fuses was subjected to acceptance inspection and was found to have met the technical and operational requirements. Hence, second batch was not inspected. This action was within the contractual stipulation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Acceptance inspection of stores has been made mandatory irrespective of number of batches. Scope of acceptance inspection activities has been enhanced substantially in all weapon procurement contracts.

Train Accidents in Punjab

3550. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents occurred in Punjab during the last three years;

(b) the total number of persons perished in those accidents; and

(c) the number of families of perished persons disbursed with compensation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Figures of accidents are maintained Zone-wise and not State-wise. Total number of consequential train accidents and number of persons killed in these accidents during the last three years on Northern Railway, which serves the State of Punjab also are as under:

Year	Number of Accidents	Number of Persons Killed
1999-2000	80	60
2000-2001	66	105
2001-2002*	79	70
2002-2003 (Upto November, 2002)*	49	52

*Figures are provisional.

(c) Rs. 756.74 lakhs have been paid to the next of kin of those killed in the accidents during the last three years.

*[Translation]***Handing Over the Power Plants with Less PLF**

3551. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to handover the power plants with less Plant Load Factor (PLF) to the private sector for renovation and modernisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Construction of ROB at Tuticorin**

3552. SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the foundation stone for construction of Road Overbridge near IIIrd Railway Gate at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu was laid during the last year;

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

(c) the time by which the construction of new Road overbridge is likely to be started and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Temporary diversion for road traffic is in progress. Work on bridge proper (over tracks) is being taken up. However, completion of ROB depends upon construction of approaches by the State Govt. Railway portion (over the track) will be completed before or simultaneously with the work of approaches to be executed by the State Government.

[Translation]

**Production of Petroleum and Natural Gas
in Gujarat**

3553. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Jamnagar and other districts of Gujarat where petroleum and natural gas are being produced at present;

(b) the product-wise price and quantum of petroleum products and natural gas being produced at each place since January 1, 1999 till date; and

(c) the target of production during the year 2003 ?

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 Ltd. (ONGC) and Private/Joint Venture (JV) operators are producing petroleum (crude oil) and natural gas from more than 50 fields in the state of Gujarat spread over 10 districts, namely, Ahmedabad, Gandhi Nagar, Mehsana, Kadi, Kheda, Patan, Bharuch, Surat, Vadodara and Anand. No oil and natural gas is being produced in Jamnagar District.

(b) Production by ONGC and private/JV operators and average price over the period from 1st January, 1999 to 30th September, 2002 for crude oil, natural gas and value added products arising out of ONGC's own operations at Hazira (Surat district) as also Ankleshwar and Gandhar (Ankleshwar district) are given in statement-I and II.

(c) Targets of production of crude oil and natural gas by ONGC and private/JV operators for the year 2002-03 are as follows:

	ONGC (MoU Target)	Pvt./JV (BE)	Total
Crude Oil (TMT)	6,126	36	6,162
Natural Gas (MMSCM)	2,463	933	3,396

BE : Budget Estimate
MMSCM : Million Standard Cubic Metre
MOU : Memorandum of Understanding
TMT : Thousand Metric Tonne.

Statement I**Production of Oil and Gas by ONGC in Gujarat from January 1999 to September 2002**

Item	Average Price	Quantity produced				
		Ahmedabad Asset	Ankleshwar Asset	Mehsana Asset	Cambay Project	Hazira Project
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Crude oil	Rs. 5,447.46/MT	5,389 TMT	8,428 TMT	7,745 TMT	290 TMT	-
Natural Gas (Producer Price)	Rs. 2,192.73/MCM	1,741 MMSCM	8,138 MMSCM	641 MMSCM	16 MMSCM	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
LPG	Rs. 9,363.74/MT	-	232 TMT	-	-	2,322 TMT
SKO	Rs. 5,193.67/KL	-	-	-	-	841 TMT
NGL	Rs. 5,265.25/MT	-	34 TMT	-	-	191 TMT
Naphtha	Rs. 10,126.76/MT	-	55 TMT	-	-	4,847 TMT
Heavy Cut	Rs. 8,020.79/KL	-	-	-	-	139 TMT

Asset/Project	Districts
Ahmedabad Asset:	Gandhinagar, Mehsana, Ahmedabad, Kheda & Kadi
Mehsana Asset:	Mehsana, Ahmedabad, Patan & Kadi
Ankleshwar Asset:	Bharuch, Surat & Vadodara
Cambay Project	Anand, Kheda & Vadodara
KL:	Kilo Litre
LPG:	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MT:	Metric Tonne
MCM:	Million Cubic Metre
MMSCM:	Million Standard Cubic Metre
NGL:	Natural Gas Liquid
TMT:	Thousand Metric Tonne
US\$/bbl:	US Dollar per barrel

Statement II*Production of Oil and Gas by Private/JV Operators in Gujarat from January, 1999 to September, 2002*

Fields/Blocks	Oil Prod. (TMT)	Avg. Price for the period (US\$/bbl)	Gas Prod. (MMSCM)	Avg. Price for the period (Rs./000 SCM)
Asjol	12.62	21.02	Negligible	*
Bakrol	29.02	22.16	0.67	*
Baola	-	-	2.79	3,750
Bhandut	3.32	20.96	Negligible	*
Cambay	0.37	10.51	Negligible	*
Dholka	66.37	19.43	26.16	*
Hazira**	1.23***	10.51	1,632.22	5,282
Indrora	2.87	22.28	0.13	*
Lohar	3.08	22.28	0.05	*

* No Sale of gas

** Part of the field is in the offshore

*** Indicates condensate production

US\$/bbl: US Dollar per barrel

MMSCM: Million Standard Cubic Metre

SCM: Standard Cubic Metre

TMT: Thousand Metric Tonne

Expenditure in Rural Electrification

3554. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure being incurred on rural electrification is less as compared to last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification therefor;

(c) whether reduction in the plan expenditure is likely to cost adverse effects on the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) According to the Planning Commission, the actual expenditure figure reported by the States/Union Territories (UTs) for the power sector do not contain the break up for the sub sectors like generation, transmission & distribution and rural electrification etc. However, the allocation of the total power sector outlay among the different States/UTs for different sub sectors on year-wise basis for the Ninth Plan is given below:

Plan/Year	Total power sector outlay (Rs. crore)	Outlay for rural electrification (Rs. crore)	% of outlay for rural Electrification to total Power Sector outlay
Annual Plan 1997-98	20831.00	1179.03	5.66
Annual Plan 1998-99	25746.00	1341.37	5.21
Annual Plan 1999-2000	26825.00	1563.90	5.83
Annual Plan 2000-2001	26618.00	2677.77	10.06
Annual Plan 2001-2002	27843.00	Not yet received	—

During 8th Plan, out of the total power sector allocation of Rs. 79589.32 crores, an amount of Rs. 4000.00 crores was kept for rural electrification. This works out to 5.03% of total power sector outlay. Therefore, the allocation for Rural Electrification Programme for the Annual Plans of the 9th Plan are higher than that provided during 8th Plan.

In order to accelerate the pace of rural electrification in the country, rural electrification has been treated as a Basic Minimum Service and has been included under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (MPGY) from the year 2001-02. Under this programme, Government has released an amount of Rs. 412.236 crores to the States during the year 2001-02 for rural electrification. Again, during 2002-03, against an allocation of Rs. 2747.00 crores under PMGY for all the six components including rural electrification, Government has released an amount of

Rs. 1369.06 crores as first instalment (50%) to the States for rural electrification. Against an allocation of Rs. 600 crores, an amount of Rs. 300 crores as the instalment (50%) has been released to the States under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) during the year 2002-03 and rural electrification.

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) has been suitably modified to allow States to access these funds for rural electrification programme. Ministry of Finance has disbursed an amount of Rs. 114.35 crores as on 30.9.2002 for rural electrification including system improvement and hydel power.

[English]

Project of NPGCI with Joint Venture

3555. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Power Grid Corporation has planned projects worth Rs. 71,000 crores in the Tenth & Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Power Grid Corporation has sought clearance for investing in Joint Venture Projects with Private Sector Organizations; and

(d) if so, the details of the projects in which the said corporation intends to invest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANT MEHTA): (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) has planned various transmission projects for development of National Power Grid during 10th and 11th Five Year Plans at an estimated cost of Rs. 76,450 crore. A list of these projects is given in statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) PGCIL has proposed execution of the following transmission lines under the project "Transmission System associated with Tala Hydro-electric Project, East-North Inter-connector and Northern Region Transmission System" by a Joint Venture company of PGCIL and M/s. Tata Power:

(i) 400 kV double Circuit (D/c) Siliguri-Purnea Transmission Line (TL).

(ii) 400 kV D/c Purnea-Muzaffarpur TL.

(iii) 400 kV D/c Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur TL.

(iv) 400 kV D/c Gorakhpur-Lucknow TL.

(v) 400 kV D/c Bareilly-Mandola TL.

(vi) 220 kV D/c Muzaffarpur (new)-Muzaffarpur (BSEB).

Statement

Tentative Transmission Projects by Powergrid—10th And 11th Plan

(Investment in Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Transmission Schemes	Phase I (for completion in 10th Plan)	Phase II (for completion in 11th Plan)	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Tala Transmission System East-North interconnection & Northern Region strengthening	2760	—	2760
2.	Supplementary Scheme for Tala Transmission System	450	—	450
3.	Bina-Nagda & Nagda-Dehgam line portion proposed under IPTC route	550	—	550
4.	Composite Transmission System for Barh, Kahalgaon-II and North Karanpura	12650	—	12650
5.	Transmission System for bulk power evacuation from Sipat-I & II	1950	—	1950
6.	Investment in ongoing Transmission Systems of 10th Plan	5300	—	5300
7.	Regional system strengthening schemes of NR/WR/SR/ER & NER during the 10th Plan	2120	—	2120

1	2	3	4	5
8.	ER-NR/WR/SR National Link scheme for enabling utilization of operation surplus on all India basis	4250		4250
9.	Gazuwaka-II Transmission System for enhancing export of ER surplus to SR	850		850
10.	10th Plan Generation linked Transmission System and advance action 11th Plan	5450		5450
11.	Transmission System for Rihand-II	1120		1120
12.	ER-NR HVDC bipole link and 765 kV lines of Hirma		6300	6300
13.	Pooling station NER-DE pooling station NR/WR HVDC bipole-I & II		8700	8700
14.	NER Hydro projects evacuation and system strengthening in NER		2000	2000
15.	Inter-regional transmission strengthening during the 11th Plan		5400	5400
16.	Advance action for capacity addition during the 12th Plan		2000	2000
17.	Generation linked transmission projects during 11th Plan and spill-over from 10th Plan		14600	14600
Total		37450	39000	74450

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Bio-Gas Plant

3556. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of functional and non-functional bio-gas plants, State-wise;

(b) whether Gas Stoves are available in the market; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Detailed particulars of biogas plants,

including information on non-functional plants, are generally maintained at the block-district level by the State nodal departments/agencies; in the State offices of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and at the headquarters of non-governmental organizations concerned. A diagnostic sample study, conducted in 19 States in the year 2000-2001 by the Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission, reported that on an all India average basis, about 81 per cent of the plants surveyed were commissioned and balance 19 per cent plants were non-functional due to incomplete construction, un-commissioning, dismantling, etc. State-wise information is given in statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Sample Size, Number of Plants Commissioned and Incomplete, Un-commissioned and Dismantled as reported in the Diagnostic Sample Survey Study on National Project on Biogas Development Conducted in 2000-2001 by the Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission.

State	Sample size (Number of plants)	Number of plants commissioned	Number of plants incomplete, un- commissioned, dismantled, etc.
Andhra Pradesh	60	34(57%)	26(43%)
Arunachal Pradesh	20	14(70%)	6(30%)
Assam	20	17(85%)	3(15%)
Bihar	20	20(100%)	शून्य
Gujarat	50	45(90%)	5(10%)
Haryana	20	17(85%)	3(15%)
Himachal Pradesh	20	12(60%)	8(40%)
Karnataka	60	57(95%)	3(5%)
Kerala	20	17(85%)	3(15%)
Madhya Pradesh	50	44(88%)	6(12%)
Maharashtra	50	38(76%)	12(24%)
Meghalaya	20	17(85%)	3(15%)
Orissa	30	30(100%)	शून्य
Punjab	20	20(100%)	शून्य
Rajasthan	20	13(65%)	7(35%)
Sikkim	20	18(90%)	2(10%)
Tamil Nadu	20	12(60%)	8(40%)
Uttar Pradesh	50	33(66%)	17(34%)
West Bengal	45	43(95%)	2(5%)
Total	615	501(81%)	114(19%)

*[English]***Construction of Loop Line at Gholwad Station**

3557. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct loop line at Gholwad station on Western Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representation has been received by the Government to shift loop line from platform No. 1 to platform No. 4; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of an additional loop line toward west of Platform No. 1 has been taken up and the work is in advanced stage of completion.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Agreement between India and Malaysia**

3558. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed between India and Malaysia for exploring natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this agreement is likely to come into effect ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import and Export of LPG

3559. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restrict import of LPG and the direct Indian Oil Corporation Limited to buy gas from ONGC/GAIL to meet its domestic demand and also to export it to South Asian countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are absorbing the total production of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) for meeting the domestic demand. At present, Government do not have any plan to export LPG to South Asian countries from the production of ONGC and GAIL.

Scheme for Cleaning of Platform and Rail Lines

3560. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme for cleaning of platform and rail lines involving Rs. 20 billion;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether his Ministry has formulated a scheme for coordination with Tourism Industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The Indian Railways have launched "Operation Cleanliness" to improve sanitation and cleanliness at Railway stations & in trains. A multi-disciplinary Task Force has already been formed which has identified the problem areas and suggested certain remedial measures. The action plan involves multi-pronged action by synergising technology, education of users, upgradation of skills of staff and provision of better equipment. The details of expenditure to be incurred on various activities have not yet been finalised. The action with respect to various items has already been initiated. This will be a continuous

process gradually covering a large number of stations & trains.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Hydro Power Projects in Orissa

3561. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to lay emphasis on the Hydro Power generation in various States;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase hydro power generation in Orissa during the Ninth Plan; and

(c) the details of programmes drawn up for Tenth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Government of India is according high priority to the development of hydro power projects in the country.

(b) Indravati hydro-electric Project (600 MW) was commissioned in Orissa during the Ninth Plan.

(c) During the Tenth Plan, Potteru HEP (2 × 3 MW) has already been spun on 30.6.2002 and Balimela Extension HEP (2 × 75 MW) in Orissa is scheduled to be commissioned during 2005-07.

Conference on Energy Conservation

3562. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an international conference on strategies for energy conservation was held in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the strategies devised and recommended for energy conservation; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to implement them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The International Conference on "Strategies for Energy

Conservation in the New Millennium" was held on the 23-24 August, 2002. An Action Plan of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body created by the Central Government under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 to implement the various provisions of the Act was released on this occasion outlining the strategies towards energy conservation. The Action Plan includes following thrust areas:

Indian Industry Programme for Energy Conservation (IIEPEC).

Demand Side Management (DSM).

Standards & Labeling Programme.

Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Establishments.

Energy Conservation Building Codes.

Professional Certification and Accreditation.

Formulation of Manuals and Codes.

Energy Efficiency Policy Research Programme.

School Education.

Delivery Mechanism for Energy Efficiency Services.

Pursuant to the above, it is expected that the Central Ministries and Departments would affect an energy saving of 30% during the next five years. Similar appeal has also been made to the private sector expecting them to affect a saving of 20% during the corresponding period.

State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have also been advised to implement energy conservation measures required under the Energy Conservation Act. Dialogues have been initiated with select industry groups in the manufacturing sector and Working Groups have been established for working out minimum standards of consumption of their products and also towards recommending appropriate labeling thereon.

Similar discussions have taken place with select process industry sectors resulting in constitution of task forces towards recommending measures for energy saving.

Use of Animals on T.V.

3563. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of advertisements and serials on T.V. show use animals

in a way that contravenes other animal protection Acts; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to ban such advertisements ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Programmes and advertisements on Doordarshan are governed by the Broadcasting Code and the Code for Commercial Advertising. As per Doordarshan guidelines, commercial advertisements shall not portray/depict animals/birds etc. in a disturbing and obnoxious manner, and advertisements should be in conformity with the provisions of Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act 1960. As regards private TV channels, advertisements telecast by private TV channels, transmitted for retransmitted through the cable network, are required to adhere to the provisions of the Advertisement Code prescribed under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) act 1995 and rules framed thereunder, which *inter-alia* provides that advertising carried in the Cable Service should conform to the laws of the country.

Losses to SEBs

3564. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electricity Boards in various States are running at loss;

(b) if so, the extent of losses sustained by the electricity boards in every State during last three years along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to rescue the State Electricity Boards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) State-wise estimated commercial losses with subsidy of the SEBs during last three years are given in statement enclosed. The reasons for the losses are irrational tariff structure, inefficient operation, huge Transmission & Distribution (T&D) losses, excessive manpower and non-payment of subsidy by the State governments.

(c) Government have drawn up strategy in consultation with State Governments for revival of financial

health of SEBs and gradual elimination of these losses. Important steps taken are as follows:

(i) Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act has been enacted to enable State Governments to constitute State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) for rationalization of electricity tariff and for promotion of efficiency, economy and competition. SERCs of 13 States have already tariff orders.

(ii) Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held in March, 2001 recognized that the real problem of management and challenge of reforms lies in the distribution sector and resolved, *inter alia*, that:

(a) Energy audit at all 11 KV feeders will be made effective within the next 6 months and accountability fixed at the local level.

(b) An effective Management Information System (MIS) for this purpose will be made operational.

(c) On the basis of the above, an effective programme to be launched for identifying and eliminating power thefts in the next 2 years.

(d) Full metering of all consumers.

(e) Current operations in distribution would need to reach break even in two years and positive returns thereafter.

(f) Commercial viability has to be achieved in distribution through any or all of the following:

— Creating Profit Centres with full accountability

— Handing over of local distribution to Panchayats/ Local Bodies/Franchisees/Users Associations, wherever necessary

Privatisation of distribution

Or any other means.

(iii) The Government of India has been signing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with States reflecting the joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner. These require the States to set up SERCs, undertake energy audit through full metering, reduce transmission and distribution losses and

attain commercial viability. In reciprocation to the efforts of the States to achieve agreed milestones, the Central Government has committed assistance including allocation of additional power from unallocated share from Central Generating Stations, funds under specific programmes/schemes etc. The MOUs are now being fleshed out into Memoranda of Agreements (MOAs) with clearer and more specific milestones as the reform programme in the States

is acquiring concrete shape. 25 States have been covered by this exercise till now.

(iv) The Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) is designed to finance specific projects in identified distribution circles for a quick turn around and creation of centres of excellence. This programme also includes an incentive scheme aiming at actual cash loss reduction by SEBs/Utilities.

Statement

Commercial Profit/Loss of SEBs

(with subsidy)

(Rs. crore)

SEBs	1999-2000 Provisional	2000-2001 (RE)	2001-2002 (AP)
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh (APSEB/APTRANSCO)	-53	-932	-1194
2. Assam	-214	-379	-370
3. Bihar	-511	-670	-753
4. Delhi (DVB)	-1103	-1055	-1092
5. Gujarat	-2501	-2604	-2135
6. Haryana	-835	-1548	-1537
7. Himachal Pradesh	-206	-92	-48
8. Jammu & Kashmir	-793	-990	-1141
9. Karnataka	76	76	86
10. Kerala	-181	-348	-445
11. Madhya Pradesh	-2718	-2800	-3183
12. Maharashtra	605	-1404	-3527
13. Meghalaya	-43	-34	-38
14. Orissa (OSEB/GRIDCO)	-187	-212	-230
15. Punjab	-1709	-1477	-1633
16. Rajasthan (TRANSCO)	-133	615	-2412

	1	2	3	4
17. Tamil Nadu		-1192	-1197	-2260
18. Uttar Pradesh (Power Corp.)		-2596	-1734	-1887
19. West Bengal		-793	-1009	-1036
Total		-15088	-17794	-24837

Source: Planning Commission document.

[Translation]

Production Cost and Selling Cost of Petroleum Products

3565. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether there is great difference between the production cost of petroleum products prior to taxation and their selling price for the consumer;

(b) if so, the production cost of Petrol, Diesel, Naphtha, Kerosene, LPG, Natural Gas etc. estimated in the year 2001-2002;

(c) the selling price of each of the aforesaid petroleum products for consumers during the said period; and

(d) the reasons behind difference in both the production cost and the selling price of the said items ?

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) Oil refining being continuous process industry with multi product output, product wise cost of production is not worked out. The various elements which get added to the ex-refinery prices of products before final sale to consumers include *inter-alia* freight, marketing cost, duties, taxes, dealers'/distributors' commission, etc. The existing retail selling prices of petrol, diesel, domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene in Delhi are given in statement enclosed.

Statement

The Retail Selling Price of Petrol, Diesel, Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene in Delhi as on 12.12.2002.

Petrol (Rs./Litre)	Diesel (Rs./Litre)	Domestic LPG (Rs./Cylinder)	PDS Kerosene (Rs./Litre)
28.91	18.06	241.21	8.92

Power Project Run Below Capacity

3566. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several power projects of public sector in the country are being run below their installed generating capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of such power projects which have generated lesser power during the last three years and for the current financial year;

(c) the main reasons for generating lesser power by these projects; and

(d) the amount of loss suffered by these power projects due to lesser power generation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The performance of Thermal Power Stations depends upon several parameters such as ageing of generating unit, planned maintenance, forced outages due to equipment faults, quantity and quality of fuel supply, equipment

efficiency and load pattern etc. Most commonly used indicator for reporting performance level of thermal power stations is Plant Load Factor (PLF) expressed as a percentage actual capacity production hours in the year. The generation at hydro electric stations is primarily dependent on the regulated releases of water at multipurpose projects and available inflows in case of run of river stations which is governed by the pattern of rainfall in the catchment area. The details of installed capacity and plant load factor of thermal power stations/ utilities in public sector for the last three years i.e., 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 and for the current year April-October, 2002 is given in statement I to IV.

(d) Despite lesser generation achieved due to system and station equipment constraints, which are unavoidable as mentioned in reply to parts (a) to (c) above, the PLF achieved during the period April-October, 2002 was 70.2%

against the programme of 68.7%. The details are given below:

	Programme	Actual
Central Sector	72.0%	74.1%
State Sector	66.0%	66.9%

However, some plants in the Central and State Sector are running below the targeted level (Ref. statement I to IV) due to variety of reasons mentioned in answer to (a) above which are beyond the control of the generating stations, e.g. fuel shortage in the case of gas stations, lack of water availability in hydel stations, high cost of energy in the case of liquid fuel plants, low demand in the case of power plants in Eastern Region etc. It is therefore, not possible to quantify the loss incurred due to low generation.

Statement I

Performance Factors of Thermal Power Stations in Public Sector (During April 1999—March 2000)

	Monitored Capacity (MW)	Gen. (GWH)	PLF (%)
1	2	3	4
Central Sector	24625.0	146115	73.8
N.T.P.C.	19555.0	123647	79.7
N.L.C.	2070.0	13308	73.2
D.V.C.	2625.0	7699	35.9
NEEPCO	375.0	1461(*)	35.9
State Sector	38159.5	203513	63.7
D.V.B.	678.5	2533	49.9
J. & K.	175.0	0(*)	
H.G.P.C.	815.0	3792	53.0
R.S.E.B.	1388.5	8176	82.3
P.S.E.B.	2120	13837	74.7
U.P.S.E.B.	4449.0	19096	49.8
G.E.B.	3996.0	22129	63.4

1	2	3	4
GSECL	420.0	2137	74.0
M.S.E.B.	6888.0	41530	71.7
M.P.E.B.	3512.5	20152	69.4
A.P.S.E.B.	2942.5	21500	83.2
A.P. Gas P. Corp.	265.0	2001(*)	—
T.N.E.B.	3100.0	19076	72.30
K.P. Corp.	1260.0	7764	82.1
K.S.E.B.	120.0	708(*)	—
Ker. S.E.B.	248.0	579(*)	—
Pondicherry	32.5	132(*)	—
B.S.E.B.	1300.0	2246	19.7
Tenughat V.	420.0	1169	31.7
Orissa P.	420.0	3159	85.6
W.B.S.E.B.	1110.0	3543	39.8
W.B. Power Dev. Corp.	1470.0	6235	56.2
D.P.L.	390.0	848	24.8
A.S.E.B.	574.5	920	18.2
Tripura	64.5	251(*)	—
Total State Sector	38159.5	203513	63.7
Badarpur	705.0	5022	81.1
I.P. Station	247.5	845	35.3
Rajghat	135.0	942	79.4
Faridabad	165.0	955	65.9
Panipat	650.0	955	49.7
Bhatinda	440.0	2659	68.8
GHTP (Leh. Moh.)	420.0	2971	83.4

1	2	3	4
Ropar	1260.0	8207	74.2
Kota	850.0	6313	84.6
Suratgarh	500.0	1635	74.4
Obra	1482.0	4856	38.3
Harduaganj B	425.0	596	17.6
Panki	242.0	825	37.2
Paricha	220.0	558	28.9
Anpara	1630.0	11494	80.3
Tanda	440.0	767	19.8
Unchahaar	840.0	3631	85.5
Singrauli	2000.0	16460	93.7
Rihand	1000.0	7605	86.6
Dadri TH.	840.0	7093	96.1
Dhuvaran	534.0	2358	50.3
Ukai	850.0	4444	59.5
Gandhinagar	660.0	3110	53.6
Gandhinagar-5	210.0	1293	70.1
Wanakbori	1260.0	9105	82.3
Wanakbori-7	210.0	844	83.4
Sikka	240.0	960	45.5
Kutch LIG.	215.0	964	51.0
Satpura	1142.5	7716	76.9
Amarkantak	290.0	1297	50.9
Korba (East)	400.0	2345	66.7
Korba (West)	840.0	5021	68.1
Sanjay Gandhi	840.0	3773	67.3

1	2	3	4
Korba S.T.P.S.	2100.0	15780	85.6
Vindhyachal STPS	2260.0	9897	88.4
Nasik	910.0	5668	73.4
Koradi	1080.0	5668	59.8
Khaperkheda	420.0	2479	67.2
Paras	58.0	347	68.1
Bhusawal	478.0	3367	80.2
Parli	690.0	4128	68.1
Chandrapur	2340.0	15770	76.7
Ramagundem STPS	2100.0	16649	90.3
Kothagudem	1170.0	7816	76.1
Ramagundem B	62.5	427	77.8
Nellore	30.0	129	49.0
Vijayawada	1260.0	9625	87.0
Rayalseema	420.0	3503	94.9
Ennore	450.0	1293	32.7
Tuticorin	1050.0	7449	80.8
Mettur	840.0	5782	78.4
Neyveli I	600.0	3747	71.1
Neyveli II	1470.0	9561	74.0
North Madras	630.0	4334	78.3
Raichur	1260.0	7764	82.1
Farakka STPS	1600.0	6792	48.3
Patratu	770.0	1569	23.2
Barauni	310.0	330	12.1
Muzaffarpur	220.0	347	18.0

1	2	3	4
Tenughat	420.0	1169	31.7
Kahalgaon	840.0	4284	58.1
Chandrapura	750.0	1734	26.3
Durgapur	350.0	1533	49.9
Bokaro	805.0	2293	32.4
Mejia	630.0	2118	52.8
Talcher	460.0	2327	57.6
Talcher STPS	1000.0	5322	60.6
Ib Valley	420.0	3159	85.6
Bandel	530.0	2182	46.9
Santalidih	480.0	1349	32.0
Kolaghat	1260.0	6216	56.2
Bakreswar	210.0	19	(New Unit)
D.P.L.	390.0	848	24.8
Namrup	133.6	340	29.0
Chandrapur	60.0	34	6.4
Bongaigaon	240.0	134	6.4

Note: "(*)" Being Gas Based Stations, Not included in PLF calculations.

Statement II

Performance Factors of Thermal Power Stations of Public Sector (During April 2000—March 2001)

	Capacity (MW)	Gen. (GWH)	PLF (%)
1	2	3	4
Central Sector	25209.0	159617	74.3
N.T.P.C.	20139.0	135373	79.5
N.L.C.	2070.0	14677	80.9
D.V.C.	2625.0	7911	36.0

1	2	3	4
NEEPCO	375.0	1656(*)	-
State Sector	38845.8	211726	65.6
D.V.B.	678.5	2800	49.5
J. & K.	175.0	5(*)	-
H.P.G.C.	1025.0	3551	49.7
R.S.E.B.	1388.5	9860	85.0
P.S.E.B.	2120.0	14458	77.8
U.P.R.V.U.N.L.	4009.0	19582	57.0
G.E.B.	3996.0	22898	66.9
GSECL	420.0	2883	78.4
M.S.E.B.	7308.0	42188	72.6
M.P.E.B.	3512.5	20417	66.3
A.P. GENCO.	2942.5	21928	85.1
A.P. Gas P. Corp.	272.3	1978(*)	
T.N.E.B.	3169.0	19682	74.8
K.P. Corp. L.	1260.0	8904	81.3
Vvnlkarna	120.0	658(*)	-
Ker. S.E.B.	248.0	779(*)	-
Pondicherry	32.5	233(*)	-
B.S.E.B.	1300.0	2116	18.6
Tenughat V.	420.0	1333	36.2
Orissa P.G.C.	420.0	3006	81.7
W.B.S.E.B.	1110.0	3189	36.0
W.B. Power Dev. Corp.	1890.0	7507	55.9
D.P.L.	390.0	597	17.5
A.S.E.B.	574.5	932	18.5

1	2	3	4
Tripura	64.5	242(*)	
Power Stations			
Badarpur	705.0	5181	83.9
I.P. Station	247.5	866	39.9
Rajghat	135.0	792	67.0
Faridabad	165.0	822	56.9
Panipat	860.0	2729	47.9
Bhatinda	440.0	2794	72.5
GHTP (Leh. Moh.)	420.0	3225	87.7
Ropar	1260.0	8439	76.5
Kota	850.0	6437	86.4
Suratgarh	500.0	3195	82.0
Obra	1482.0	5913	46.8
Harduaganj B.	425.0	709	21.0
Panki	242.0	864	40.8
Paricha	220.0	598	31.0
Anpara	1630.0	11498	80.5
Tanda	440	1189	30.9
Unchahaar	840.0	5375	78.1
Singrauli	2000.0	16408	93.7
Rihand	1000.0	7720	88.1
Dadri TH.	840.0	6886	93.6
Dhuvaran	534.0	2350	50.2
Ukai	850.0	5382	72.3
Gandhinagar	660.0	3330	57.6
Gandhinagar-5	210.0	1348	73.3

1	2	3	4
Wanakbori	1260.0	8916	80.8
Wanakbori-7	210.0	1535	83.4
Sikka	240.0	1098	52.2
Kutch Lig.	215.0	965	51.2
Satpura	1142.5	7201	71.9
Amarkantak	290.0	1152	45.3
Korba (East)	400.0	2184	62.3
Korba (West)	840.0	4957	67.4
Sanjay Gandhi	840.0	4923	66.6
Korba S.T.P.S.	2100.0	16254	88.4
Vindhyachal STPS	2260.0	14199	81.6
Nasik	910.0	5842	73.3
Koradi	1080.0	5958	63.0
Khaperkheda	840.0	3492	75.3
Paras	58.0	382	75.2
Bhusawal	478.0	2928	69.9
Parii	690.0	4547	75.2
Chandarpur	2340.0	15558	75.9
Ramagundem STPS	2100.0	16422	89.3
Kothagudem	1170.0	7639	74.5
Ramagundem B	62.5	443	80.9
Nellore	30.0	171	65.1
Vijaywada	1260.0	10199	92.4
Rayalseema	420.0	3476	94.5
Ennore	450.0	753	19.1
Tuticorin	1050.0	7931	86.2

1	2	3	4
Mettur	840.0	6423	87.3
Neyveli I	600.0	4158	79.1
Neyveli II	1470.0	10519	81.7
North Madras	630.0	4358	79.0
Raichur	1260.0	8904	81.3
Farakka STPS	1600.0	8238	58.8
Patratu	770.0	1400	20.8
Barauni	310.0	319	11.8
Muzaffarpur	220.0	397	20.6
Tenughat	420.0	1333	36.2
Kahalgau	840.0	4826	65.6
Chandrapura	750.0	1469	22.4
Durgapur	350.0	1473	48.0
Bokaro	805.0	2249	31.9
Mejia	630.0	2701	51.8
Talcher	460.0	2494	61.9
Talcher STPS	1000.0	5248	59.9
Ib Valley	420.0	3006	81.7
Bandel	530.0	2130	45.9
Santalidih	480.0	1055	25.1
Kolaghat	1260.0	6250	56.6
Bakreswar	630.0	1257	51.3
D.P.L.	390.0	597	17.5
Namrup	133.5	477	40.8
Chandrapur	60.0	0	.0
Bongaigaon	240.0	84	4.0

Note: "(*)" Being Gas Based Stations, Not included in PLF calculations.

Statement III**Performance factors of Thermal Power Stations in Public Sector
(During April 2001-March 2002)**

	Monitored Capacity (MW)	Gen. (GWH)	PLF (%)
1	2	3	4
Central Sector	25709.0	162325	74.3
N.T.P.C.	20639.0	138497	80.0
N.L.C.	2070.0	14463	79.8
D.V.C.	2625.0	7492	33.7
NEEPCO	375.0	1873 (*)	
State Sector	39726.1	221609	67.0
D.V.B.	873.7	2677	45.1
J. & K.	175.0	0 (*)	
H.P.G.C.	1025.0	5082	60.6
R.R.V.U.N.L.	1888.5	10714	85.2
P.S.E.B.	2120.0	14695	79.1
U.P.R.V.U.N.L.	4009.9	20510	59.7
G.E.B.	3969.0	22646	66.3
GSECL	420.0	3136	85.2
GSEG Ltd.	156.1	171 (*)	
M.S.E.B.	7308.0	45324	74.5
M.P.E.B.	2272.5	12524	62.9
C.S.E.B.	1240.0	7756	71.4
A.P. GENCO.	2942.5	22254	86.3
A.P. Gas P. Corp.	272.3	1950 (*)	
T.N.E.B.	3207.0	21197	78.1
K.P. Corp. L.	1260.0	8952	81.1

1	2	3	4
VVNLKARNA	120.0	772 (*)	
KER. S.E.B.	248.0	424 (*)	
Pondichary	32.5	250 (*)	
B.S.E.B.	530.0	673	14.5
Jharkhand	770.0	1422	21.1
Tenughat V.	420.0	1157	31.5
Orissa P.G.C.	420.0	2598	70.6
W.B.S.E.B.	100.0	844 (*)	
W.B. Power Dev. Corp.	2900.0	11777	51.8
D.P.L.	390.0	1041	30.5
A.S.E.B.	574.5	842	16.7
Tripura	64.5	221 (*)	
Manipur	18.0	0 (*)	
Power Stations			
Badarpur	705.0	5275	85.4
I.P. Station	247.5	815	37.6
Rajghat	135.0	697	58.9
Faridabad	165.0	808	55.9
Panipat	860.0	4274	61.6
Bhatinda	440.0	2766	71.8
GHTP (LEH.MOH.)	420.0	3072	83.5
Ropar	1260.0	8857	80.2
Kota	850.0	6354	85.3
Suratgarh	1000.0	4237	85.0
Obra	1482.0	5693	45.1
Harduaganj B.	425.0	715	21.2

1	2	3	4
Panki	242.0	948	44.7
Paricha	220.0	1030	53.5
Anpara	1630.0	12124	84.9
Tanda	440.0	2103	54.6
Unchahaar	840.0	6563	89.2
Singrauli	2000.0	15478	88.3
Rihand	1000.0	7677	87.6
Dadri TH.	840.0	6673	90.7
Dhuvaran	534.0	1791	38.3
Ukai	850.0	4753	63.8
Gandhinagar	660.0	3806	65.8
Gandhinagar-5	210.0	1489	80.9
Wanakbori	1260.0	9352	84.7
Wanakbori-7	210.0	1647	89.5
Sikka	240.0	1140	54.2
Kutch Lig.	215.0	980	52.0
Satpura	1142.5	7316	73.1
Amarkantak	290.0	989	38.9
Korba (East)	400.0	2220	63.4
Korba (West)	840.0	5536	75.2
Sanjay Gandhi	840.0	4219	57.3
Korba S.T.P.S.	2100.0	16592	90.2
Vindhyachal STPS	2260.0	15589	78.7
Nasik	910.0	5660	71.0
Koradi	1080.0	6104	64.5
Khaperkheda	840.0	5511	76.6

1	2	3	4
Paras	58.0	364	71.6
Bhusawal	478.0	3362	80.3
Parli	690.0	4423	73.2
Chandarpur	2340.0	16224	79.2
Ramagundem STPS	2100.0	15850	86.2
Simhadri (Calculations)	500.0	15	(New Unit, excluded from)
Kothagudem	1170.0	8036	78.4
Ramagundem B	62.5	426	77.8
Nellore	30.0	155	59.0
Vijaywada	1260.0	10225	92.6
Rayalseema	420.0	3412	92.7
Ennore	450.0	1150	29.2
Tuticorin	1050.0	8108	88.2
Mettur	840.0	6396	86.9
Neyveli I	600.0	4195	79.8
Neyveli II	1470.0	10268	79.7
North Madras	630.0	4672	84.7
Raichur	1260.0	8952	81.1
Farakka STPS	1600.0	8421	60.1
Patratu	770.0	1422	21.1
Barauni	310.0	319	11.8
Muzaffarpur	220.0	354	18.4
Tenughat	420.0	1157	31.5
Kahalgau	840.0	4513	61.3
Chandrapura	750.0	1507	22.9
Durgapur	350.0	1077	35.1

1	2	3	4
Bokaro	805.0	2253	32.0
Mejia	630.0	2636	47.8
Talcher	460.0	2468	61.3
Talcher STPS	1000.0	6238	71.2
Ibvalley	420.0	2598	70.6
Bandel (01/07...)	530.0	1386	39.8
Santhaldih (01/07...)	480.0	843	26.7
Kolaghat	1260.0	6375	57.8
Bakreswar	630.0	3173	64.7
D.P.L.	390.0	1041	30.5
Namrup	133.5	416	35.7
Chandrapur	60.0	0	0
Bongaigaon	240.0	46	2.2

Note: "(*)" Being Gas Based Stations, Not included in PLF calculations.

Statement IV

*Performance factors of Thermal Power Stations of Public Sector
(During April 2002-October 2002)*

	Monitored Capacity (MW)	Gen. (GWH)	PLF (%)
1	2	3	4
Central Sector	26415.0	95572	74.1
N.T.P.C.	21135.0	81937	79.7
N.L.C.	2280.0	8100	76.2
D.V.C.	2625.0	4774	36.6
NEEPCO	375.0	761 (*)	
State Sector	39646.4	132372	66.9
*D.V.B.	769.1	1819	41.1

1	2	3	4
J. & K.	175.0	0 (*)	
*H.P.G.C.	1025.0	3351	63.7
*R.R.V.U.N.L.	1926.0	7519	82.6
P.S.E.B.	2120.0	8429	77.4
U.P.R.V.U.N.L.	4009.0	12370	61.5
*G.E.B.	3930.0	12739	63.6
GSECL	420.0	2050	95.0
GSEG Ltd.	156.1	492 (*)	
*M.S.E.B.	7308.0	24527	67.9
M.P.E.B.	2272.5	8095	69.4
C.S.E.B.	1240.0	4130	64.8
A.P. GENCO.	2942.5	13343	88.3
A.P. Gas P. Corp.	272.3	1132 (*)	
*T.N.E.B.	3207.0	12894	80.3
K.P. Corp. L.	1260.0	5842	90.3
VVNL Karnataka	120.0	443 (*)	
Ker. S.E.B.	235.4	262 (*)	
Pondichary	32.5	155 (*)	
B.S.E.B.	530.0	320	11.8
Jharkhand	770.0	674	17.0
Tenughat V.	420.0	768	35.6
Orissa P.G.C.	420.0	1469	68.1
W.B.S.E.B.	100.0	0 (*)	
W.B. Power Dev. Corp.	2900.0	8137	54.6
D.P.L.	390.0	868	43.3
A.S.E.B.	574.5	407	13.8

1	2	3	4
Tripura	85.5	137 (°)	
Manipur	36.0	0 (°)	
Power Stations			
Badarpur	705.0	3204	88.5
I.P. Station	247.5	335	26.4
Rajghat	135.0	473	68.2
Faridabad	165.0	546	64.4
Panipat	860.0	2805	63.5
Bhatinda	440.0	1507	66.7
GHTP (LEH.MOH.)	420.0	1865	86.5
Ropar	1260.0	5057	78.1
Kota	850.0	3569	81.8
Suratgarh	1000.0	3847	83.4
Obra	1482.0	3832	51.7
(Unit-1 of 40 MW Excluded from Calculations Being Old Unit)			
Harduaganj B.	425.0	485	47.8
		13.1	39.1
			24.5
(Unit-2 of 40 MW Excluded from Calculations Being Old Unit)			
Panki	242.0	488	39.3
Paricha	220.0	624	55.2
Anpara	1630.0	6941	82.9
Tanda	440.0	1385	61.3
Unchahaar	840.0	3506	81.3
Singrauli	2000.0	9227	89.8
Rihand	1000.0	4289	83.5
Dadri TH.	840.0	3577	82.9
Dhuvaran	534.0	621	22.6
Ukai	850.0	2919	66.9

1	2	3	4
Gandhinagar	660.0	2323	68.5
Gandhinagar-5	210.0	1031	95.6
Wanakbori	1260.0	5116	79.1
Wanakbori-7	210.0	1019	94.5
Sikka	240.0	708	57.4
Kutch Lig.	215.0	587	53.2
Sabarmati	330.0	1621	95.6
Satpura	1142.5	4262	72.6
Amarkantak	290.0	906	60.8
Korba (East)	400.0	1189	57.9
Korba (West)	840.0	2941	68.2
Sanjay Gandhi	840.0	2927	67.8
Korba S.T.P.S.	2100.0	9113	84.5
Vindhyachal STPS	2260.0	10043	86.5
Nasik	910.0	2671	57.2
Koradi	1080.0	3425	61.8
Khaperkheda	840.0	3533	81.9
Paras	58.0	108	36.3
Bhusawal	478.0	1751	71.3
Parli	690.0	2621	74.0
Chandarpur	2340.0	8198	68.2
Ramagundem STPS ,	2100.0	9695	89.9
Simhadri	1000.0	1947	91.6
(Unit-2 of 500 MW Excluded from Calculations Being New Unit)			
Kothagudem	1170.0	4936	82.1
Ramagundem B	62.5	254	79.1
Nellore	30.0	85	55.2

1	2	3	4
Vijaywada	1260.0	6105	94.3
Rayalseema	420.0	1963	91.0
Ennore	450.0	1073	46.4
Tuticorin	1050.0	4945	91.7
Mettur	840.0	3839	89.0
Neyveli I	600.0	2575	83.6
Neyveli II	1470.0	5525	73.2
Neyveli Ext.	210.0	0	(New Unit)
North Madras	630.0	2387	73.8
Raichur	1260	5842	90.3
Farakka STPS	1600.0	4671	56.8
Patratu	770.0	674	17.0
Barauni	310.0	145	9.1
Muzaffarpur	220.0	175	15.5
Tenughat	420.0	768	35.6
Kahalgaon	840.0	2590	60.0
Chandrapura	750.0	630	16.4
Durgapur	350.0	662	36.8
Bokaro	805.0	1748	42.3
Mejia	630.0	1727	53.4
Talcher	460.0	1238	52.4
Talcher STPS	1000.0	3547	69.1
Ibvalley	420.0	1469	68.1
Bandel (01/07...)	530.0	1308	48.0
Santalalidih (01/07...)	480.0	736	29.9
Kolaghat	1260.0	3781	58.4

1	2	3	4
Bakreswar	630.0	2312	71.4
D.P.L.	390.0	868	43.3
Namrup	133.5	221	32.2
Chandrapur	60.0	0	0
Bongaigaon	240.0	0	0

Note: "(*)" Being Gas Based Stations, Not Included in PLF calculations.

[English]

Soft Drinks on Doordarshan

3567. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) the total revenue generated by the Doordarshan/Prasar Bharati from advertisements and particularly from the advertisements of soft drinks during the last three years, year-wise, brand-wise;

(b) whether the Prasar Bharati has also given broad coverage to the health hazards that soft drinks can cause a number of serious ailments;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to spread awareness among the general the masses against the soft drinks through electronic media ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that product-wise revenue figures are not maintained by Doordarshan.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that some studies on the consumption patterns in developed countries have indicated that excessive consumption of soft drinks and lesser or non-consumption

of milk, fruits and vegetables' juices leads to health problems. No such study has been carried out in India. The situation in India is very different as per capita consumption of soft drinks is negligible.

Paradeep-Haldia Pipeline Project

3568. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the work of Paradeep-Haldia pipeline project was taken up;

(b) the estimated cost of the said project and the amount spent thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which the said project is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited is examining the proposal for laying of Paradeep-Haldia crude oil pipeline.

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

Information Technology Centre for Railways

3569. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested for setting up a Centre for Information Technology for the Railways at the International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The International Institute of Information Technology, Gachibowli, Hyderabad (IIIT), has proposed the setting up of a "Research Centre at IIIT for Collaborative Development of Information Technology for Railways". The proposed centre would comprise one or more interdisciplinary teams, each consisting of IIIT faculty, research staff and students, and domain experts visiting from the Railways. The entire cost of running the Centre would be charged to the funds provided by Railways, and continuation of funding would be tied to the result of regularly performed evaluations of the Centre's achievements. The Centre would take up projects specific to the IT needs of the Railways. Approximate initial cost would be about Rs. 3 crores and recurring costs would be approximately Rs. 1.2 crores per annum.

(c) A team from Railways has visited IIIT and held discussions. The team has submitted its report. Thereafter, the high-level Task Force on IT set-up by the Ministry of Railways has examined the above proposal. The Committee has made its recommendations in the matter, which are under consideration of the Railway Board.

[*Translation*]

Funds for Non-Conventional Energy Projects

3570. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for non-conventional energy project situated in Ghosi in Mau district of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and proposed for the year 2002-2003;

(b) the items on which the above mentioned money was spent;

(c) the extent to which desired targets have been achieved by the said station, complete details thereof;

(d) the details of solar energy plant operated by it in Sadi Sarai, Mau at present;

(e) whether the solar energy station at Sadi Sarai, Mau has become useless;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) if not, the complete details of the achievements of the said solar energy station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI. M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources does not allocate funds on district-wise basis. Central Financial Assistance is provided on merit on the basis of specific proposals received by the Ministry as per the provisions of various schemes/programmes.

An amount of Rs. 1.69 crore was provided for setting up a Demonstration-cum-Training Center for Non-conventional Energy Sources at Ghosi in Mau District of Uttar Pradesh. The funds were utilized by the Non Conventional Energy Development Agency (NEDA), the State Nodal Agency, for construction of the Center based on solar passive design; setting up of a 7 KW solar photovoltaic power plant; training and office aids; and, operation and maintenance. The project has been completed. No further funds have been provided for the purpose during the last three years, or are proposed to be provided during the current year 2002-03.

(d) to (g) NEDA has also set up, with Central Financial Assistance, a 100 KW solar power plant at Sarai Sadi village in Mau District. 75 KW capacity is being utilized to supply power for domestic lights, street lights and pumps in the village with 25 KW capacity intended for supplying power to the grid.

The power plant was taken up as an R&D-cum-demonstration project with the objective of developing indigenous technology for power conditioning units for stand alone and grid interactive mode of operation. The other achievements were the development of high voltage modules for solar grid interactive systems as well as local expertise for design, installation, commissioning and operation and maintenance of such a large solar power plant, set up for the first time in the country.

[*English*]

Possession of Mangalgarh Quila

3571. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mangalgarh Quila, historical tourist place, situated at Charkhari Tehsil in Hamirpur District of Uttar Pradesh has been forcibly taken possession by the Army;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to evacuate the Mangalgarh Quila; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Fort at Charkhari in Hamirpur of Uttar Pradesh (UP) has been handed over on lease by UP Government to Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on 25.5.1993 for communication trials.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply at part (a) and (b).

[Translation]

Loss Making PSUs

3572. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of public undertakings in the country which are not earning profit;

(b) the number of such undertakings out of them which have been incurring loss continuously for the last three years and the extent of loss incurred by each of them separately during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of the Government investment in the undertakings which are continuously running in loss;

(d) whether these undertakings are incurring loss due to wasteful expenditure and negligence of management system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2000-2001, which was laid in the Parliament on 7.3.2002 and is a published document, there were 111 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) which did not earn profit as on 31.3.2001, till which period the information is available. Further, one CPSU namely Food Corporation of India has made no profit no loss as on 31.3.2001. Out of these 111 CPSUs, 84 enterprises have been incurring losses continuously for the last 3 years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01. The names and amount of

loss of CPSUs including continuously loss making enterprises are given in Statement 7B (volume-1) of the Public Enterprises Survey 2000-2001.

(c) The investment made by the Government in terms of equity and long term loan in CPSUs including 84 continuously loss making CPSUs as on 31.3.2001 is given in Statements 17 and 18B of Volume I of the Public Enterprises Survey 2000-2001.

(d) and (e) The reasons for incurring losses are enterprise specific. However, some of the common reasons include old & obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, excess manpower, lack of working capital, steep competition, low capacity utilization, high interest burden etc.

Management of CPSUs and concerned administrative Ministries/Departments take various measures for performance improvement of the enterprises from time to time including periodical review of that performance, business and financial restructuring, cost control measures, infusion of fresh funds, formation of joint ventures, rationalization of manpower, etc.

Setting up of Mini Power Grid In Bihar

3573. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Mini Power Grid for Araria, Basmara and Farasganj in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) POWERGRID in consultation with Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) has submitted a proposal for strengthening of sub-transmission system in Bihar State at an estimated cost of Rs. 365.79 crores. The comprehensive scheme also includes the strengthening of the power supply arrangement in Araria area, which is as under:

- Creation of new 132/33 KV, 2 × 20 MVA Sub-station at Forbesganj (Distt. Araria).
- Kishanganj-Forbesganj-Katayya 132 KV S/C Line (On D/C Tower).

Forbesganj is located in Araria Distt. by establishing a 132/33 KV sub-station at Forbesganj, a grid sub-station would be created in Araria District.

For funding of the comprehensive scheme, Government of Bihar/BSEB has requested the Planning Commission for Central Grant. The Scheme has been accepted in principle by the High Level Committee on Development & Reforms Facility of the Planning Commission. BSEB has also requested POWERGRID for execution of the Scheme on their behalf on deposit work basis.

[English]

New Rail Line between Bijwasan and Bahadurgarh

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

(a) whether the Government has undertaken a survey for a new rail line between Bijwasan and Bahadurgarh;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A survey for construction of new broad gauge rail line between Bijwasan to Bahadurgarh (36 km.) was conducted in March' 2000. As per survey report, the cost of construction of this line has been assessed as Rs. 111.58 crore with a rate of return as (-) 6.94%. In

view of heavy throw forward and limited availability of resources, it has not been found feasible to take up the work.

Investment in Power Projects in U.P.

3575. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any investment in various States in power projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan specially in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the amount invested in these projects during the last three years; and

(d) the share of the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The details of state-wise investment made by Central Sector Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power on power projects under execution alongwith details of expenditure incurred during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 during 9th Plan are given in statement enclosed.

(d) The details of share of State Government in the Joint ventures of THDC and NJPC for the year 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 are given below.

(Rs. in crore)

	NJPC (Govt. of Himachal Pradesh Share)	THDC (Govt. of U.P. Share)
1999-2000	355.04	288.50
2000-01	212.15	305.72
2001-02	416.76	293.50

Statement

Name of the Project	State	Expenditure during 9th Plan (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure during 1999-2000 (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure during 2000-01 (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure during 2001-02 (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>National Hydro-electric Power Corporation</i>					
Tankapur	Uttaranchal	11.53	2.64	—	8.83
Dhauliganga	Uttaranchal	612.89	132.67	164.98	241.08
Chamera-I	H.P.	39.88	6.83	—	27.65
Chamera-II	H.P.	1053.47	288.30	334.58	420.80
Parbati-II	H.P.	139.54	18.68	52.19	67.10
Dulhasti	J&K	1706.24	299.60	380.92	386.64
Ranget	Sikkim	262.70	104.49	7.73	8.14
Teesta-V	Sikkim	336.94	29.23	124.33	177.54
Lokta Downstream	Manipur	16.50	2.22	6.06	4.01
Indira Sagar	M.P.	209.56	—	79.56	130.00
<i>National Thermal Power Corporation</i>					
Vindhyachal-II (1000 MW)	M.P.	2429.30	297.53	217.65	114.15
Unchahar-II (420 MW)	U.P.	1264.54	203.96	70.67	9.03
Kayamkulam (350 MW)	Kerala	1138.99	107.52	51.08	44.65
Faridabad (430 MW)	Haryana	862.21	326.13	124.76	28.04
Simhadri (1000 MW)	A.P.	2667.25	624.16	896.88	767.98
Talcher-II (2000 MW)	Orissa	2128.83	366.73	653.81	1106.82
Rihand-II (1000 MW)	U.P.	296.14	0.38	1.70	294.06
Ramagundam-II (500 MW)	A.P.	183.23	0.23	0.42	182.58
Tanda (440 MW)	U.P.	1000.00	—	1000	—
<i>North Eastern Electric Power Corporation</i>					
Assam Gas Based Power Project (291 MW)	Assam	275.97	26.40	19.53	11.53

1	2	3	4	5	6
Kopili HEP St. I Extn. (100 MW)	Assam	17.10	0.87	2.89	6.53
Kopili HEP St. II (25 MW)	Assam	55.20	9.62	29.83	15.75
Agartala Gas Turbine Power Project (84 MW)	Tripura	102.96	18.40	14.33	5.54
Tuirial HEP (60 MW)	Mizoram	59.81	14.35	17.76	22.22
Ranganadi HEP (405 MW)	Ar. Pr.	840.19	200.16	235.88	165.57
Doyang HEP (75 MW)	Nagaland	447.55	152.32	73.15	20.39
<i>Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation)</i>					
Nathpa Jhakri HEP (1500 MW)	H.P.	4184.09	753.76	681.15	1100.13
<i>Tehri Hydro Electric Development Corporation</i>					
Tehri Dam & HPP St. I (1000 MW)	Uttaranchal	1838.24	318.00	336.00	111.26
Koteshwar Dam (400 MW)	Uttaranchal	—	—	50.00	50.00
<i>Damodar Valley Corporation</i>					
Mejia TPS	West Bengal	538.89	97.59	64.12	110.48

T.V. Serials on Politicians

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

3576. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the T.V. serials telecast by private T.V. channels are not subject to clearance of the Censor Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the T.V. serials made on the personal life of politicians are being depicting so shabbily and not commensurate with the taste of their political and public life;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to bring any guideline for such T.V. serials in future; and

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (f) The programmes of private satellite channels when transmitted through the Cable Network are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to take cognisance, suo moto, or no specific complaints or otherwise regarding any programme of any channel not in conformity with the prescribed Code. In so far as Doordarshan is concerned, Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan takes all care not to produce or telecast any shabby programmes, on political personalities or otherwise. As regards private satellite channels, the Programme Code prohibits, *inter-alia* carriage of such programmes in the cable service, which criticise, malign or slander any individual in person or certain groups, segments of social, public and moral life of the country, or contain anything defamatory.

[Translation]

Out of Turn Promotions in Oil Companies

3577. SHRI SURESH PASI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the out of turn promotions given to the staff and officers including those belonging to scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and other backward classes in Indian Oil Corporation Limited and other oil companies during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that staff members/officers especially those belonging to scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and backward classes are not given out of turn promotions despite their good performance and outstanding reports;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate a uniform policy in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There is no provision for any out of turn promotions to any category of employees including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes except to the outstanding sports persons in all Oil Public Sector Undertakings including Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

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

(d) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

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

[English]

Suspension of Frisking of Pedestrians

3578. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ramzan reprieve in

J&K: No Frisking, no night curfew" appearing in *The Hindustan Times* dated November 10, 2002;

(b) if so, the details with the fact of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Union Government have also received any such request from the Chief Minister of J&K;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For the period of Ramzan, the Security Forces had toned down operations like routine frisking and search of civilian vehicles, to allow relatively unrestricted movement of people. Also curfew timings were relaxed during the holy month of Ramzan to enable the people to attend morning and evening prayers in the mosques. The relaxed timings were coordinated at the local level, keeping in view specific needs and requirements of the general public. However, on specific information, or, on suspicion of terrorist activity, search operations continued to be carried out. Thus, offensive counter terrorist operations were not affected and continued as before.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution

3579. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Service of the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR) will be available to the people of the State of Karnataka with the Centre all set to open its regional office in the Bangalore city;

(b) if so, whether established under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 the regional office of the Centre will establish facilities and provide administrative and other support services of holding conciliation, mediation and arbitration proceedings; and

(c) if so, the time by which this ICADR Centre is likely to become functional ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Regional Office, Bangalore has started functioning and is in a position to provide administrative and other support services for holding arbitration, conciliation and mediation proceedings.

[Translation]

Construction Work on Sadulpur, Churu and Rattangarh Junctions

3580. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes related to construction work undertaken on Sadulpur, Churu-Rattangarh junction of Bikaner Division of Northern Railway;

(b) the expenditure incurred on these schemes;

(c) whether any complaint has been received by the Government regarding the construction work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The following works have been executed at Sadulpur, Churu and Ratangarh since 2000-01:

(i) Modification of booking office, extension of platform shelter and construction of boundary wall, etc. at Churu.

(ii) Extension of platform shelter at Ratangarh.

(iii) Improvement to booking office, platform surfacing, provision of Malkhana, lock up room, etc. at Sadulpur.

(b) The expenditure incurred on the above works is about Rs. 43.11 lakh.

(c) and (d) A complaint was received from local people/residents of Churu with regard to location of boundary wall being outside Railway boundary. The complaint was looked into and was found to be factually incorrect.

Solar Energy Projects

3581. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the fact that the Bihar Government is encouraging entrepreneurs to manufacture fuel energy cells and solar energy systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Bihar Government has decided to encourage entrepreneurs to manufacture equipments to exploit immense non-conventional renewable energy resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) Manufacture of non-conventional energy equipment has been taken up in Bihar with the active support of the State Government. Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation, a State Government Undertaking, is engaged in assembly of solar photovoltaic devices and systems. The manufacture of water pumping wind mills is being undertaken in the private sector by four manufacturers. In addition, local fabrication of solar cookers, biogas plants and improved chulhas is also being undertaking in different parts of the state. However, as fuel cell technology is still at the nascent stage, commercial production of fuel cells has not yet commenced.

[English]

Land Acquired for PSUs In Tamil Nadu

3582. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the name of Public Sector Undertaking which have established their plants/projects in Tamil Nadu along with locations thereof;

(b) the land acquired by these PSUs for establishment of their plants/projects and from how many farmers and at what rate;

(c) whether any agreement between the managements of PSUs and land owners was made to provide job in these plants;

(d) if so, the extent to which the land losers have been provided jobs;

(e) the reasons for not fulfilled the commitments made by the PSUs in respect of all the land losers; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) List of PSEs having registered offices in the State of Tamil Nadu is given in page S-284 Volume I of Public Enterprises Survey 2000-2001, which was laid in the Parliament on 7.3.2002.

(b) to (f) The matters relating to acquisition of land, providing employment etc. are dealt with by the Managements of the respective PSUs and no date is centrally maintained in this regard.

Laboratories for Testing Petroleum Products

3583. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has notified a number of laboratories for testing samples of petroleum product;

(b) if so, the total number of laboratories authorised to test samples of petroleum products at present, State-wise;

(c) whether these laboratories are sufficient to meet the present demand;

(d) if so, whether Government has any plan to set up more such laboratories near the petrol pumps;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Government in the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply and Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 1998 and its amendments have notified number of laboratories for testing petroleum product samples.

(b) to (f) Oil Companies have number of laboratories at their refineries/installations apart from having mobile laboratories in the country for testing of fuels. Oil

Companies augment the number of laboratories from time to time, if required. In addition, various other agencies like Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Petroleum, Forensic Department, Defence laboratories, etc., have also got laboratories for testing of fuels.

Oil PSUs Near Mahul, Mumbai

3584. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil PSUs of Chembur, Mumbai have considered alternative outlet for their refineries near Chembur;

(b) if so, whether the BPCL, HPCL and Union Government have studied the proposal of Maharashtra Government to jointly develop Anik-Panjrapore Road as an alternative road; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further reaction thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Detailed proposal from Government of Maharashtra for construction of Anik-Panjra Pole bypass road is yet to be received by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

[Translation]

Kahalgaon Project

3585. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether foundation stone of 1320 Megawatt capacity project to enhance the power production in NTPC, Kahalgaon was laid on 29th April, 2002;

(b) if so, the amount estimated to be spent on the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c)

Foundation stone for Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project Sage-II in Bhagalpur District of Bihar was laid on 29.04.2002. The estimated cost of project works out to Rs. 5069 crores and the project has been identified for benefits in Tenth Plan.

[English]

Fleet of Offshore Service Vessels by ONGC

3586. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited is maintaining its own fleet of offshore service vessels;

(b) if so, the number of vessels owned by ONGC and to what extent the requirement is met by these vessels;

(c) whether the maintenance of these vessels is putting heavy financial burden on ONGC;

(d) if so, whether ONGC propose to have a joint venture with a shipping company for the maintenance and operation of not only the vessels owned by ONGC but also to meet its requirement for additional vessels; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) owns 32 Offshore Service/Supply Vessels (OSVs), which constitute about 60% of the total fleet deployed for meeting the logistics requirement of ONGC.

(c) The annual expenditure for maintaining these 32 OSVs is of the order of Rs. 58 crores, representing about 1.35% of the total annual operating expenditure of the Mumbai Region for the year 2001-02, which is considered reasonable.

(d) and (e) In order to meet its operational requirements, ONGC considers various options on an ongoing basis to improve the efficiency of its operations and reduce expenditure.

Coffins/Kaffans to Dead Bodies at Accident Sites

3587. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways do not provide sufficient number of coffins/kaffans and ice slabs for the dead bodies, at the accident site;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether dirty and torn bad sheets are provided to dead bodies at the accident site;

(d) whether no payment were made to rescue workers and no meals were provided;

(e) whether relatives of accidents victims are provided food;

(f) if so the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (g) Each Accident Relief Medical Equipment Van (ARME) is provided with 40 number of shrouds (Kaffans), which are used for covering dead bodies at the accident spot. Dirty and torn bed sheets are not used but only clean shrouds/kaffans are used to cover dead bodies.

Ice slabs are not provided in the ARMEs as they can not be stored for obvious reason. They are procured locally.

Coffins are also not stored items in ARMEs, which, when required, are procured from local or nearby markets.

Payment for rescue work as well as food for rescue workers is made available at the site of accident. Besides, food is also provided to the relatives of accident victims as per prevailing situation.

Civilian Officers in MES

3588. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have laid down rational and logical equivalence between service and civilian officers of MES on the lines of equivalence already laid down for similar other organisations such as AFHQ Services, Ordnance etc. under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Government intends to lay down the above equivalence to remove discrimination against the civilian employees of MES?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Military Engineering Service (MES) is a well established organization with a well laid down MES establishment which gives the appointment and equivalence between Service and Civilian Officers of MES. Nonetheless, in order to rationalize the equivalence of MES civilians vis-a-vis army personnel, Army HQs have been asked to examine the issue at greater depth. However, no time frame has been fixed for the same.

[Translation]

LOI for Retail Outlets

3589. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dealer of retail outlet can sell petrol by installing machines at two or three different places as per his convenience and willingness merely on a single letter of intent;

(b) if so, the number of dealers of IOCL, BPCL, HPCL and I.B.P. in Uttar Pradesh who are selling petrol by installing pumps at two or three different places merely on a single letter of intent; and

(c) the reasons for not taking any action against the said dealers ?

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) As per the existing policy, the Letter of Intent (LOI) issued for setting up a retail outlet dealership at a particular location cannot as such be used by the LOI-holder for setting up a dealership at any other location.

[English]

Theft of ATF

3590. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that lakhs of litres of ATF is being theft during transporters Mafia with

the involvement/consent of defence personnels and company officials authorised for receiving the products on receiving location;

(b) whether such theft may cause the adulteration in the product during the transportation period and further cause the accidents during flight;

(c) whether the Government would conduct an enquiry against the sudden prosperity of some group of transporters/operators involved in this job; and

(d) if so, the time by which the enquiry would be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. So far, no such case of loss of ATF has come to the notice of Government. The Oil Companies are paid as per ATF physically delivered to IAF refueller or to the aircraft.

(b) The fuel being delivered to Air Force is tested by Quality Control agencies and there is no reported incidence of fuel contamination.

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

Benefits to Officers of PSUs Posted In Disturbed Areas

3591. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government through oil PSUs gives special benefits to the officers and employees of PSUs who have been posted in disturbed/terrorism affected areas like Assam, J&K specially posted in Srinagar and Jammu;

(b) if so, the details of the special benefits;

(c) whether such benefits are applicable in case of all the oil PSUs; and

(d) if not, the reasons for discrimination?

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 Officers and employees of the respective Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas posted in

the North-Eastern Region (NER) are paid special benefits in the form of North-East Allowance at the rate of 12.5% of their basic pay subject to maximum of Rs. 1,000 and remote locality allowance at different rates in the range of Rs. 40 and Rs. 200 per month. However, in the case of employees of Gas Authority of India Limited and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited, the remote locality allowance in Tripura ranges between Rs. 150 and Rs. 1050 per month. In addition to the above benefits, the respective PSUs provide to their employees in NER other benefits such as additional Leave Travel Concession, Accommodation/House Rent Allowance for families left behind, concessional residential accommodation, hardship allowance and choice posting on transfer from NER.

In Jammu & Kashmir, the PSUs concerned provide special insurance coverage and special allowance equal to 3/4th of Daily Allowance apart from additional HRA for families left behind and choice posting on transfer from J&K.

Accuracy of Dispensing Units

3592. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment of accuracy of Dispensing Units installed at various retail outlets are claimed by the manufacturers of Dispensing units in their product specification, manufacturer-wise and company-wise;

(b) whether none of the manufacturer claims cent percent accuracy in their dispensing units;

(c) if so, whether the imported machines are having cent percent accuracy;

(d) whether the Government propose to direct the oil companies to get such machines having 100% accuracy; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The assessment of accuracy of Dispensing Units is done:

(i) At the time of procurement through third Party Inspection Agencies appointed by the Oil Marketing Companies;

(ii) During field inspections by Sales Force of the Oil Marketing Companies.

(iii) During annual calibration as per Government regulations by Weights & Measures Department.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Even imported machines do not have cent percent accuracy of delivery.

(d) and (e) No, Sir in view of (c) above.

Cost of Reimbursement of Electricity in IGL

3593. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to USQ No. 705 answered on July 18, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the IGL in new Delhi is reimbursing the cost of only 15 units of electricity for dispensing 100 Kg of CNG whereas the MGL in Bombay is reimbursing the actual cost of 20 to 24 units of electricity for dispensing of 100 Kg of CNG;

(b) if so, the reasons for reimbursing less electricity cost by IGL as compared to MGL;

(c) whether extraordinary efficient compressor pumps and other equipments are being used by MGL;

(d) if so, the reasons IGL is not using the same quality of equipments and the pump owners are being pressurized to sustain loss; and

(e) the time by which discrimination/anomaly shall be removed and the IGL shall be directed to reimburse actual cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a), (b) and (e) Whereas, Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) in Mumbai is reimbursing the actual cost of electricity charges to the retail outlets of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), the Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) is making payments to OMCs retail outlets/dealers on a fixed cost of electricity consumption @ Re. 0.79/Kg for on-line stations based on the study conducted by the representatives of OMCs and IGL in December, 2001.

Further, to rationalize the reimbursement of electricity charges by IGL to retail outlets of oil marketing companies it was agreed at an industry level meeting that the earlier study would be revalidated with the assistance of a third party for which necessary action has already been initiated.

(c) and (d) The compressor pumps and other equipments used both by MGL and IGL are of standard good quality but of different capacity as per the CNG load requirement.

[Translation]

Second Class Sleepers

3594. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of second class sleepers available in Sachkhand Express (2715-16) at Jalana Railway Station in Maharashtra for New Delhi;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the demand of more second class sleepers in this train at Jalana Railways Station; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the number of 11nd class sleepers in the said train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) There are eleven sleeper class coaches each having 72 berths which run on train No. 2715 Nanded-Amritsar Sachkhand Express. Computerised Passenger Reservation facility is available at Jalna station and this station has thus access to the entire sleeper class reserved accommodation available at the train originating station on first come first served basis. As the train is running with maximum permissible load of 18 coaches including 11 Sleeper Class coaches in Nanded-Manmad section, it is not feasible to augment the train by additional sleeper class coaches on regular basis at present.

[English]

Construction of Level Crossing

3595. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for unmanned railway line crossing near Kadamwadi on Miraj-Latur Railway line on South Central Railway is pending;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Corrupt Army Judges

3596. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Nyay Ki Kursi par baithe hain sena ke dagdaar judge" appearing in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated September 22, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Government have got the matter investigated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of the officers identified by the Government in this regard, so far?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter has been investigated. The first two Judge Advocate General (JAG) Branch Officers referred to in the news item had witnessed the document for the purchase of the property in question by the wife of GOC-in-C, Central Command. At no time any army personnel was involved in the said case as alleged.

The Court of Inquiry which investigated the complaint against the Brigadier of the JAG Branch of the Southern Command, as referred to in the news item, also did not find him blameworthy.

The Brigadier, who heads the legal set up in Headquarters Western Command, has no case against him, as per records available.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Cases of Forgery/Falsification**

3597. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether there have been cases of forgery/falsification of court records in Patna High Court resulting in filing of appeals in the same court on verdicts already handed over by a Division Bench of the same Court;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been ordered on the ramifications of this racket and whether involvement of Court staff and Bar Association members has been established;

(c) if so, the action being initiated against the involved persons including the litigants; and

(d) the steps being taken to check such frauds in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) The Bench of the Patna High Court presided over by Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.N. Prasad vide order dated 8th August, 2002 passed in L.P.A. No. 859 of 2002, has directed the Registrar General of the Court to hold an enquiry in the matter. The Bench has further been pleased vide order dated 22nd October, 2002 to file complaint before the Chief Judicial Magistrate against the concerned persons under Chapter XI of Indian Penal Code, 1860. Besides four members of the High Court staff have been placed under suspension.

(d) It is hoped that timely action, as taken in this case, will deter recurrence of such cases in future.

Sea Piracy and Robberies

3598. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing sea piracy and robberies in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent the sea piracy and robberies;

(c) whether there is a need to strengthen maritime patrolling in view of the increasing activities of the subversive elements in the seaways;

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

(e) whether Indo-Japan cooperation has been established to strengthen marine security in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the other steps are being taken to fight sea piracy and robberies ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (g) Following measures have been instituted for the prevention of sea piracy and robberies;

- (i) Random patrolling by Coast Guard in the areas prone to piracy/robbery incidents.
- (ii) Close liaison is maintained with the International Maritime Bureau for exchange of information.
- (iii) A toll free common telephone No. 1718 is available at all the Coast Guard operation centres for reporting of such incidents.
- (iv) Patrolling of anchorages of Indian ports in coordination with the coastal port authorities.
- (v) Port Trusts have been impressed upon to keep a radio watch and advise the merchant ships at anchorages to maintain anti-piracy watch and report the incidents to the Coast Guard.
- (vi) Operation centres of Coast Guard are manned 24 hours for taking immediate action on any incident reported.

The Coast Guard has made a thorough assessment of the overall security scenario and has formulated a plan which includes measures to increase surveillance in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The Coast Guard is in the process of institutionalising a Position Reporting System named INDSAR for all ships, including foreign ships wherein the ships will be required to give their position as soon as they enter the Indian Search and Rescue Region.

Joint exercises have been institutionalised between Japanese Coast Guard and Indian Coast Guard. The third Indo-Japan Coast Guard joint exercise was conducted at Chennai from 06-10 November 2002.

Canning Railway Station

3599. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties faced by the rail commuters at the Canning Railway Station West Bengal due to the lack of long distance reservation and proper toilet facilities inspite of it was declared a model station;

(b) if so, the funds earmarked for providing facilities and upgradation/development of the said station; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government of the station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Canning station falls under suburban section where no Mail/Express train runs. However, computerized passenger reservation system has been provided at Sonarpur Junction and passengers of Canning station can seek reservation from Sonarpur which is well connected with EMU train services. As regards toilet facilities at Canning station, two lavatories and nine urinals have been provided.

(b) Works costing Rs. 52.36 lakhs have been sanctioned for providing facilities and upgrading Canning station to Model Station.

(c) Following works have been taken up for development of Canning station:

(I) Improvement to passenger amenities. It includes—

- (i) Additional 2 nos. of platform sheds;
- (ii) Improvement to platform surface and circulating area;
- (iii) Provision of water tank and pipelines;
- (iv) Arrangement for tap water supply;
- (v) Improvement to water booth;

(II) Provision of deep tubewell with pumphouse;

(III) Construction of waiting hall and booking;

Export of Cooking Gas to Bangladesh

3600. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited has drawn an ambitious plan for the export of cooking gas to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned from the export of cooking gas to Bangladesh?

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 have allowed upto March, 2003, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) to export LPG to SAARC countries, subject to the condition that only the imported LPG would be re-exported and that, too, without impinging the need to meet the domestic demand. IOC has exported 270 Metric Tonnes LPG to Bangladesh during the current year. The quantum of foreign exchange earning on this quantity of exports undertaken by IOC till date is US\$ 84,000.

Power Generation Capacity Through NCES

3601. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total power generation capacity added through various non-conventional energy sources in the year 2002 till September;

(b) the share of wind, solar and tidal power in the total power generated through these sources;

(c) the share of private power products in the total power generation capacity added through various non-conventional energy sources; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the private participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) About 325 MW of power generation

capacity has been added through various non-conventional energy sources during the year, between 1st January and 30th September 2002.

(b) Out of a total of 3636 MW of grid power generation through these sources, a capacity of 1702 MW has come from wind and about 2 MW from solar power. No tidal power project has so far been set up in the country.

(c) A total capacity of about 2300 MW has been set up through private investments.

(d) Central Financial Assistance in the form of capital subsidy or interest subsidy; other fiscal incentives such as 80% accelerated depreciation, and concessional duties and taxes are provided to encourage private participation in non-conventional energy based power projects. Soft loans are also provided for such projects by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency. Several State Governments have also announced promotional policies for power generation from non-conventional energy sources.

K-Ride Projects

3602. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1087 dated March 07, 2002 regarding Karnataka Infrastructure Development Company and to state:

(a) the present status of the projects;

(b) whether the Railways have made arrangements to obtain approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for setting up of SPV to complete these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the target date fixed for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The present status of the projects are as under:

	Latest Anticipated Cost	Outlay expected to end of 2001-02	Budget Outlay for 2002-03	Status
(Rupees in Crores)				
Hubli-Ankola New Line	997.58	14.65	20.00	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition plans have been submitted to the State Govt. for part length (47.75 km.). Earthwork has been completed in the 1.8 km length where no land acquisition is involved. Work on rest of the section will be taken up once land is made available. Tenders have been awarded for earthwork and minor bridges for 20 reaches.
Solapur-Gadag Gauge Conversion	262.05	136.61	20.00	The work is being done in phases. Solapur—Hotgi (16 km) and Hotgi to Bijapur (94 km) has been completed. Earthwork, bridgework and ballast collection is in progress on rest of section from Bijapur to Gadag. Funding through KRIDES is being tried with a view to expedite early completion of this work.
Hassan-Mangalore Gauge Conversion	325.93	168.66	45.00	Arsikere-Hassan-Sakleshpur has been completed. Work is in progress in balance length. Section is ready for track linking in 44 km patch from Kankanadi to Kabakaputtur. Mangalore—Kabakaputtur (40 km) is targeted for completion during 2002-03. Funding is being tried through KRIDE to expedite completion.
Guntakal-Hospet Doubling	159.10	25.13	38.35	Final location survey has been completed. Contracts for earthwork and bridges for 113.6 km have been awarded and work commenced.

(b) and (c) CCEA's approval has been obtained for formation of the SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) named "Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited " (K-RIDE). A Share holder Agreement has also been signed to operationalise K-RIDE.

(d) Target dates for completion of these projects depend upon the ability of the SPV in raising funds.

[Translation]

Action against LPG Dealers and Petrol Pumps Owners

3603. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken any action against the owners of LPG and petrol pumps for violating the rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any nexus between the officers of these agencies and the benami operators;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to break the illicit nexus?

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) During the last two years, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have terminated 20 LPG distributors and 77 Retail Outlet dealers in the country which have been found violating the provisions of Distributorship/ Dealership Agreement.

(c) to (e) In established cases of benami operations, Government/OMCs take the action as per Distributorship/ Dealership Agreement. OMCs have not reported any nexus between their officers and benami operators.

[English]

New Rail Lines between Jaisalmer-Kandla and Pokran-Barmer

3604. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work of new rail lines between Jaisalmer-Barmer-Kandla via Ahmedabad and Pokran-Barmer has been completed and the report submitted to the Railway Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the survey; and

(c) the time by which the work of laying new rail lines is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The survey for Jaisalmer-Barmer-Kandla is in progress. However, it is not passing via Ahmedabad. As regards, survey for construction of new rail line from Pokran to Barmer, an updating survey has been completed in March, 2002. As per the updated survey report, cost of construction of 131 km long new line has been assessed as Rs. 268 crore with a negative rate of return. The survey report is under examination. Further consideration of these proposals would be possible once the survey reports become available/finalised.

Lok Adalats

3605. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up more Lok Adalats in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard and number of Lok Adalats proposed to be set up in each State?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) Organizing Lok Adalats is a continuing process and, by the very nature of the purposes of holding Lok Adalats, the same are need based and as such, no specified number of Lok Adalats can be indicated.

The Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 has been amended with a view to providing mechanism for pre-litigation, conciliation and settlement. The amended Act stipulates the establishment of Permanent Lok Adalats

for exercising jurisdiction in respect of disputes relating to public utility services, such as transport service, postal, communication, etc. A party to a dispute with such public utility service has been given the option to make an application to the Permanent Lok Adalat to be established under the amending Act, which has been vested with the powers of jurisdiction to decide the matter and pass a binding award which shall be deemed to be a decree of the Civil Court and shall be final.

Upto 30.06.2002, about 1,39,172 Lok Adalats have been held in different part of the country where about 1.42 crores cases have been settled. In about 7.3 lacks Motors Vehicles Accident Claims cases, compensation amounting to over Rs. 3615.93 crores has been awarded.

[Translation]

Distribution of LPG Connections in States

3606. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the criteria adopted in distribution of LPG connections in each State;

(b) the number of LPG connections allotted to various States during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of LPG connections allotted till date in the country, 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): (a) to (c) At present, LPG connections are released on demand in all the existing markets throughout the country by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The details of LPG connections (domestic) released by OMCs in various States/UTs of country during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed. Total customer population in the country as on 1.10.2002 with OMCs is about 6.68 crores.

Statement

Details of Release of New LPG Connections During the Last Three Years in various States of Country

States	2001-02	2000-01	Figs. in Lacs
			1999-00
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	10.31	14.10	11.99
Arunachal Pradesh	0.07	0.10	0.23
Assam	1.16	1.36	3.37
Bihar	1.96	4.14	2.06
Chhattisgarh	0.71	0.31	0.00
Delhi	1.11	1.21	3.94
Goa	0.16	0.46	0.41
Gujarat	2.21	3.85	5.21
Haryana	2.20	2.63	4.74
Himachal Pradesh	0.55	0.48	1.03

1	2	3	4
Jammu & Kashmir	1.14	0.84	1.06
Jharkhand	0.57	0.25	0.00
Karnataka	3.84	3.73	5.84
Kerala	2.59	11.97	2.11
Madhya Pradesh	2.25	5.23	4.00
Maharashtra	7.81	8.80	10.27
Manipur	0.14	0.24	0.17
Meghalaya	0.06	0.07	0.10
Mizoram	0.08	0.22	0.17
Nagaland	0.12	0.13	0.12
Orissa	0.91	1.42	1.09
Punjab	3.82	6.13	4.03
Rajasthan	2.35	5.42	3.22
Sikkim	0.07	0.13	0.06
Tamil Nadu	5.56	17.56	7.37
Tripura	0.15	0.15	0.56
Uttar Pradesh	5.74	10.89	10.04
Uttaranchal	0.57	0.21	0.00
West Bengal	2.31	4.83	6.22
Sub Total	60.52	106.86	89.41
Union Territories			
Andaman & Nicobar	0.02	0.07	0.06
Chandigarh	0.09	0.11	0.31
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.01	0.02	0.06
Daman & Diu	0.01	0.01	0.04
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	0.10	0.13	0.37
Sub Total	0.23	0.34	0.84
All India Total	60.75	107.20	90.25

*[English]***Participation In National Games**

3607. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has issued instructions to all its Headquarters and affiliated units throughout the country to stop its athletes from attending the on-going games preparatory camps and National Games to be held in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam from December 13 to 22, 2002;

(b) if so, the circumstances which have compelled the Railway Board to issue such instructions; and

(c) the number of the Railway athletes who are likely to be denied an opportunity to take part in these games ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Instructions were issued earlier for not permitting Railway sportspersons to participate on behalf of their States in the National Games to be held from December 13 to 22, 2002. Railway Sports Promotion Board had to resort to such an action because of lack of responsiveness of the Indian Olympic Association to Railway Sports Promotion Board's repeated requests to give affiliation to Railway Sports Promotion and allow Railway teams to participate in the National Games. However, taking into consideration the request received from the organisers and keeping in view the larger interest of development of national sports, revised instructions have been issued to permit Railway sportspersons to participate in these Games, as an exception.

(c) Does not arise.

Trains Without Toilets and Other Common Amenities in Vijaywada

3608. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some trains which pass through Vijaywada for short to middle distances are not equipped with toilets and other common amenities;

(b) whether number of requests have been made to change the compartments which have such passenger amenities;

(c) if so, the details of such representations and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether South Central Railways have made any effect to ask the suppliers to provide compartments and trains with toilets, etc.; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Short distance commuter trains passing through Vijaywada with runs upto 4 hours or 160 Kilometers do not have toilets in conformity with Railways extant policy. All other facilities are provided in the trains in accordance with the norms for different classes of travel.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Only one representation has been received from Dr. B.B. Ramaiah, M.P. dated 7.9.2002. The case is under examination and shall be replied in accordance with the Railways' stated policy regarding provision of toilets on short distance trains.

(d) and (e) Both toilet less and toilet type coaches are available with South Central Railway. These are used on different trains depending upon their duration and length of run to provide best services to the passengers.

Cancellation of Loan to PGCIL by World Bank

3609. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether PGCIL (Power Grid Corporation of India Limited) is providing optical fibre connectivity in various routes and also planning to enter into international long distance telephony, landing stations and data centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether World Bank has cancelled its proposed loan of Rs. 560 crore for PGCIL's telecom project; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) has planned to enter into Telecom Communication Sector as infrastructure provider by leasing end-to-end bandwidth. The power transmission lines owned by PGCIL provide excellent connectivity through-out the country, which would

enable setting up an optic fibre network on all India basis for broad band communication. PGCIL plans to develop telecom backbone network of about 14,000 Kms. which will connect all metros and major towns/cities in the country. PGCIL has already put Delhi-Chandigarh and Delhi-Jaipur Links into commercial operation utilizing spare capacity of Unified Loan Despatch & Communication (ULDC) Links. PGCIL has also commissioned the Delhi-Mumbai Link and has put the same into commercial operation in October, 2002. At present, PGCIL does not plan to enter into long distance telephony, landing stations and data centres.

(c) and (d) PGCIL signed an agreement with World Bank on 13th June, 2001 for a loan of US\$ 450 million (Power System Development Project-II) for implementation of its various schemes including the scheme for Establishment of a Backbone Telecom Network. While the other schemes for which the loan has been approved by the World Bank are under implementation by PGCIL, the scheme for Establishment of Backbone Telecom Network is at advanced stage of investment approval. In the meanwhile, World Bank have intimated PGCIL that if the decisions for investment approval of the project and award of contracts for the telecom component of the Power System Development Project-II are not taken by 31st January, 2003, the Bank will not be able to agree to extension of the bid validity for the said packages, which would mean that the contracts in question would not be financed by the bank and the corresponding amount would be canceled from the loan.

LPG Connections

3610. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total percentage of population covered by LPG connections at present, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of population planned to be covered by LPG connections during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase LPG coverage 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) to

(c) At present, LPG connection are released on demand in all the existing markets throughout the country by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). As on 1.10.2002, the percentage of population covered by LPG in the country is about 36%. OMCs have planned to set up 1,247 LPG distributorships in rural areas and out of these 260 rural distributorships have already been commissioned. After commissioning of these distributorships, it is expected that rural population will also be adequately covered by LPG.

[Translation]

Justice to News Readers

3611. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news published in 'Navbharat Times' dated August 15, 2002 regarding dismissal of news reader in Doordarshan Srinagar;

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

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government to dispense justice to the News readers in this regard;

(d) the reasons for dismissal of news-readers from services; and

(e) the time by which they are likely to be re-appointed?

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

(b) to (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that the (11) eleven persons, mentioned in the newspaper report, had been engaged on casual basis and therefor the question of their dismissal and re-appointment does not arise. 4 (four) of these 11 (eleven) persons, who were working as "News Monitors", continue to be with Regional News Unit at Srinagar, as Casual Assignees. The remaining (7) seven, had worked as "News Casters". Some of them have moved to other organisations/locations. As a policy Doordarshan does not engage casual assignees for more than 10 days in a month.

New Auto Policy

3612. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated the "Auto Policy-2002"; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed policy?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Auto Policy has been approved by the Government and laid on the Table of the House on 7th March, 2002, which inter-alia contains the salient features.

[English]

**Introduction of New Passenger Train between
Rewari and Sarai Rohilla**

3613. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the frequency of trains on broad gauge line between Delhi and Rewari keeping in view the huge rush of passengers at Sarai Rohilla;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, in order to cater to the needs of Delhi-Rewari section it is proposed to introduce a Metre Gauge DMU service between Delhi Sarai Rohilla and Rewari during 2002-2003.

Acquisition of Land for Seabird Project

3614. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have to pay Rs. 24.75 crores to Karnataka towards the acquisition of 17 acres of land for Seabird project; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above long pending dues is likely to be cleared?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Legislation on Excessive Use of Power

3615. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a legislation to curb excessive use of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan proposed by the Government to reduce energy consumptions during the next year; and

(d) the measures taken to request State Governments and Union Territories to take similar action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, to promote efficient use of energy and its conservation Government of India has already enacted the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. The Act provides the legal framework, institutional arrangements and regulatory mechanism at the central and state level for improving energy efficiency.

To promote energy efficiency and its conservation in the country the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has been established. An action plan has been drawn up which includes the following thrust areas:

- Indian Industry Programme for Energy Conservation (IIEEC)
- Demand Side Management (DSM)
- Standards & Labeling Programme
- Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Establishments
- Energy Conservation Building Codes
- Professional Certification and Accreditation
- Formulation of Manuals and Codes
- Energy Efficiency Policy Research Programme
- School Education
- Delivery Mechanism for Energy Efficiency Services.

(d) All the State Governments & UTs have been requested to appoint nodal agencies for the promotion of energy efficiency.

[English]

Setting up of Zonal Headquarters

3616. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked to each of the new Zones during Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether the Government have set up all the Zonal Headquarters of newly created Railways Zones;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether some of the State Governments have offered free of cost land for setting up of new Zonal Railway Headquarters in their States;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which all infrastructural facilities are likely to be provided to newly created Zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Funds for individual works including new Zones are earmarked only on year to year basis and not for entire tenth plan period.

(b) to (d) The Government had set up all the Zonal Headquarters of newly created seven new Zones namely North Central Railway/Allahabad, East Coast Railway/Bhubaneswar, East Central Railway/Hajipur, North Western Railway/Jaipur, West Central Railway/Jabalpur, South Western Railway/Hubli and South East Central Railway/Bilaspur. Out of these, North Western Railway/Jaipur and East Central Railway/Hajipur have already been operationalised w.e.f. 01.10.2002. Remaining five Zones will become operational w.e.f. 01.4.2003.

(e) and (f) Only the Government of Orissa have allotted 39.4 acres of land for East Coast Railway Headquarters office free of cost.

(g) All minimum essential infrastructural facilities are/ would be in place before the proposed date of operationalisation of new zones. However, it may take 3 to 5 years for creation of all infrastructural facilities envisaged for new zones.

Crude Oil Prices on basis of Import Parity

3617. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after dismantling of APM, ONGC and OIL are being paid crude oil prices on the basis of import parity;

(b) if so, the cost of production of per barrel of crude oil produced by ONGC and OIL

(c) whether the import parity price is more than the cost of production; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the unearned profit of ONGC and OIL is accounted for ?

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) After dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1.4.2002, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) are to get market-determined prices for crude oil.

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

(c) In view of the volatility of international crude oil prices, import parity prices may be higher or lower than the cost of production from time to time.

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

Manufacturing of Defective Shells

3618. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shells filled by Chanda Ordnance factory sustained a loss of 6.06 crores due to defective manufacture of shells;

(b) whether many shells persisted in failing to fire;

(c) whether the Government are aware of security dangers thus posed to national security; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to prevent recurrence and to punish those guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) 105 mm Indian Field Gun High Explosive Squash Head Shells, worth Rs. 6.06 Crores, manufactured at the Ordnance Factory Chanda, were found unserviceable during plate proof. The composite Task Force, consisting of representatives from Defence Research and Development Organisation, Directorate General Quality Assurance and Ordnance Factory Board, constituted to investigate the reasons for failure recommended that the target plate be fixed on a frame which should be grouted to the ground, to ensure that the target plate does not move due to impact of the shell. Subsequent plate proof of the rejected ammunition with fixed target plate gave satisfactory results.

(c) As the targets fixed by the Army were fully met and no defects were found in the shells supplied to the army, there was no danger posed to the national security.

(d) Does not arise.

Subletting of Railways Land

3619. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether plots offered to class three and four staff to cultivate vegetable under "Grow more food scheme" of Western and Central Railways have been subletted to others;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the railway against these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Employment to Land Looser of Mejia Thermal Power Plant

3620. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agreement was made between the State Government and the Power Sector to rehabilitate the land looser including Adivasis after commissioning of three units of Mejia Thermal Power Station has been implemented;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reach to an agreement between State Government and power sector for the rehabilitation of persons who will lose their land due to the commissioning of Fourth and Fifth units of Mejia Thermal Power Project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) There is no agreement between DVC and the West Bengal Government to rehabilitate/provide employment to land losers at Mejia Thermal Power Station. However, based on a high level meeting between DVC officials and officials of Government of West Bengal on 28.10.1994, DVC had agreed in principle to provide employment to 520 Nos. of land losers in phases in the said project. Out of these 520 Nos. of land losers, DVC has already provided employment to 247 Nos. in the Mejia Thermal Power Station and the remaining 273 Nos. could be engaged by DVC to the extent vacancies arise in unskilled category of posts in its expansion programme of the Project.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to acquire additional land for the Fourth and Fifth Unit of Mejia Thermal Power Project.

[Translation]

Appointments of SC/ST

3621. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state the number of appointments made in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises on various posts amongst people belonging to SC and ST during the last three years, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): There are two Departments namely Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) and Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. Cadre control in respect of all Group 'A' posts under the two Departments of this Ministry via Department of Heavy Industry and Department of Public Enterprises, is with the Department of Personnel & Training. In respect of all Group 'B' and 'C' posts,

cadre control is with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, except in respect of 57 Group A, B, C and D posts of various categories for which cadre control is vested with the Department of Public Enterprises. Department of Heavy Industry controls the cadre of its Group D employees only. So far as the Department of heavy Industry is concerned, no appointment has been made during the last three years. In so far as the Department of Public Enterprises is concerned, two persons were appointed in the grade of Peon during the year 2001, out of which one was appointed from the ST category.

[English]

Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council

3622. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the composition and functions of Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council with special reference to anti piracy of films, music, etc. and

(b) the reasons for not setting up National Anti Piracy Umbrella Body?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Ministry of Human Resource Development is the nodal Ministry for administration of the Copyright Act, 1957. The Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council (CEAC) in the Ministry of Human Resource Development is a central level body to advise the Government on measures to improve the enforcement of the Copyright Act. The CEAC comprises representatives from the film, music and software fields as also State Police Chiefs and representatives of concerned Ministries. The responsibility of enforcing the Copyright Act rests with the police authorities of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Copyright enforcement cells have been set up in most of the States/Union Territory administrations headed by a senior police officer to deal with such matters.

(b) In view of the existence of a central level body i.e. the Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council, functioning on the basis of inter-ministerial consultations there appears to be no necessity to constitute another national anti-piracy umbrella body.

Suicide Cases committed on Railway Track

3623. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of suicide cases committed on railway track in Punjab during last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check and stop such happenings on the trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The maintenance of law and order and the security of passengers and their belongings in the running trains and Railway premises is the constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP). Therefore, information asked for in the question is not readily available with the Ministry of Railways.

Rural Electrification in Bihar

3624. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has submitted their proposal for clearance/sanction of Rural Electrification projects; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof and action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Government of Bihar/Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) has submitted an Action Plan for electrification of 21991 villages (9683 Virgin + 12308 Rehabilitation) and has planned to achieve 100% village electrification during the 10th Plan.

The priorities for execution of rural electrification projects are determined by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities depending upon the policies and directions of the State Government concerned. In order to accelerate the pace of rural electrification in the country, Government provides additional central assistance to the States under various schemes for rural electrification. During the year 2001-02, Government has released an amount of Rs. 24.58 crores under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), and Rs. 9.48 crores under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) to Bihar for rural electrification. Again, during

2002-03, against an allocation of Rs. 241.73 crores for all the six components including rural electrification, an amount of Rs. 120.86 crores has been released to Bihar as the first instalment (50%) under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). In addition, an amount of Rs. 34.00 crores has also been released to Bihar as the first instalment (50%) of the total allocation of Rs. 68 crores under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). State Government has been requested to utilize these funds judiciously so as to ensure that the target of achieving 100% village electrification by 2007 is achieved.

[Translation]

Transfer Policy in PSU

3625. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prescribed any criteria for transfer of officers posted in public sector ordnance factories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is mandatory to transfer the officers promoted in ordnance factories;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the transfer order of some of the Junior Works Managers transferred to factories in Kanpur have been withheld; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has prescribed norms for transfer of Indian Ordnance Factory Service (IOFS) officers, working under Ordnance Factory Board. For other officers, the Ordnance Factory Board follow their internal guidelines issued from time to time.

(b) Subject to functional requirements, the policy approved by the Government generally prescribes a tenure of 3 to 5 years for sensitive posts and a tenure of 5 to

7 years for other posts. The policy also has a provision to consider transfers on medical or compassionate grounds, subject to certain conditions.

(c) and (d) It is not mandatory to transfer the officers promoted in all the cases. However, in certain cases due to exigencies of cadre management, internal guidelines have been issued by the Ordnance Factory Board, prescribing mandatory transfers, subject to certain exceptions.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The transfer orders of three Junior Works Managers to Kanpur Group of factories were cancelled/modified due to functional requirements.

Power Generation by NTPC

3626. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC is generating additional quantum of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether NTPC propose to set up any new power project during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The generation of electricity by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been increasing. The gross generation of NTPC during the last three years are as under:

Year	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Generation (Million Units (MUs))	118677	130154	133190

During the current Financial Year the second 500 MW unit of Simhadri Thermal Power Plant in Andhra Pradesh has been commissioned in August 2002. Further, the following projects are under execution:

Sl. No.	Project	State	Generation Capacity	Commissioning Schedule	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6

A. Thermal Power Project

1.	Talcher-II (4 × 500 MW)	Orissa	2000 MW	1st Unit-Nov., 03 2nd Unit-Aug., 04 3rd Unit-May, 05 4th Unit-Feb., 06	Work in progress as per schedule
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1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Ramagundam-III (1 × 500 MW)	A.P.	500 MW	August, 2005	Work in progress as per schedule
3.	Rihand-II (2 × 500 MW)	U.P.	1000 MW	1st Unit-Aug., 05 2nd Unit-May, 06	-do-
B. Hydro-Electric Power Projects					
4.	Kol Dam (4 × 200 MW)	H.P.	800 Mw	1st Unit-Nov., 08 2nd Unit-Jan., 09 3rd Unit-Mar., 09 4th Unit-Apr., 09	Work on the project has commenced in this year.

*[English]***ONGC Investment in MRPL**

3627. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked ONGC to seek the approval of the Public Investment Board (PIB) before investing in the loss making MRPL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a larger number of projects in which ONGC invested are incurring losses since the past few years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited has submitted a proposal to the Government to acquire majority stake in Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited. The case is being processed for seeking approval of Public Investment Board.

(c) No, Sir.

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

LPG Bottling Plants

3628. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up more LPG bottling plants during Tenth Plan Period; and

(b) if so, the location identified for the purpose?

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) Apart from augmentation and commissioning of new LPG bottling plants, carried over from Ninth plan, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have the plan to set up 3 new LPG bottling plants with a capacity of 132 TMTA at the cost of Rs. 70 crores during the Tenth plan in the country. One of the location identified is at Rajmundry (Andhra Pradesh) and two locations are yet to be identified by OMCs.

*[Translation]***Hydel Power Project in Madhya Pradesh**

3629. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the upcoming Hydel Power Projects of other bordering States adjoining Madhya Pradesh and under construction;

(b) if so, the quantum of power, in megawatt, received by Madhya Pradesh from Inter-State Projects;

(c) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have refused power sharing after creation of Chhattisgarh State;

(d) if so, the authentic figure in regard to power generation capacity of the States after sharing of the same by them;

(e) whether the Union Government receives these figures from the State Governments themselves or make use of other independent agencies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Madhya Pradesh will have a share of 57%, that is 826.5 MW electricity in the power component of Sardar Sarovar Project ($6 \times 299 + 5 \times 50 = 1450$ MW), a joint venture between the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, being executed on river Narmada in Gujarat.

(c) The cost as well as benefits of power are to be shared by Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in the ratio of 16: 57: 27.

(d) to (f) According to the information obtained by the Central Electricity Authority from the State Governments, the total generating capacity of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh as on 31.3.2002 was 4128.21 MW and 1898 MW respectively.

[English]

Railways Reform Committee

3630. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to constitute a new Railway Reforms Committee for restructuring of Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the purpose thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of Power Plants in Eastern States

3631. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects set up in the Eastern States during Ninth Plan;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to add additional capacity in these States during Tenth Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the places identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Eight power projects of 2312.5 MW capacity were set up in the Eastern Region during the 9th Plan. A capacity addition of 41110 MW has been targeted in the country during 10th Plan. In the Eastern Region, following power projects of capacity 8425 MW are envisaged to be commissioned during 10th Plan.

Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Location
1	2	3
Talcher, NTPC	2000	Orissa
Kahalgaoon, NTPC	660	Bihar
Barh, NTPC	660	Bihar
North Karanpura, NTPC	660	Jharkhand
Purulia PSS	900	West Bengal
Teesta Low Dam III, NHPC	132	West Bengal
Teesta Low Dam IV, NHPC	168	West Bengal
Mejia 4, DVC	210	West Bengal
Mejia 5, DVC	250	West Bengal

1	2	3
Maithon, DVC	1000	Jharkhand
Chandrapur, DVC	500	Jharkhand
Balimela II, State Sector	150	Orissa
Tenughat Extn, State Sector	210	Jharkhand
Bakreshwar U 4&5, State Sector	420	West Bengal
Sagardighi I, State Sector	250	West Bengal
Bhita, Private Sector	135	Bihar
Jojobera-2, Private Sector	120	Jharkhand
Total	8425	

Power to Railway by NTPC

3632. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Railways should not be allocated power from out of the unallocated share of NTPC; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) Legal and other aspects of the issue are being examined in consultation with Department of Legal Affairs.

Narrow Casting Services to Universities

3633. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision on giving approval to open Radio Services in the narrow casting mode to universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any restrictions are put to this broadcasting by LPTs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any funds allocated/likely to be allocated for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) A proposal to grant community radio broadcasting licenses to well established and recognized educational institutions/organizations to cater to the aspirations and specific requirements of particular locality/area, is under consideration of the Government. Since the scheme is yet to be approved, no details can be given at this stage.

(c) and (d) The scheme envisages setting up of low power FM radio transmitters of limited range capacity, catering to the needs of a local community. These would not interfere with existing transmissions.

(e) and (f) The stations would be set up the licensees who shall bear the cost. No Government funds will be required for this purpose.

Modernisation of Railway Workshop at Hubli

3634. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to modernise the Railway Workshop at Hubli in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the fund earmarked therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Two works for the upgradation of the facilities at Hubli Workshop are under progress. First work is for conversion of Workshop from Metre Gauge (MG) to Broad Gauge (BG) and to equip it to undertake Periodic Over Haul

(POH) of 75 Broad Gauge (BG) coaches/month. Further augmentation of POH capacity to 95 BG coaches/month in the IInd phase is also under way. Both these works are scheduled to be completed by 31.03.2003 and the funds earmarked for the current year (2002-03) are indicated below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Particulars of work	Year of Sanction	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure till 31-03-02	Amount provided in the current year
1. Hubli Workshop— Conversion of Workshop (Metre Gauge for Broad Gauge) for POH of Coaches (Phase: I).	1995-96	13.57	13.49	0.08
2. Hubli Workshop— Additional facilities to cater for coach POH activities (Phase: II).	1996-97	6.96	5.09	1.01

[Translation]

terrorist attack on Red Fort in Delhi two years ago; and

Compensation to Dependents of Martyred Soldiers

3635. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided any assistance to the dependents of soldiers martyred in the

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Details of terminal benefits paid to the dependents of martyred soldiers are given in statement enclosed.

Statement

S. No.	Army No. Rank & name of deceased soldiers	NOK name & address	Details of terminal benefits			Remarks
			Benefits	Entitled	Paid	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	2883997 Late Nk Ashok Kumar of 7 Raj Rif	Smt. Sakuntala Devi (Wife) Vill Gokal Pura PO Behl Distt Bhiwani (Haryana)	Ex-gratia (Central Govt) Death Gratuity Liberalised Family Pension AFPP Fund Army Group Insurance AGI Maturity AWWA Final Settlement of A/C Other Sources (Regimental Fund)	Rs. 5,00,000 Rs. 66828 Rs. 3950 + DA Rs. 1,99,247 Rs. 3,75,000 Rs. 36,218 Rs. 5000 - -	Rs. 5,00,000 Rs. 66828 Rs. 3950 + DA Rs. 1,99,247 Rs. 3,75,000 Rs. 36,218 Rs. 5000 Rs. 12,846 Rs. 5,000	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	13983625	Smt. Sunita Devi	Ex-gratia (Central Govt)	Rs. 5,00,000	Rs. 5,00,000	
	Late RFN Uma	(Wife)	Death Gratuity	Rs. 56,004	Rs. 56,004	
	Shankar Singh of 7	Vill Narwara	Liberalised Family Pension	Rs. 3310 + DA	Rs. 3310 + DA	
	Raj Rif	PO Narwara	AFPP Fund	Rs. 27,949	Rs. 27,949	
	Date of Casualty-	Distt Shivhar	Army Group Insurance	Rs. 3,75,000	Rs. 3,75,000	
	22nd December 2000	(Bihar)	AWWA	Rs. 5000	Rs. 5000	
			AGI Maturity	Rs. 18,338	Rs. 18,338	
			Final Settlement of A/C	-	Rs. 19,396	
			Other Sources (Regimental Fund)	-	Rs. 5,000	

[English]

**Supply of Underweight LPG Cylinders
by dealers in Delhi**

3636. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LPG dealers in Delhi are supplying underweight cylinders to the consumers;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been investigated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; 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) LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are under strict instructions to supply the cylinders of right quantity and quality of their customers. The oil company officials carry out random checks at distributors' godown, delivery point as well as enroute to ensure that no pilferage takes place. During the period April-September, 2002, the complaint of supply of under-weight cylinders to customers against seven distributors of Delhi established and action against the erring distributors has been taken in terms of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement.

**Railway Reservation Counter at Krishnagiri,
Tamil Nadu**

3637. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand of opening railway reservation counter at Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to open reservation counter at Krishnagiri, Tamilnadu; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the extant reservation policy, Computerised Reservation Facilities are introduced at the stations having reservation related workload of 100 transactions per day or more, District Headquarters, important tourist centres and other important stations. Krishnagiri does not fulfil any of the criterion of the reservation policy. As such, the station does not qualify for computerised reservation facility at present.

Proposal to Hike Gas Prices

3638. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Power Ministry and various State Governments have vehemently opposed the proposal to hike gas prices at Rs. 4,200 per thousand cubic meters by January 01, 2003 and subsequently to Rs. 5,800 per thousand cubic from April, 2003;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the objections of the Union Power Ministry and various States; and

(c) to what extent the Government has dropped the proposal in view of the great opposition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main objections raised by Union Power Ministry and some State Governments has been that increase in the natural gas prices would lead to increase in the cost of production of power. It will be difficult to realize the higher power tariff from the consumers by the State Electricity Boards which are already under serious financial crisis. Increase in the gas price will have cascading effect in agriculture and other sectors of economy.

(c) No decision in the matter has been taken.

Pipeline Tariff for Petroleum Products

3639. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to put a ceiling on pipeline tariff for all petroleum products envisaged to be transported by the pipelines;

(b) if so, whether the pipelines tariff is higher than the existing ceiling of the weighted average of rail tariff;

(c) if so, the prevailing rail tariff for transporting petroleum products and the manner in which the same is being worked out;

(d) the existing pipelines capacity for the supply of petroleum products from different destinations and to what extent it is adequate enough to meet the demand; and

(e) the additional pipeline capacity required and the extent to which the tariff for the transportation of petroleum products will be less than the tariff for the transportation by rail and other modes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) For the existing product pipelines, for the purpose of sale/purchase of products between the oil marketing companies (OMCs), the freight for transportation of petrol, diesel and kerosene through pipelines is provisionally worked out by OMCs as under:

Petrol/Diesel

— For pipelines commissioned before 01-04-98: 75% of the notional rail freight

— For pipelines commissioned after 01-04-98: 90% of the notional rail freight

Kerosene

— For all pipelines: 90% of the notional rail freight

The pipeline freight rate for the GAIL's Jamnagar-Loni LPG pipeline is Rs. 1.33/KM/MT (Metric Tonne) as agreed between GAIL and OMCs.

As per the guidelines for laying petroleum product pipelines, notified by the Government on 20th November 2002, the petroleum product pipelines would be categorized as follows:

- (i) Pipelines originating from refineries, whether coastal or inland, upto a distance of around 300 kilometers from the refinery;
- (ii) Pipelines dedicated for supplying product to particular consumer, originating either from a refinery or from oil company's terminal; and
- (iii) Pipelines originating from refineries exceeding 300 Km in length and pipelines originating from ports, other than those specified in (i) & (ii) above.

As per this notification, tariff for the pipelines commissioned after the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette and falling in the category specified in (iii) above, will be subject to the control orders or the regulations that may be issued by the Government or the statutory authority in this behalf under any law for the time being in force.

The capacity of the existing product pipelines in use, as on 01-10-02, was around 46.95 MMTA. During the year 2001-02, about 31.4% of the total consumed products were moved through the pipelines. As per India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025, the share of pipelines in moving products is expected to increase to around 45% by 2025.

Cadre Review in MES

3640. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third Cadre review has not yet been initiated into the Group A civilian officers of Military Engineering Services though the same has already been implemented in other Central Government Engineering Services like CPWD;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to initiate the third cadre review to avoid stagnation at various positions in the organisations ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Process of cadre review is to be held every five years. The last cadre review for Group 'A' civilian officers of MES was carried out in March 2000. Action for the third cadre review of Group 'A' civilian officers would be due only in March 2005 after 5 years according to the guidelines issued by Department of Personnel and Training. Therefore, action in this regard has not been initiated so far.

Coco and Jubilee Petrol Pumps of Oil Companies

3641. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the oil companies are running so many Coco and Jubilee petrol pumps through maintenance and handling contractors;

(b) if so, the number of such contractors of IOCL and IBPL running outlets with their own working capital, name-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the remuneration paid to such COCO contractors is different in each oil company;

(d) if so, the slabs of the remuneration being paid by each of the oil company;

(e) whether the different oil PSUs are free to pay different slab of remuneration; and

(f) the time by which this discrimination is likely to be removed ?

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) COCO retail outlets and Jubilee Retail Outlets are operated by an officer of the concerned Oil Company as over-all in charge of the outlet. Labour assistance is provided to the officer through a contractor. The COCO retail outlets are operated in this manner till a regular dealer is selected and appointed.

(b) The labour contractors of COCO retail outlets and Jubilee Retail Outlets are not required to make any investment towards working capital.

(c) to (f) As per the existing policy, the labour contractors are paid a lumpsum amount depending on the location and number of people deployed/to be deployed, which, inter alia, takes into account the contractor's remuneration, payment to labourers as per the Minimum Wages Act, etc.

Pending Cases of Commissioning of Retail Outlets

3642. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases of commissioning of retail outlets are lying pending due to various administrative reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the oil PSUs are empowered to take decision in such cases now at their own or still required approval of the Government when the APM has been dismantled; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some cases are still in the process of commissioning due to reasons such as:

(i) Non-availability of suitable land.

(ii) Judicial interventions.

(iii) Non-completion of works, etc.

(c) and (d) The Oil Marketing Companies, even during the period of Administered Pricing Mechanism, were taking decision to commission retail outlets for which dealers had been selected as per the laid down procedures and guidelines.

Eliminating the need to have Documents Notarised/Attested

3643. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government would consider supplementing the relief already given to poor litigants through enactment of Legal Services (Amendment) Bill, 2002 by eliminating the need to have documents notarised/attested by Oath Commissioners, prior to submission to courts;

(b) whether the system of notarisation/attestation by oath commissioners has become obsolete and redundant;

(c) if so, whether the Government would also consider imposing penalty/punitive measures for perjury committed through filing of wrong/untruthful documents, on Notary Public/Oath Commissioner who attest such documents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for eliminating the need to have documents notarised/attested by Oath Commissioners, prior to submission to courts.

(b) to (d) The system of notarisation/attestation by Oath Commissioners has not become obsolete or redundant. Notarisation/attestation of documents enhances their evidentiary value, as courts take judicial notice of them, which then need not be proved, vide sections 56 and 57 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. Penal provisions for perjury committed through filing of wrong/untruthful documents, notarised/attested by Oath Commissioners, already exist.

Electrification of De-Electrified Villages of Bihar

3644. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether villages which were electrified in Bihar have been de-electrified later on;

(b) if so, the details of those villages along with the reasons therefor;

(c) the total loss in terms of money suffered in the process; and

(d) the action taken to electrify the de-electrified villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) has reported that there were 13,306 de-electrified villages in Bihar as on 31.3.2001. The de-electrification of these villages occurred due to theft of conductors, transformers and damage of lines, poles and natural calamities like storms, flood etc.

(c) It has been reported by BSEB that the magnitude of loss due to de-electrification of villages is approx. Rs. 332.65 crores.

(d) Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) has further informed that rehabilitation of such villages will be completed by 2007.

Cess on Petrol and Diesel

3645. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) the present rate of cess on petrol and diesel;

(b) whether a proposal to levy an additional cess on petrol and diesel is under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for levying such an additional cess on petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present, petrol attracts an Additional Duty of Excise @ Rs. one per litre, which was levied with effect from 02.06.98 as per section 111(1) of the Finance Act 1998. Similarly, diesel attracts an Additional Duty of Excise @ Rs. one per litre, which was levied with effect from 28.02.1999 as per section 133(1) of the Finance Act 1999. These additional duties of excise are in addition to any other duties of central excise chargeable on diesel under the Central Excise Act. In addition, petrol also attracts surcharge known as Special Additional Duty of Excise @ Rs. six per litre.

(b) There is no proposal to levy an additional cess on petrol and diesel under the consideration of the Government.

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

[Translation]

Setting up of Firing Range

3646. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is panic among the local people due to setting up of firing range at Palamu in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to shift the firing range from the above place keeping in view the present situation; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be shifted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No Field Firing Range is coming up at Palamu in Jharkhand (Formerly in Bihar).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since there is no proposal for setting up a Field Firing Range at Palamu, hence, the question of shifting it does not arise.

(d) Not applicable.

[English]

Committee to Monitor APDP

3647. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee to monitor the Accelerated Power Development Programme has concretized a strategy to ensure field level monitoring of the allocation of funds to various States;

(b) if so, the guidelines issued by the Monitoring Committee of Accelerated Power Development Programme;

(c) the funds allocated to each State for renovation and modernisation of the existing power infrastructure during 2001-02 and 2002-03; and

(d) the funds utilised by each State for renovation and modernisation of the existing power infrastructure during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) A Monitoring Committee was set up on December 22, 2000 under the chairmanship of Minister of Power for monitoring implementation of the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). The functions of the Committee are to:

(i) formulate guidelines

(ii) approve projects

(iii) monitor project implementation

(iv) monitor reform milestones agreed with different States

Guidelines were issued by the Ministry of Power on February 22, 2001 to all State Governments/State Electricity Boards and the Utilities regarding the APDP. These guidelines, inter-alia, covered the scope of the scheme, funding mechanism, reform conditionalities, mode of disbursement, etc. In April, 2002, the State Governments have also been informed that the future releases of fund under APDRP fund would be subject to SEBs/Utilities signing Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Ministry of Power and that prioritisation of schemes/projects would be done by the Advisor-cum-Consultants (AcC) and, therefore, scheme implementation should be taken up only after the prioritisation has been done by AcCs.

(c) and (d) Details of funds allocated to the States for renovation and modernisation (R&M)/renovation and uprating (R&U) during the year 2000-01 and the utilization thereof are given in statement enclosed. No funds were allocated for R&M/R&U under APDRP during the financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Statement*Funds sanctioned to the States under APDRP for R&M/R&U for the year 2000-01**(Rs. in crores)*

State	Released amount 2000-01	Amount received by Utility	Matching loans sanctioned	Utilization
Andhra Pradesh	47.56	47.56	47.56	67.60
Bihar	21.45	21.45		3.15
Gujarat	2.23	2.23	2.23	0.77
Haryana	11.85		11.85	Nil
Karnataka	24.24	24.24	24.24	33.42
Madhya Pradesh	11.17		11.17	17.20
Maharashtra	44.24	44.24	44.24	30.97
Orissa	38.00			1.09
Punjab	5.99		5.98	Nil
Tamil Nadu	53.44		53.44	52.92
Uttar Pradesh	88.43	88.43	82.47	37.49
West Bengal	24.90	24.90		14.90
Total	373.50	253.05	283.18	259.51

*[Translation]***Special Drive to Check Passengers Carrying Goods without Ticket**

3648. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the special team of the Railways have conducted any special drive to catch passengers travelling without a valid ticket or carrying goods without booking;

(b) if so, the number of passengers caught without ticket or carrying goods without booking since January, 1998, till date;

(c) whether several railway officers are found to be involved in this illegal act during checking;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against these officers;

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure travelling with a valid ticket and to fix responsibility of the officers in this regard;

(f) whether any proposal has been implemented in regard to preventing such illegal acts during the last two years; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Ticket Checking drives are a regular feature on the Railways.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, regular and surprise checks are conducted to check malpractices, if any, being indulged in by the ticket checking staff and disciplinary action taken against the erring staff.

(e) to (g) The Railways are taking continuous steps to ensure that all the passengers travel with valid ticket/authority. Physical checks are carried out involving a large number of railway staff and officers. The Police and Railway Magistrates are also involved during the drives. Test checks on weight of the luggage booked as well as unbooked luggage are also carried out during these checks. Regular train checking is also done by ticket checking staff manning the train. The persons found travelling unauthorisedly are taken by under relevant rules.

Statement

Year	Cases of ticketless travel detected (in lakhs)	Cases of unbooked luggage detected (in lakhs)	Total
1998	107.64	39.77	147.41
1999	115.70	42.32	158.02
2000	127.35	44.20	171.55
2001	140.77	47.50	188.27
2002 (upto Sep, 02)	107.44	37.46	144.90

[English]

Regional Grid Despatch Centres by PGCIL

3649. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation operates the Regional Grid Despatch Centres;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Power Grid Corporation has been able to ensure stable operations;

(c) the reasons for frequent break-down of the Regional Grids;

(d) whether such break-downs can be avoided; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of the Regional Grids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), as the Central Transmission Utility has been able to ensure stable operation of the five Regional Load Despatch Centres in the country. Grid disturbances in the regional grids are not a frequent phenomena. The few grid

disturbances that have occurred in the past are on account of various reasons, primary among which are:

- (i) Lower generation availability vis-a-vis the demand leading to over-drawals by the constituents and low frequency operation,
- (ii) Transmission constraints,
- (iii) Rendering ineffective, protection devices such as under frequency relays by the constituents,
- (iv) Low voltage operation due to inadequate reactive power compensation.

(d) and (e) These grid disturbances can be minimized by maintaining the grid discipline by the constituents. Unified Load Despatch & Communication Schemes have been implemented in Northern and Southern Regions and similar schemes are being implemented in other regions. Indian Electricity Grid Code (IEGC) has been introduced for proper functioning of the grid system. Availability Based Tariff (ABT) has been introduced in Western and Northern Regions. ABT is being introduced in other regions also in a phased manner. With these measures, the grid functioning is expected to improve considerably. The following additional steps by the constituents would further improve the working of regional grids:

- (i) Provision of under frequency relays,
- (ii) Free governor mode of operation of the generating stations,
- (iii) Augmentation/strengthening of transmission system and system improvement,
- (iv) Installation of shunt capacitors for improving voltage profile,
- (v) Provision of communication system/Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA),
- (vi) Provision of Disturbance Recorders (DRs)/Event Loggers (ELs).

Missing of Cast Iron Water Pipeline

3650. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5954 on the 26th April, 2001 regarding Missing of cast iron water pipeline and state:

(a) whether the Vigilance Branch of the Central Railway has since completed the investigations in the matter;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations/ observations of the Vigilance Branch in the case; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The vigilance investigation of the Railways brought out irregularities/lapses of various nature on the part of six Railway officials. Departmental action has been initiated against one gazetted officer and five non-gazetted officials as per advice of Central Vigilance Commission in this case. Besides, an FIR has also been lodged with the local civil police authorities for unauthorized removal of pipelines from Thakurli Powerhouse.

Performance of BSCL

3651. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any improvement in the performance of Subsidiaries of BBUNL and also these companies are expected to register a net profit;

(b) whether the Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL) has achieved 53% growth in gross production during April-September 2002 as against the corresponding period last year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering giving working capital support for continuing production and adequate wagon order to the company for help to become economically viable; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) There has been a marginal improvement in the performance of subsidiaries of BBUNL except Jessop & Company Limited (JCL) and Bharat Wagon & Engineering Company Limited (BWEL) during April-November, 2002 as against the corresponding period last year. Among BBUNL subsidiaries, BBJ Construction Company Limited (BBJ) is expected to register marginal net profit.

(b) and (c) Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL) has achieved 53% growth in gross production during April-September, 2002 as against the corresponding period last year. BSCL achieved a gross production of Rs.75.16 crore during April-September, 2002 as against the production of Rs. 49.14 crore during the same period last year.

(d) and (e) The Burn Standard Company Limited has orders worth Rs. 184.04 crore as on 30.11.2002. It has not asked for any support for Working Capital. However, the Government have initiated steps to make it viable through joint venture formation.

1000 MW Plant at Munda near Nagpur

3652. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC is facing problems in executing its 1000 MW plant at Munda near Nagpur due to non-corporating attitude of Maharashtra Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the progress made in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the NTPC for early completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) teams have visited various locations in Maharashtra for exploring possible sites for establishment of a 1000 MW coal based power station. The position regarding identified sites are as follows:

- (i) NTPC had identified two alternative sites in tehsil Mauda in Nagpur district but this site was not found suitable due to shortage of water.
- (ii) A site near Madheri village in Chandrapur District was also identified. Government of Maharashtra was requested by NTPC to conform sweet water availability for the project.
- (iii) For consideration the site Madban in Ratnagiri District, NTPC has requested Government of Maharashtra for confirmation about construction of port to handle coal and availability of sweet water.

[Translation]

Setting up of Ordnance Factory

3653. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foundation stone of an Ordnance Factory was laid in Rajgir in Nalanda district of Bihar on June 14, 1999;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard and the expenditure incurred on land acquisition, rehabilitation of displaced persons and construction work, separately; and

(c) the time by which ordnance factory is likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The foundation stone of an Ordnance Factory was laid at Rajgir in Nalanda district of Bihar on April 14, 1999.

(b) About 2650 acres of land has been acquired and construction work at the site is in progress. An expenditure of Rs. 60.87 crore has been incurred towards acquisition of land. Rs. 9.46 crore have been released to Government of Bihar for rehabilitation of displaced persons. The expenditure incurred on construction work so far is Rs. 3.80 crore.

(c) By November, 2005.

[English]

Construction of Bellary FM Station

3654. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken up the construction of Bellary FM Station;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the above work;

(c) the time by which the transmitter is likely to be installed and become operational; and

(d) the amount released/likely to be released for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up of Radio Station at Bellary with 10 KW FM Transmitter, Studios and Staff Quarters, at an estimated cost of Rs. 585.40 lacs, has been approved by the competent authority.

(c) An interim set up with 1 KW FM Transmitter is expected to be operational by March, 2003. Permanent set up with 10 KW FM Transmitter, Studios and Staff Quarters is expected to be operational in about two years.

(d) Sanctioned Budget Grant for this project in the financial year 2002-2003 is Rs. 12 lacs.

[Translation]

Rail Projects from Foreign Funding

3655. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing rail projects funded by foreign financial institutions alongwith the estimated cost thereof;

(b) the amount received by the Government for each project;

(c) whether the Government have utilized the said amount;

(d) if not, whether the Government have made any payment as a token of commitment; and

(e) if so, the total payment made by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) External assistance is being utilised for the following ongoing Railway projects:

- (i) The World Bank is funding Mumbai Urban Transport Project, which has both road and rail components, through a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of US Dollar 463 million (including US Dollar 305 million for rail component) and a credit from International Development Association (IDA) of US Dollar 79 million (including US Dollar 60 million for rail component). The estimated cost of rail component of this project is Rs. 3125 crore. The loan has become effective on 6th November 2002. The loan is yet to be utilised.

(ii) Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), Germany has extended a loan of DM 185 million to finance the project of Modernisation of Signalling between Ghaziabad and Kanpur. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 425 crore. The loan is yet to be utilized.

(iii) An export credit facility from Export Development Corporation (EDC), Canada for US Dollar 52 million is being availed through Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to finance import of High Horse Power Diesel Electric Freight Locomotives from General Motors Corporation, USA and the related transfer of technology. An amount of US Dollar 42.5 million has been disbursed from his credit. This is a commercial credit not routed through the Union Government.

(d) and (e) No payment of commitment charges has so far been made under these loans.

[English]

Boost to Exports

3656. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government will forge a partnership with the industry especially the manufacturing sector to ensure enhanced exports;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Heavy Industries feels that in a liberalized environment, the industry and the Government have to work together in partnership not only meet the demand of the domestic economy but also to pay a meaningful role in the globalised market; and

(c) if so, the extent to which it has given boost to the exports?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) A Task Force has been constituted under the Department of Heavy Industry for promotion of export of capital goods. The Task Force consists of representatives from different Ministries/Departments and Industry Associations. The Government and manufacturing industry are expected to work as partners. The aforesaid Task Force has been recently constituted and it is very early to quantify their impact on exports at this juncture.

Shifting of Moradabad-Ramnagar Rail Route of NER to NR

3657. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal pending to incorporate the Moradabad-Ramnagar rail route of North Eastern Railway to the Northern Railway with Divisional Headquarters at Moradabad, instead of the present Gorakhpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for causing this anomaly and inconvenience to travelling public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The section is being managed well under North Eastern Railway. There is no anomaly and no inconvenience caused to the travelling public.

Revival of B.O.G.L.

3658. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the B.I.F.R. has ordered the operating agency to put up the revival package of B.O.G.L.;

(b) if so, whether the Government being an operating agency of B.O.G.L. did not put up the package;

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

(d) the time by which the revival package of the said unit to the implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In this case, the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) is the Operating Agency. The Operating Agency has submitted a Draft Revival Scheme for Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited (BOGL) to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on 17.04.2001. The scheme has not been sanctioned so far.

Requirement of Power in Punjab

3659. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power generation in Punjab is enough to meet the demand; and

(b) if not, the measures being taken by the Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During April-November, 2002 the energy requirement, availability (comprising its own generation as well as its share in jointly owned projects of BBMB and allocation from Central Sector Generating Stations in Northern Region) and shortage is as under:

(Figures in MUs)

	April-November, 2002
Requirement	22,247
Availability	20,875
Shortage	1,372
(%)	6.2

(b) Supply and distribution of electricity within a State is in the purview of concerned State Government/State Power Utility. The priority of power supply to various categories of consumers in the State is decided by the State Government, keeping in view the total availability of power from various sources in the State.

The Minister of Power in the Government of India on its part is taking following steps to augment availability of power and thereby mitigate shortage of power in the country:

- (i) Besides capacity addition of 1168 MW in the State/Private Sector, generation capacity of 7340 MW is planned in the Central Sector during 10th Plan period in the Northern region in which the state will also have its entitlements.
- (ii) Strengthening/Augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution network of the state system for reduction in T&D losses and improving quality in power supply. Funds are being provided to States for undertaking schemes for strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution

system under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP).

- (iii) Establishment/strengthening of inter-regional transmission links for enhancement of inter-state and inter-regional transfer of power for optimal utilization existing generation capacity in the country. Already, Sasaram HVDC back-to-back project has been commissioned which has enabled flow of surplus power from Eastern Region to Northern Region. PSEB is also a beneficiary of Eastern Region off-peak power.
- (iv) Renovation, Modernisation and Life Extension (RM&LE) of old and inefficient generating units for improving generation performance. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has provided loan with interest subsidy to Power Utilities for undertaking RM&LE works under Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP).
- (v) Demand side management and promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures.
- (vi) Strengthening/Augmentation of transmission system and formation of National Grid by the end of 11th Plan which will facilitate smooth flow of power from surplus States/Region of deficit States/Region.

Restarting of Kayamkulam Power Projects

3660. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to restart Kayamkulam Power Project;

(b) if so, the details of the announcement made at a conference organized by IPPAI; and

(c) the details of the proposals and the plan and response of the Ministry and NTPC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Kayamkulam project (350 MW) of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been fully commissioned in 1999-2000 and is in operation since then.

Rail Projects In Uttaranchal

3661. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals submitted by the Government of Uttaranchal for construction of new railway lines, gauge conversion, doubling of railway lines and electrification of railway routes;

(b) the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) the details of present status of the ongoing projects/surveys alongwith the funds allocated to each of the project and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(d) the time by which these projects and surveys are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Government of Uttaranchal has proposed for taking the work of construction of a new Broad Gauge line from Kiccha to Khatima. An updating survey for the same has been completed and the proposal has been processed for necessary approvals.

(c) and (d) Gauge conversion of Bareilly-Lalkuan has been taken up as part of Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura and Kasganj-Bareilly gauge conversion. The work on this project has been taken up in phases. Earthwork and bridge works are in various stages of progress on Kanpur-Kasganj and Mathura-Kasganj-Bareilly sections. Arrangements are also being made to take up work on Bareilly-Lalkuan section. An expenditure of Rs. 84.74 crs. has been incurred on this project upto 31/3/02. An outlay of Rs. 29.89 crore has been provided for the work in the budget 2002-2003. No target date has been fixed for completion of the project and the same would depend upon availability of resources. There are no ongoing surveys in the state.

Laying of Pipelines for CNG

3662. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indraprastha Gas Limited has started laying of pipeline in the capital for CNG supply;

(b) if so, whether all the CNG stations would be linked to that pipeline project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total investment to be made in the laying of pipeline work and the time by which task is likely to be completed; and

(e) the extent to which such efforts are going to solve CNG crisis in the capital ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) is progressively expanding Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) infrastructure and, accordingly pipelines are being laid to meet the requirement. IGL has recently completed 12 inch dia. pipeline from Dhaura Kuan to G.T. Karnal Road at a cost of Rs. 25 crore. Work on laying of small dia. pipeline is going on.

At present IGL has 55 CNG stations connected with the pipelines. Where it is technically feasible more number of CNG stations would be connected with the pipelines.

To meet the increased demand of CNG the number of CNG stations will be increased to 110 and the compression capacity would be increased to 16.11 lakh Kg per day by June, 2003.

Metering of Power Electricity Connections

3663. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a policy decision for 100% metering of power/electricity consumption by all individual households in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is providing financial assistance to States to undertake metering at concessional rate of interest;

(d) number of States which have completed 100% metering; and

(e) the target date by which all States are likely to complete 100% metering ?

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

(b) Considering the importance of metering and reducing transmission and distribution losses, in the Power Ministers Conference held on February 26, 2000, it was resolved to have a time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001. In pursuance of the decision taken in the Power Ministers

Conference, 100% metering programme has been taken up in two phases:

- (i) Phase-I: Metering upto 11 kv feeders and HT consumers upto March, 2001.
- (ii) Phase-II: Metering of all consumers by December, 2001.

To bring about commitment towards distribution reforms, State Electricity Boards/Utilities have been asked to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Ministry of Power as a pre-requisite for release of APDRP funds. Till now 18 states have signed the MoA. In the MoA, it has been stipulated that 100% metering on the LT side of distribution transformers starting with the identified circles within six months from the sanction of loan/grant and fund availability and that 100% metering of all consumers will be done by December 31, 2002. It has also been stipulated that feeder metering from point of input up to 11 kV feeder level shall be completed and made operational within three months from the signing of the MoA, no new connections shall be released without meters and that it would be mandatory to install tamper proof, static/high precision energy meters for all customers within 7 months of the signing of MoA. For industrial and commercial consumers, the meters shall be with digital interface.

(c) Financing of electricity metering is of high priority for Power Finance Corporation (PFC). Presently PFC is financing up to 80% of the total cost of exclusively electricity metering schemes. The rate of interest charged by PFC on the high priority schemes is normally lower than the low priority schemes (like thermal generation schemes).

(d) and (e) As per information available, 15 states have achieved 100% metering at 11 kV feeder level and 10 States have achieved 100% metering at consumer level. Substantial progress has been achieved in metering of industrial/domestic and commercial consumers. However, metering in respect of agricultural and Kutir Jyoti consumers has been rather slow. The Government is providing funds under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for providing meters right up to the consumer level. The PFC is providing financial assistance to states to undertake metering under the counter part funding of schemes sanctioned under the APDRP. The Utilities are working towards the end to achieve 100% metering at consumer level.

Modernisation of Defence System

3664. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the immediate problems which are being necessitated to modernise and upgrade the country's defence system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether recent terrorist attack at Srinagar and Gandhi Nagar are some of these threats which alert the security of the nation; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken to deal with such problems ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Government has carried out a comprehensive review of the National Security including the management of Defence and internal Security. Based on this review, other studies undertaken by the Government and a continuous appraisal of the security environment, a series of measures for strengthening the National Security System have already been initiated. These measures will inter-alia ensure enhanced efficiency, resilience and responsiveness of the structures, processes and procedures in Defence Management. Further steps, as may be considered necessary to deal with the dynamic security environment would be initiated by the Government after taking into account all relevant factors.

[Translation]

Disappearance of Pilots

3665. SHRI SUBODH RAY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of pilots of Air Force have disappeared while on training flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts to inquire into the said incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) In the current financial year, two pilots, namely Squadron Leader TJA Khan and Flying

Officer D. Dahiya are missing after the accident of MiG-21 aircraft in Tezpur, Assam on 20th April, 2002. They are presumed to be dead.

(c) and (d) A Court of Inquiry has been instituted to probe the accident. Since the crash site could not be located, the exact cause of the accident is yet to be established.

[English]

Compensation to the Family Member of Employees of DVC

3666. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 600 dependent of expired employees of Damodar Valley Corporation are waiting for appointment on compassionate grounds for the last 10 years;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Appointments on compassionate ground depend on availability of vacancies. In DVC a quota of 25% vacancies in the unskilled category of posts has been earmarked for employment in compassionate cases and empanelled persons are provided with employment under this category as per available vacancies. The project-wise cases under compassionate category whose father/mother expired while in DVC service are as under:

1. Chandrapura Thermal Power Station	93
2. Bokaro Thermal Power Station	77
3. Durgapur Thermal Power Station	124
4. Mejia Thermal Power Station	02
5. Maithon Project	181
6. Other small projects of DVC	218
	<hr/> 695

(c) DVC has constituted Committees in each project to assess the economic and social status of deceased employee's families to formulate a revised policy on Compassionate Appointments.

Iran's Cooperation in India

3667. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran have recently agreed to promote and expand energy sector between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any power project in India is proposed to be taken up under this agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) India and Iran have been pursuing bilateral cooperation in many fields including in the energy sector. Our cooperation in the energy sector includes hydrocarbons and power. As regards, hydrocarbons, India and Iran have been constituted a Joint Committee to study various aspects of supply of Iranian gas to India. The Joint Committee has held five meetings so far, the last being held in Tehran in August, 2002.

During the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to Iran in April, 2001, an MoU for cooperation in the Power Sector was signed between the two countries.

This Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the two countries in the field of power includes both conventional and non-conventional source. It mentions that both parties can enhance their cooperation in the field of power including investments for mutual benefit. It further mentions that the parties shall cooperate in power generation, transmission and distribution and in technology development in these areas including manufacture/repair of the power transformers and boilers.

In the 12th Session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Committee Meeting held in New Delhi on May 20-21, 2002, it was informed to Iranian side that major Indian companies like Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Larsen & Toubro (L&T) can participate in projects, supply of equipments and consultancy. They also suggested that Indian and Iranian companies could also undertake joint projects in their respective countries and also third countries. Both sides agreed to follow-up the present discussions for production cooperation in the field of medium sized hydro-electric plants between the Indian Company (BHEL) with its Iranian counterpart (IDRO).

Installation of Petrol Pumps by Oil Companies

3668. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Government oil companies are not installing the new petrol pumps in the country whereas the private oil companies are tapping all the potential sites which shall cause great loss of PSU's;

(b) if so, whether the Government have not given free hand to PSU's to appoint their dealers as per their own policy;

(c) if so, whether the Government is giving unnecessary advantage to the private sector oil companies on the cost of these PSU's and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to direct the oil PSU's to gear up the work of selection and commissioning the new sites and selection of dealers so that they may face the competition from the private players; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) In order to provide commercial freedom to the Government Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), in the wake of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1.4.2002, the Government have dissolved the Dealer Selection Boards. The selection of dealers/distributors will now be undertaken by the OMCs themselves as per the policy to be formulated by them and approved by the Government. Also, the OMCs have freedom to select locations for retail outlet dealerships, provided that the locations meet certain norms like commercial viability and non-encroachment of the existing retail outlets.

Demand of Gas

3669. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) the details of the country's total demand of gas at present against its availability;

(b) whether the recent gas discoveries by the consortium of Reliance Industries and Canada's Niko on K.G. Basin will fully meet the demand of gas in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the demand of gas 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) to (d) As per the Hydrocarbon Vision-2025 the demand of Natural Gas has been assessed to be 151 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) which will go upto 231 MMSCMD in the year 2006-07. The current supply is around 65 MMSCMD. The recent gas discoveries by the consortium of Reliance Industries Limited and Niko Resources Ltd. Canada in Krishana Godavari Offshore Basin on the East Coast is expected to produce 25-35 MMSCMD of gas as per the estimates of the consortium. Despite the additionality in gas supply there will remain a large gap between demand and supply. This may be met by import of (a) gas through pipeline and (b) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). To attract the investment in LNG sector LNG has been placed under Open General License (OGL) list with permission for 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Production and Consumption of Petroleum Products

3670. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the production of petroleum products like petrol, diesel etc. is more than its consumption;

(b) if so, the consumption and production of petrol and diesel in the country during 2001-2002; and

(c) the share of the public and private refineries in the production thereof?

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

(b) The figures of consumption and production of petrol and diesel in the country during 2001-2002 are given below:

(Figures in TMT*)

	Petrol	Diesel
Consumption	7011	36546
Production	9702	39942

(* Thousand Metric Tonnes)

(c) The share of public sector, joint venture and private sector refineries in the production of petrol and diesel during 2001-2002 is given below:

(Figures in percentage)

	Public Sector	Joint Venture	Private Sector
Petrol	62	7	31
Diesel	68	6	26

[*Translation*]

Performance of H.M.T.

3671. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state the number of Hindustan Machine Tools (H.M.T.) units functioning in the country at present and the number of watches being produced in each unit during the last three years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Different Units under HMT Holding/Subsidiaries located in the country at present are as under:

Location	HMT Holding Co. (including Tractor)	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	HMT Watches Ltd.	HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.	HMT Bearings Ltd.
Hyderabad	1	1			1
Pinjore	1	1			
Mohali	1				
Aurangabad	1				
Bangalore		5	2		
Kalamassery		1			
Ajmer		1			
Tumkur			1		
Ranibagh			1		
Jammu				1	
Srinagar				1	
Total No. of Unit	4	9	4	2	1

Production of watches Unit-wise during the last three years and till date is given below:

Name of the Unit	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	(No. in lakhs)
				2002-03 (April-Nov.)
Watch factory, Bangalore	4.02	4.60	1.77	0.87
Watch factory, Tumkur	5.06	9.34	4.27	1.35
Watch factory, Ranibagh	4.08	5.50	4.02	1.00
Watch Marketing & Electronics Watch Division, Bangalore	7.47	4.39	2.15	0.38
Chinar Watches Srinagar/Jammu	0.98	0.45	0.58	0.58

[English]

Speed Limits of Trains

3672. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently taken a decision to reduce the speed limits of important trains;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;

(c) whether the curtailment of speed limits of such important trains will have impact on passengers and other trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a temporary speed restriction of 75 Km/h has been imposed during night time on Dhanbad, Mughalsarai and Danapur Divisions of East Central Railway and Madhupur-Jhajha section of Eastern Railway as a precautionary measure on security considerations, as a result of which, the punctuality of some trains has been adversely affected.

Upgradation of Testing Facilities

3673. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether auto industry is demanding since long for upgrading existing testing facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had sanctioned more than 70 crores for upgrading the existing testing facilities in Pune and Ahmednagar;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are considering to provide such facilities in other cities of the country including Hyderabad;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether his Ministry has urged the Finance Ministry to allocate whole amount of automobile cess for increasing testing facilities; and

(i) if so, the response of the Finance Ministry and further steps taken or being taken by Government to increase the testing facilities to fight global competition in the automobile industry ?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (g) Keeping in view the comprehensive requirements for upgradation and modernization of the automotive testing facilities in the country, the Government, on their own initiative, have approved a blue print for expansion of these facilities. The blue print involves major upgradation of testing facilities in and around Pune as

also setting up of two new testing centres in the north and south of the country. The action on blue print will be initiated after the funding is tied up. In the current year, out of resources made available, the Government, till now, have sanctioned new schemes amounting to Rs. 73.96 crores for augmenting testing facilities in Pune and Ahmednagar. New schemes, inter-alia, involve upgradation of homologation laboratory, photometric laboratory, engine R&D facilities and material testing facilities.

(h) and (i) The Department of Heavy Industry have been taking up with the Ministry of Finance the issue of increased allocation of cess funds commensurate with requirements and to the extent of the cess collection. Consequently, Ministry of Finance has allocated Rs. 2 crore from Cess fund during the current financial year for R&D purposes. In addition, a sum of Rs. 25 crores has been made available under plan for the same purpose.

Vacancy of SCs/STs/OBCs

3674. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vacancies reserved for SCs, STs and backward classes in his Ministry and subordinate offices have been filled up as on date;

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

(c) the steps are being taken by the Government for filling up of these post in each offices?

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

Modern Bridge Inspection and Management System

3675. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways has a modern bridge inspection and management system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for imposing safety charges on the railway fares when they are unable to assure safe journey for the passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Railway bridges are inspected thoroughly once every year at various levels as per laid down schedule in code and manuals. These are primarily visual inspections, and

elementary tools for inspection are used. Modern system of bridge inspection and management, as are now being implemented in countries abroad, are under study for consideration of implementation on Indian Railways. Preliminary works in this regard has already been done.

(c) Special Railway Safety Fund has been set up to clear the arrears of rehabilitation and rebuilding of over aged assets which include bridges, track, signalling system, mechanical rolling stock etc.

Non-Completion of Power Projects

3676. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of power projects belonging to various States which have been either not executed after sanctioning or left in the midway;

(b) if so, the details of such projects, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government now decided to take up those projects on the priority basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the plan prepared by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The details of projects granted techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority on which works are yet to be taken up/held up are given in statement I enclosed. The reasons for the delay are absence of investment decisions, non-achievement of financial closure due to absence of escrow. Some of these projects have been included in the 10th Plan capacity addition programme, a list of which is given in statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

A. List of Power Projects Granted Techno-Economic Clearance of Central Electricity Authority in which Construction Works are yet to be taken up

Name of Projects	Capacity (MW)
1	2
Thermal	
<i>Chhattisgarh</i>	
Sipat TPP St. I & II	1980
Korba East TPS	1070

1	2
Bhilai TPP	574
Raigarh Ph. I TPS	550
Korba (W)	420
<i>Bihar</i>	
Barh STPS	1980
Kahalgaon STPP St. II	1320
Muzaffarpur TPP Extn.	500
<i>Jharkhand</i>	
Tenughat St. II TPP	630
<i>Rajasthan</i>	
Anta St. II CCGT	650
Mathania ISCC PP	140
Dholpur CCGT	702.7
Barsingsar Lignite	500
Chambal CCGT	166
<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>	
Auriya St. II CCGT	650
Rosa TPP	567
<i>Gujarat</i>	
Kawas St. II CCPP	650
Gandhar St. II CCPP	650
Jamnagar Petcoke based TPP	500
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>	
Vindhyachal St. III STPS	1000
Ratlam DG	118.632
Pench TPP	500
Narsingpur CCPP	168.55
Bina Ph. I TPP	578
Guna CCPP	330
Khandwa CCPP	171.17
Pithampurkheda DGPP	119.68
Bhander CCGT	342

1	2
<i>Tripura</i>	
Monarchak CCGT	500
<i>Punjab</i>	
GTPP St. II	500
Goindwal Sahib TPP	500
<i>Maharashtra</i>	
Parli TPS Extn. St. I	250
Patalganga CCGT	447
Bhadravati TPP	182
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>	
Rayalseema St. II TPP	420
Visakhapatnam TPP	1040
Krishnapatnam 'B'	520
Vemagiri CCPP	492
<i>West Bengal</i>	
Bakreshwar TPS Extn.	420
Balgarh TPP	500
<i>Assam</i>	
Lakwa Waste heat Unit	38
<i>Karnataka</i>	
Nagarjuna TPP	1015
Mangalore TPP	1013.2
Kaimainike CCGT	107
<i>Kerala</i>	
Vypeen CCGT	679.2
Kannur CCGT	513
<i>Tamil Nadu</i>	
North Madras St. I TPP	1050
North Madras St. III TPP	525
Tuticorin TPP St. IV	525
Cuddalore TPs	1320
Vembar CCPP	1873

1	2
<i>Orissa</i>	
Ib Valley St. II TPP	500
Daburi TPS	500
Hydro	
<i>Himachal Pradesh</i>	
Kashang	66
Allain Duhangan	192
<i>Punjab</i>	
Shahpurkandi	168
<i>Kerala</i>	
Kuttiyadi Aug.	100
<i>Uttaranchal</i>	
Srinagar	330
<i>B. Sanctioned Power Projects in the Country on which Construction Works are Held Up.</i>	
<i>Manipur</i>	
Lok Tak Downstream	90
<i>Uttaranchal</i>	
Lakhwarviasi	420
<i>Orissa</i>	
Balimela Dam Toe PH	60
<i>Maharashtra</i>	
Dabhol CCGT Ph. II	1444

Statement II

List of Projects Included in 10th Plan (TEC granted by CEA but works not yet started)

Name of the Projects	Capacity (MW)
1	2
Thermal	
<i>Chhattisgarh</i>	
Sipat TPP St. I	1320
Korba East TPS	1070
<i>Bihar</i>	
Barh STPS	1980
Kahalgaoon STPP St. II	1320

1	2
<i>Jharkhand</i>	
Tenughat St. II TPP	630
<i>Rajasthan</i>	
Mathania ISCC PP	140
Barsingsar Lignite	500
<i>Gujarat</i>	
Jamnagar Petcoke based TPP	500
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>	
Vindhyachal St. III STPS	1000
Bina Ph. I TPP	578
<i>Punjab</i>	
GTTPP St. II	500
Goindwal Sahib TPP	500
<i>Maharashtra</i>	
Parli TPS Extn. St. I	250
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>	
Rayalseema St. II TPP	420
Vemagiri CCGT	492
<i>West Bengal</i>	
Bakreshwar TPS Extn.	420
<i>Assam</i>	
Lakwa Waste Heat Unit	38
<i>Karnataka</i>	
Kaniminike CCGT	107
Hydro	
<i>Himachal Pradesh</i>	
Kashang	66
<i>Punjab</i>	
Shahpurkandi	168
<i>Kerala</i>	
Kuttiyadi Aug.	100

[Translation]

Supply of Equipments regarding Solar Energy

3677. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether all equipments related to solar energy have been supplied to all districts of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and other States;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether relaxation under caste reservation rule has been made applicable in this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details of the solar energy related equipments supplied by the Government in all the States specially in each district of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing various solar energy schemes throughout the country, including the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Different types of solar energy systems such as solar home systems, street

lighting systems, water pumping system, water heating systems, solar cookers, solar power plants, solar lanterns and other solar energy systems are being promoted under these schemes by providing capital and interest subsidies and other fiscal incentives. The solar energy schemes of the Ministry are being implemented through the State renewable energy development agencies, selected non governmental organization, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Limited and some banks. Under the solar photo voltaic (SPV) programme, the Ministry allocated targets to the State agencies for installation of solar home systems and street, lighting systems in their respective States. These agencies usually implement the programme in all the districts of the States.

(c) Under the solar photovoltaic programme, the implementing organizations have been asked to ensure that at least 15% of the allocated systems are distributed to scheduled caste beneficiaries and 10% to scheduled tribe beneficiaries.

(d) The State-wise details of solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems and power plants installed in the country as on 31.3.2002 are given in Statement-I enclosed. The district-wise details of solar lanterns, solar home systems and solar street lighting systems installed in Bihar under the Ministry's programme are given in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

State-wise details of Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Systems & Power Plants installed under the Ministry's Programme, as on 31.3.2002

Sl.No.	State/UT/Others	Solar Lanterns	Home Lighting Systems	Street Lighting Systems	Power Plants & Other Systems
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27707	1033	3520	296.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4937	750	738	7.9
3.	Assam	541	2337	98	3
4.	Bihar	28275	679	199	0
5.	Chattisgarh	848	1157	363	0
6.	Goa	443	51	69	1.72
7.	Gujarat	31603	2552	1764	39.70

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Haryana	32727	9666	612	24.2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	20697	10848	1319	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	9202	12519	389	40
11.	Jharkhand	16374	102	135	0
12.	Karnataka	7334	4156	865	33.0
13.	Kerala	39681	8689	815	69.70
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8564	159	5714	362.40
15.	Maharashtra	8680	721	3388	191.44
16.	Manipur	3883	650	370	11
17.	Meghalaya	4875	540	593	42
18.	Mizoram	5812	1645	315	0
19.	Nagaland	95	143	271	6
20.	Orissa	7823	2686	5666	36.50
21.	Punjab	14495	2520	1666	151
22.	Rajasthan	4716	28464	6395	90.40
23.	Sikkim	720	310	127	0
24.	Tamilnadu	12086	471	2272	242
25.	Tripura	17805	2238	760	24.57
26.	Uttar Pradesh	52815	50938	550	424
27.	Uttaranchal	27027	32204	250	80
28.	West Bengal	3662	25916	1461	453.70
29.	A & N Islands	796	405	358	167
30.	Chandigarh	1675	275	0	0
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	4753	0	301	15
34.	Lakshadweep Islands	0	0	0	385
35.	Pondicherry	637	13	62	0
36.	Others (NGOs, PSUs)	26,399	1895	0	338.70

Statement-II

District-wise details of Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Systems Installed in Bihar under the Ministry's Programme as on 31.3.2002

S. No.	Districts	Solar Lanterns	Solar Home Systems	Solar Street Lighting Systems
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Patna	2987	50	45
2.	Nalanda	1290	—	22
3.	Bhojpur	692	10	—
4.	Rohtas	643	11	—
5.	Buxar	491	5	—
6.	Bhabhua	197	—	—
7.	Gaya	551	10	32
8.	Nawada	515	—	—
9.	Aurangabad	832	5	—
10.	Jahanabad	1105	10	10
11.	Saran	314	—	10
12.	Siwan	360	5	—
13.	Gopalganj	284	—	8
14.	Muzaffarpur	1284	5	—
15.	Vaishali	949	10	—
16.	Sitamarhi	197	10	—
17.	Seohar	200	35	—
18.	East Champaran	1014	105	7
19.	West Champaran	625	50	—
20.	Darbhanga	831	15	5
21.	Madhubani	692	40	—
22.	Samastipur	2565	40	2

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Saharsa	645	5	20
24.	Madhepura	188	5	—
25.	Supaul	272	15	—
26.	Purnea	395	10	—
27.	Kishanganj	297	5	—
28.	Araria	123	—	—
29.	Bhagalpur	270	—	2
30.	Katihar	862	10	26
31.	Banka	405	—	—
32.	Munger	855	15	10
33.	Lakhisarai	657	15	—
34.	Begusarai	1285	5	—
35.	Khagaria	474	5	—
36.	Jamui	422	5	—
37.	Sheikhpura	307	10	—
38.	Arwal	—	—	—
39.	BREDA, H.Q.	2200	158	—
Total		28275	679	199

*[English]***Development of LCA**

3678. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the development of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) is progressing as per the schedule;

(b) if not, the reasons for slow pace of development and the cost escalation as a result thereof;

(c) whether any firm revised schedule for induction of LCA has been drawn up;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) The estimated manufacturing cost of LCA; and

(f) the time by which the LCA is likely to be inducted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) is in advanced stage of Flight testing. 41 flight tests have been successfully conducted on two technology demonstrators of LCA.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) The unit fly-away cost of LCA during manufacturing is estimated at Rs. 85.00 crore (at 2001 price level).

(f) The Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) of LCA is planned to be obtained by the year 2005-2006 for induction in Indian Air Force.

Hydro Electric Project by NHPC in Orissa

3679. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Ministry of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) propose to start any hydro power project in Orissa;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Governments of Orissa and National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) are in a stage of preliminary negotiation for execution of the Chipilima 'B' Project (200 MW) and 3 run-of-river projects called the Sindol Complex (Sindol-I, II & III) (320 MW) on the river Mahanadi. The Government of Orissa has expressed its desire to entrust development of these projects to the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation with the stipulation that no area would come under submergence and no family would be affected due to execution of these projects. The NHPC has informed Government of Orissa that submergence and displacement of people cannot be totally eliminated in the development of hydro projects specially in respect of projects having a vast project expanse and moderate density of population. However, they would strive to reduce the extent of submergence, minimize the displacement of families and mitigate the distress.

Agricultural Programmes on A.I.R.

3680. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Agricultural Programmes are regularly broadcasted from all the Radio Stations in the country;

(b) if so, the names and number of stations which are producing these programmes and broadcasting;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of the Expert Farm Radio Officers are posted at various stations in the country;

(e) the number of the posts are vacant at present;

(f) whether the Government have framed the new policy for farm broadcasts; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that all the AIR stations in the country except Vividh Bharati and Community Radio Stations, are broadcasting Agricultural programmes on a regular basis.

(d) and (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that as on 31.10.2002, 28 Farm Radio Officers (FRO) are posted at various Stations of AIR. Since the post of FRO has now been amalgamated with that of the Programme Executive, no vacancy is available in the grade of FRO.

(f) and (g) Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous corporation and enjoys autonomy in programme matters within the mandate laid down under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. Government has no role to play in this regard. However, Prasar Bharati has informed that Farm and Home programmes in AIR Stations are produced in consultation with the Ministries/Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, of the Centre/State Governments. Special programmes are designed by AIR to cater to day-to-day/seasonal needs of the farming community, which is a continuous process.

Vacancies in High Courts

3681. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have sought proposal from the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors for filling of vacancies of Judges in High Courts as reported in daily The Hindu dated November, 19, 2000; and

(b) if so, the response of States/Chief Justice and Governors thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts, the Chief Ministers and the Governors of States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of existing and anticipated vacancies during the next six months. They have last been reminded on October, 28, 2002.

Against the approved strength of 647 Judges in 21 High Courts, 504 Judges were in position leaving 143 vacancies to be filled up as on 9th December, 2002. Government have received recommendations for filling up 70 vacancies from the Chief Justices of some High Courts.

Publication of Newspapers

3682. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received requests in regard to publication of some new daily, weekly, fortnightly newspapers in the country during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03;

(b) if so, the number of requests received so far from various States, State-wise;

(c) the details of number of newspapers for which approval has been accorded, the number of requests still under consideration and the number of requests rejected alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the details and the names and addresses of the dailies, weeklies and fortnightlies being published as on September 2002, State-wise?

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

(b) and (c) During the period from 1.4.2001 to 30.09.2002, the Office of Registrar, Newspapers for India (RNI) received 28,610 applications for verification of titles. Out of which, 18,352 were approved; 1,048 are under consideration; 8,568 were rejected due to non-availability of titles in terms of provisions of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. State-wise break-up is given in statement enclosed.

(d) As on 30.9.2002, a total number of 5,793 dailies, 19,147 weeklies and 7,124 fortnightlies were registered as newspapers with the RNI. The state-wise break-up and the details regarding the names and addressed of these publications to the extent normally compiled by the RNI are available in the Annual Report of the RNI titled, 'Press in India'. These details are also available on RNT's website-www.mi.nic.in.

Statement

The State-wise break-up of applications received, approved, pending and rejected for verification of titles during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 (from 1.4.2002 to 30.9.2002).

S.No.	State/Union Territory	2001-2002 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2002			2002-2003 1.4.2002 To 30.9.2002			Pending (as on 30.9.2002)
		Received	Approved	Rejected	Received	Approved	Rejected	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	9	9	0	2	2	1	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	817	576	213	568	350	101	117
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	0	3	3	0	0
4.	Assam	86	48	32	39	32	3	4
5.	Bihar	89	66	32	64	32	14	18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	Chandigarh	76	45	40	56	27	14	15
7.	Chhattisgarh	235	174	51	135	66	49	20
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7	4	3	1	1	0	0
9.	Daman & Diu	4	4	0	1	1	0	0
10.	Delhi	2376	1285	978	1507	780	492	235
11.	Goa	48	31	14	22	19	1	2
12.	Gujarat	907	674	190	530	316	122	92
13.	Haryana	228	165	55	122	85	26	11
14.	Himachal Pradesh	67	49	13	27	22	5	0
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	77	60	16	34	30	4	0
16.	Jharkhand	64	35	15	42	24	7	11
17.	Karnataka	1171	986	298	842	578	198	48
18.	Kerala	743	570	233	446	342	134	20
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1146	717	314	681	412	178	91
21.	Maharashtra	4794	2763	1732	2027	1217	796	14
22.	Manipur	12	10	0	13	13	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	8	8	0	9	9	0	0
24.	Mizoram	46	32	12	22	20	1	1
25.	Nagaland	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Orissa	310	219	77	143	112	25	6
27.	Pondicherry	24	19	4	18	13	3	2
28.	Punjab	212	115	27	90	56	8	26
29.	Rajasthan	469	316	94	356	193	73	90
30.	Sikkim	5	3	2	0	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	1562	1010	522	811	610	201	10
32.	Tripura	7	7	0	6	6	0	0
33.	Uttaranchal	167	129	49	127	63	41	23
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1956	1283	610	1223	708	323	192
35.	West Bengal	568	483	85	350	312	38	0
Total		18293	11898	5711	10317	6454	2857	1048

Portrayal of Indian Women in films

3683. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 483 on December 22, 2000 regarding portrayal of Indian women in films and state :

(a) whether the guidelines for certification of films, issued under Section 5B (2) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 are being strictly followed by the Central Board of Film Certification (Censor Board);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken against the persons for not strictly following these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) As informed by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), the guidelines are being followed.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Production of Crude Oil/Gas

3684. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that despite expenditure of Rs. 40,000 crore during Eighth Five Year Plan, the Government had provided plan outlay of Rs. 75,000 crore in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether physical targets for crude oil/Gas production etc. have not been enhanced proportionately to the quantum of increase in approved Ninth Plan outlay; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) During the Eighth Five year Plan against an outlay of Rs. 24,000 crores the cumulative expenditure was Rs. 40,452.94 crores. The enhanced outlay for the Ninth Five Year Plan was Rs. 78,401 crores mainly due to the following reasons :

- (i) Acceleration of exploration efforts especially in high cost deep water offshore and frontier areas;
- (ii) Acquisition of acreages abroad to secure equity oil and gas;
- (iii) in order to arrest decline of production from the existing fields, improved reservoir management practices and to increase recovery factor a number of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) and Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) projects were to be undertaken by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL);
- (iv) Creation of adequate domestic refining capacity;
- (v) Augmentation and upgradation of marketing and distribution facilities;
- (vi) Improvement of product quality; and
- (vii) Setting up of strategic tank ages for ensuring supply of crude oil and petroleum products.

Due to enhanced outlay over the Ninth Plan, ONGC and OIL have been able to arrest the natural decline from the existing major fields by undertaking EOR and IOR projects. In exploration of oil and gas, there may not be a direct correlation between expenditure and reserve accretion as exploration outcomes are some what uncertain due to inherent geological risks.

Speedy Disposal of Cases

3685. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Law Commission has again taken up a study on judicial arrears to suggest measures for speedy disposal of cases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) The Law Commission has informed that the present Law Commission has not taken up any study on judicial arrears to suggest measures for speedy disposal of cases.

(b) Question does not arise.

Sanitation and Passenger Amenities at Guwahati Railway Station

3686. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State for Railway during his recent visit to Guwahati took note of the failure of railway authorities to maintain sanitation and passenger amenities at the Guwahati Station, which is considered as the face of the Indian Railways in the North-East;

(b) If so, the specific drawbacks were taken note of by him;

(c) whether any project has been drawn out for improvement and development of this station into a model station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) During inspection of Guwahati station on 26.10.2002, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways had noticed some deficiencies such as rough and uneven condition of platform nos. 4 & 5, poor condition of the kiosks of tea stalls on these platforms, clogging of drain between platform nos. 5 & 6, accumulation of garbage near goods line No. 5, accumulation of water on the platform nos. 4 & 5, improper illumination on platform nos. 4, 5, 6 & 7 and inadequate sitting accommodation for waiting passengers.

(c) and (d) Action has already been taken to rectify these deficiencies by deployment of extra manpower to improve sanitation, provision of adequate number of dustbins and improvement of platforms. Moreover, in order to provide various upgraded passenger amenities, Guwahati Railway station has also been selected as a model station and for this purpose Rs. 1.55 crores have been sanctioned.

[Translation]

Integrated Rural Energy Programme in Jharkhand

3687. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programme being implemented under IREP in Jharkhand;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to the progress made under the Integrated Rural Energy Programme in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) being implemented in various States including Jharkhand, aims at developing capabilities at State, District and Village (block) levels for the preparation and implementation of block-level integrated rural energy plans and projects for meeting the energy needs for subsistence and productive purposes through the optimum mix of energy sources, with focus on renewable energy. The implementation of the programme is carried out through two components, namely, the Central Sector component under which support is provided for development of capabilities, including provision of staff and their training, and the State Sector component under which financial support is provided from the State outlay for promoting various rural energy devices, extension and other related activities. The programme is under implementation in Jharkhand through the State Nodal Agency- Jharkhand Energy Development Agency (JAREDA), in eight blocks, namely Angara (Ranchi), Namkum (Ranchi), Patmada (East Singhbhum), Gopikander (Dumka), Bharno (Gumla), Nagarutari (Palamu), Barkatta (Hazaribagh) and Tonto (West Singhbhum).

(b) and (c) The latest study on the progress of the IREP entitled "Analysis of IREP and Development of Capacity Building Strategy", was taken up by the Government, with the support of United Nations Development Programme, in twelve States including Jharkhand (then part of the State of Bihar), in the year 1999-2000. The study has brought out that as a result of IREP, Minimum infrastructure for preparing rural energy plans and projects at the district and State levels have been set up. Further, IREP has enabled rural people and field development officials to appreciate different dimensions of the rural energy problem and how it should be tackled. IREP has also brought about large-scale awareness about new and renewable energy and need for conservation of energy in rural areas. The study has recommended that IREP should be consolidated and that the implementation of the Programme needs to be strengthened, for which State Governments, including Jharkhand, should provide for increased flow of resources.

Construction of Power Plants

3688. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to State:

(a) whether the construction of power plants in Bihar and West Bengal are lagging much behind their schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which they are lagging behind in each case as per the figures of the last month;

(d) the cost escalation due to unnecessary delay; plant-wise;

(e) whether the Government have held any office responsible or guilty in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) Purulia PSS (900 MW) in West Bengal is running behind schedule. The estimated cost has gone to Rs. 3188.90 crore from the original Rs. 146.56 crore. The project was originally scheduled for commissioning in 2002-03 but it is now expected to be commissioned in 2007-08. The project has been delayed due to delays in loan agreement with OECF and in finalization of supply orders. The cost has increased due to general price escalation. In order to expedite the execution of this project and to prevent further time and cost overrun, West Bengal and NHPC have agreed through an MOU to have this project executed through a joint venture.

Electrification of Railway Stations in Rajasthan

3689. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway station of Rajasthan particularly in Churu Parliamentary Constituency where electrification and other facilities have been provided;

(b) the number of such railway stations in the said constituency where electrification work could not be undertaken alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which electrification work is likely to be completed in these station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Railways do not maintain the statistic State-wise and Constituency -wise. However, there are about 27 Railway stations in Churu Parliamentary Constituency where electrification and other facilities have been provided. The names of these stations are : Sri Dungargarh Bigga,

Parsenu, Rajaldesar, Ratangarh, Ratangarh West, Molisar, Juharpura, Depalsar, Churu, Aslu, Dudhwa-Khera, Hadyal, Dokwa, Sadulpur, Sardarshahr, Dularsar, Golsar, Melusar, Bissau, Parihara, Talchhapar, Sujangarh, Jaswantgarh, Ladnun, Balsamand & Sanvrad.

The remaining 10 Railway stations, where other facilities except electrification have been provided as per the norms, are:

Udsar Halt, Khilerian Halt, Nosaria Halt, Biggabas Ramsara Halt, Sital Nagar Halt, Payali, Sri Makrinath Nagar Halt, Sirsala Halt, Mahansar & Loha Halt.

(b) The 10 stations mentioned in para 2 above are not electrified as they do not qualify for electrification as per the prescribed norms.

(c) Does not arise.

Selling of Overhead Projectors

[English]

3690. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether C & AG in its Report No. 8 of 1999 (Air Force and Navy) had brought out the fact of selling Overhead Projectors at high prices by NCCF;

(b) whether the C & AG also wanted to know the reasons for not elaborating as to what "other items" and the reasons for not elaborating those items by DOP & T;

(c) whether the C& AG further wanted to get the DOP&T OM dated July 14,1981 reviewed;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry has taken action on that report of C&AG;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which his Ministry is likely to take action on that Report?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) C & AG in their said report observed that in a particular case, the prices quoted by National Co-operative Consumers Federation of India (NCCF) for overhead projectors were higher as compared to the quote of a private vendor.

(b) and (c) C& AG, *inter alia*, observed that it was not clear as to what items were covered under the terms

"other items" in DOP&T's O.M. dated 11.4.1994 and directed that the items which ought to be purchased from Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar, NCCF etc. should be specified.

(d) to (f) Action Taken Report in respect of audit para No. 11 of the said Report of C & AG has been furnished by Ministry of Defence to Ministry of Finance.

Funds allotted to Doordarshan of N.E. States

3691. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the funds have been allotted to Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati and North-East States for sponsored programmes in 2002-2003; and

(b) the details and number of firms have been allotted programmes in 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan does not allot any funds to the Kendras for sponsored programmes.

However, Doordarshan allots funds for commissioned and royalty programmes to different Kendras. Details of Funds allotted to the Kendras in North Eastern Region including Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi (also acquiring programmes for the North East), during the year 2002-2003 are as under :

(In thousands of Rs.)

S.No.	Kendra	Commissioning of programme	Royalty	PPSS*	Total
1.	Guwahati	80000	5000	7000	92000
2.	PPC (NE), Guwahati	105000	—	3000	108000
3.	Imphal	5000	—	2000	7000
4.	Kohima	5000	—	2000	7000
5.	Shillong	5000	—	2000	7000
6.	Agartala	5000	—	2000	7000
7.	Aizawl	5000	—	2000	7000
8.	Itanagar	5000	—	2000	7000
9.	Dibrugarh	5000	—	1000	6000
10.	Tura	5000	—	1000	6000
11.	Silchar	5000	—	1000	6000
12.	Delhi	2000	—	—	20000
Total		250000	5000	25000	280000

*Payment for Professional and Special Services

Shunt Capacitors to Improve the Voltage Profile

3692. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up shunt capacitors to improve the voltage profile of State Electricity System in Bihar;

(b) if so, the estimated number of shunt capacitors required for this system during the year 2001-02 and number of them have been set up;

(c) whether the present power distribution system can be improved by setting up these shunt capacitors in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details of funds provided by the Union Government for this purpose?

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

[English]

New Rail Lines

3693. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation for opening of new railway route between Thiruvannamalai and Hosur via Jollarpetti, Bargur and Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri and Kuppam via Krishnagiri;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTAREYA): (a) to (c) The demand for these lines have not been received from the State Government in the recent past. However, a survey for new line from Jolarpettai to Hosur via Krishnagiri has been completed in 2000-2001. As per the survey report, cost of construction of this 104 km. long line has been assessed as Rs. 226 crore with a negative rate of return. In view of unremunerative nature of this proposal and heavy throw forward of the ongoing projects, it has not been found feasible to consider the proposal. No survey have been taken up for other referred lines.

[Translation]

Charging more fare by Booking Clerk

3694. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by the government regarding charging of more fare than the prescribed rates during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have received similar complaints against the booking clerk in North-Eastern Railway Zone;

(c) If so, the number of complaints received from January, 2002 to till date and the details of action taken in this regard; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to check such type of malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (d) No separate statistic are maintained regarding the complaints about charging of more fare then the prescribed rates. However, Complaints reviewed with respect to specific locations in this regard are investigated and action taken on merits. To prevent such type of malpractices, frequent checks are conducted by Commercial as well as Vigilance departments and the staff wherever found responsible are taken up under Discipline & Appeal Rules.

[English]

Infrastructure at NTPC Farakka

3695. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the infrastructure originally created at NTPC Farakka was meant for generating 2100 MW of electricity for serving Eastern Region;

(b) if so, whether the project is running with a capacity of 1600 MW only;

(c) if so, the time by which remaining projected capacity of 500 MW is proposed to be installed;

(d) whether another power project is proposed to be set up in that region without completing the Farakka NTPC Project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Farakka Super Thermal Power Station of 1600 MW capacity is fully under operation. Farakka Super Thermal Power Station Stage-III (1x 500 MW) could not be taken up due to non-availability of permission from the concerned authorities for release of water from Farakka barrage. As there is no other viable source of water available, proposal for the expansion of Farakka could not be revived.

In the Eastern region, National Thermal Power Corporation is presently implementing Talcher STPP Stage-II (2000 MW) in Orissa. In addition, NTPC plans to take up Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) Stage-II and Barh STTP in Bihar and North Karanpura STPP in Jharkhand.

ROBs in Kerala

3696. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railway Over Bridges which are included in the Railway Works Progress in the State of Kerala during 2002-2003;

(b) the funds earmarked therefor and the current status of the work, project-wise; and

(c) the target fixed for the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) In all 18 works of Road Over Bridges were sanctioned during the year 2002-03 i.e. 8 works were sanctioned in the Railway Budget 2002-03 and 10 works were sanctioned during supplementary demands for Grants in August 2002. Details with name, allocation and current status of these works are given in the Statement enclosed. Being sanctioned during the current year, these are at different stages of planning and execution. In addition, 39 works of ROBs/RUBs sanctioned in the past, are in progress in Kerala. 6 Works are also in progress on deposit terms. Rs. 26.00 crore have been allotted for all these 57 works of ROBs during 2002-03.

(c) Target has not been fixed as it depends upon the completion of approaches work to be done by State Govt. Railway will make all out efforts to complete their portion of work either before or simultaneously with the work of approaches.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Year of Sanction	Allocation (Rs. In lakhs)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Nandikkara-ROB in lieu of LC No. 31	2002-2003	18.10	Work sanctioned during Railway Budget 2002-03, hence at different stages of planning and execution.
2.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 45 between Irinjala Kuda and Chalakudi stations	2002-2003	18.00	-do-
3.	Divine Nagar- ROB in lieu of LC No. 52	2002-2003	18.00	-do-
4.	Vellanchira - ROB in lieu of LC No. 46	2002-2003	18.00	-do-
5.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 261 between Payyanur and Thrikkaripoor stations	2002-2003	18.00	-do-
6.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 172 between Tirur and Tannur station	2002-2003	0.10	-do-
7.	Kunjipally - ROB in lieu of LC No. 217	2002-2003	18.00	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
8.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 228 between Telichery and Jagannatha Temple stations.	2002-2003	18.00	-do-
9.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 59 between Karu Khuty and Angamali stations	2002-2003	0.10	The work has been sanctioned in Supplementary Works Programme 2002-03 (in July- August), hence at planning stage.
10.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 14 between Punkunnam and Mulagunathukkavu stations.	2002-2003	0.10	-do-
11.	ROB in lieu of LC no. 170 between Tiirunavaya and Tirur stations	2002-2003	0.10	-do-
12.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 185 between Calicut and West Hill stations.	2002-2003	0.10	-do-
13.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 19 between Punkunnam and Trichur stations.	2002-2003	0.10	-do-
14.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 216 between Badagara and Mukkali stations.	2002-2003	0.10	-do-
15.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 226 between Mahe and Tallichery stations	2002-2003	0.10	-do-
16.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 241 between Cannanore and Cannanore South stations.	2002-2003	0.10	-do-
17.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 268 between Cheravattur and Lileshwar stations	2002-2003	0.10	-do-
18.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 274 between Kanhanghad and Pallikere stations.	2002-2003	0.10	-do-

Tidal Energy

3697. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to harness tidal energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress made thereon;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "progress made in this respect in Norway" appearing in the Times of India dated November 8, 2002;

(d) if so, whether similar progress has been achieved; and

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

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

(b) Gulf Of Kutch and Gulf of Cambay in Gujarat and Delta of Ganga in Sundarbans area of West Bengal are three potential sites in the country for tidal power generation. A techno-economic feasibility report was prepared for a 900 MW capacity tidal power plant by CEA in 1987. But the project could not be taken up due to its high installation cost. The Ministry, after carrying out a feasibility study, have got prepared a detailed project report for a 3 MW capacity tidal power plant proposed to be set up at Durgaduani Creek in Sundarbans area of West Bengal. Based on the recommendations of the detailed project report, the proposal for the country's first

tidal power plant is being processed by the Ministry. The experience gained in this project would be utilized in developing other potential sites for tidal power generation in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The news—item under reference is on harnessing ocean energy through water current turbine technology by revolving the blades of a windmill—like turbine, standing on the seabed. This technology is presently in the experimental stage. The Ministry is, however, proposing to harness ocean energy through the tidal route using barrage technology, as this technology has been found to be successful in France, Canada, Russia and China.

Power generation by NCES

3698. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMU-THIARY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have contemplated to set up power-generating projects to create necessary infrastructure to provide power connectivity in rural tribal areas with special reference to Bodoland Territory in Assam;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing various programmes for generating electricity in the country, especially in remote and difficult areas including the rural tribal areas of Assam.

Under these programmes installation of solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems and power plants, micro-hydel units, biomass gasifiers, wind energy systems and hybrid systems is being promoted through capital and interest subsidies and other fiscal incentives.

The programmes in Assam are being implemented through the Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC), sometimes in association with non-governmental organization. In the Bodo tribal areas, the Council with the support from the Ministry has installed solar home systems in 50 households in Bongaigaon district and 100 households in Sonitpur district. A further 300 systems are being installed in Sonitpur district. ASTEC is also developing proposals for solar electrification of some households in Barpeta district.

Uran Plant in Maharashtra

3699. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that 500 MW Uran Plant in Maharashtra is lying idle for want of fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to start the Uran Plant;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir, During the period April-November, 2002 the electricity generation at Uran gas station in Maharashtra was 2549 MUs against the target of 2456 MU. However the average gas supplied during the period April-November, 2002 has been 2.475 MMSCMD (Metric Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day) against a contracted quantity of 3.50 MMSCMD because of lower availability of gas from ONGC ex-Uran. According to Gas Authority of India Limited, gas availability has reduced considerably in the past to the present level of around 9.0 MMSCMD against an existing demand of over 15 MMSCMD.

(c) The power station is already in operation.

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

Performance of PSUs

3700. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Ministry of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of performance of Public Sector Oil Companies during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government considers further investment in these oil companies which can improve the performance of the PSUs; 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)

There are 14 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Out of these, five enjoy the statues of 'Navratna' companies and seven are 'Miniratna' companies and are earning profit. However, Biecco Lawrie Limited (BLL) and Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) have suffered losses in the years 2000-01 and 2001-02. In the current financial year 2002-03, BRPL too

has so far earned profit of Rs. 63 crore (unaudited). The performance of the oil PSUs during the last three years i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002 is given in statement enclosed

(b) and (c) Government have approved an immediate financial assistance of Rs. 135 crore to BLL to improve the current financial crunch and the performance of the company.

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Name of PSUs	Profit before tax			Profit after tax		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation	5,931.00	9,157.00	9,855.20	3,629.47	5,228.78	6,197.90
2.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	2,970.00	2,962.00	4,599.00	2,443.00	2,720.00	2,885.00
3.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	1,031.27	1,552.21	1,801.90	861.27	1,126.17	1,185.84
4.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	1,274.00	1,320.00	1,222.00	1,057.00	1,088.00	788.00
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	936.90	1,113.10	1,326.80	703.90	832.70	849.80
6.	Oil India Ltd.	623.79	601.36	803.22	409.70	467.36	525.22
7.	Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd.	32.00	(-) 57.44	(-) 309.00	32.00	(-) 57.00	(-) 199.00
8.	Engineers India Ltd.	193.21	195.68	112.47	126.20	123.85	24.71
9.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	191.68	147.43	88.88	143.14	122.43	63.71
10.	Kochi Refineries Ltd.	283.71	102.46	118.58	235.21	109.46	68.77
11.	Numaligarh Refineries Ltd.	Commenced in phases and commercial production declared on 1.10.2000	23.60	133.32	Commenced in phases and commercial production declared on 1.10.2000	21.60	122.98
12.	IBP Co.	47.71	61.22	289.95	41.71	54.22	195.99
13.	Balmer Lawrie	16.31	07.01	09.20	14.31	06.01	08.01
14.	Biecco Lawrie	0.18	(-) 08.67	(-) 10.90	0.18	(-) 08.67	(-) 10.90

Election in J & K

3701. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has made it mandatory to possess Identity Cards issued by the Election Commission in J & K elections;

(b) whether possession of the Identity Cards was to prevent fake voting and enable voting by genuine voters only in elections held in J & K;

(c) whether the Government Employees having their own Identity cards issued by their respective offices were

allowed to vote in the absence of Identity cards issued by Election Commission; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY) : (a) The Election Commission had issued an order directing that all electors in the State of Jammu and Kashmir who had been issued with their Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPICs), would have to produce their cards to exercise their franchise. However, since the use of EPICs for the purpose of voting was being introduced for the first time in the State, the Commission had permitted the electors, who had not yet obtained their EPICs to vote, provided their identity was otherwise established through certain prescribed alternative documents.

(b) With a view to preventing impersonation of electors, so as to make the right of genuine electors to vote under section 72 of the Jammu and Kashmir Act, 1957 really effective, a special scheme to issue EPICs to voters was devised. The Commission has, as a matter of Policy, been insisting on the production of EPICs or other alternative documents of identification by the voters, for establishing their identity at all elections starting with the general election to the Legislative Assembly of Haryana held in January-March, 2000.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SC/ST Officers in Oil Companies

3702. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of SC/ST officers in the post of Directors in his Ministry;

(b) the number of SC/ST officers appointed as General Manager/Deputy General Manager and Executive Directors in Indian Oil Corporation Limited/Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited/Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Engineers India Limited;

(c) the number of General Managers in these companies and the length of service in the said post;

(d) the minimum years required to be promoted from General Manager to Executive Director; and

(e) the steps being taken to fill the post of Directors from SCs/STs?

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) Officers are appointed by Department of Personnel and Training to man the posts of Directors in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. While appointing these Officers, the details regarding these candidates belonging to SC/ST are not given.

(b) The number of SC/ST officers in Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Engineers India Limited (EIL) are as under:-

Officers	IOCL	BPCL	HPCL	EIL
Deputy General Manager	6	8	5	4
General Manager	1	2	Nil	1
Executive Director	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

(c) the number of General Managers in IOCL, BPCL, HPCL and EIL are 93, 34, 16 and 25 respectively and the length of service in the said post varies from 1 year to 6 years.

(d) The minimum years required for consideration for promotion from General Manager to Executive Director in IOCL, BPCL, HPCL and EIL is 2, 5, 2 and 2 respectively. However, the minimum qualifying years at General Manager level varies from company to company, depending on the number of vacancies.

(e) All the General Managers and Executive Directors, belonging to all categories, including Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, are groomed and prepared for Board level positions and the names of suitable eligible officers are sent to Public Enterprises Selection Board for consideration, as and when nominations are invited.

More Facilities in Driver's Cabin of Trains

3703. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide more facilities in Driver's Cabin of trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be provided alongwith expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A competition for the Most Crew friendly Cab of Diesel loco was held in New Delhi on 16.11.2002 Railway Workshops, Diesel Sheds and Production Units took part. Different units provided a number of features to reduce fatigue and improve the comfort level/amenities for the drivers. An exercise is currently in hand to finalize the features that can be incorporated in the cab of Diesel locomotives.

(c) An estimate of time frame and fund requirement can be furnished only after decision on the features to be incorporated in the cab is finalized.

[English]

Family Courts

3704. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have established family courts in the country;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether proposals established new family court are pending with the Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the number of Family Courts, State/UT-wise, is enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. States/UTs are competent to set up new Family Courts in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

State-wise break up of the Family Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Family Courts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	3
4.	Gujarat	4
5.	Jharkhand	4

1	2	3
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
7.	Karnataka	10
8.	Kerala	9
9.	Madhya Pradesh	7
10.	Maharashtra	16
11.	Manipur	1
12.	Orissa	2
13.	Rajasthan	6
14.	Sikkim	1
15.	Tamil Nadu	6
16.	Uttar Pradesh	14
17.	Uttaranchal	5
18.	West Bengal	2
19.	Pondicherry	1
Total		100

Gauge Conversion between Rangia-Murkhongselek

3705. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMU-THIARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Rangia Junction-Murkhongselek meter gauge line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTAREYA): (a) to (c) Based on demands, the survey report for gauge conversion of Rangia to Murkhongselek and linked fingers has been updated. The proposal has been processed for necessary approvals. The work would be taken up as and when the requisite clearances are received and the work is included in the Budget.

VRS in ONGC

3706. SHRI P. H. PANDIAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced revised VRS in ONGC;

(b) if so, the eligibility for opting VRS alongwith the benefits thereof;

(c) the number of persons/ employees opted VRS after the introduction of revised VRS, post-wise;

(d) the number of applications accepted under the revised VRS;

(e) the number of applications rejected alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the rejected applicants are likely to be permitted to take VRS?

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) to (f) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[Translation]

Schemes under Power Sports Control Board

3707. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the welfare schemes being implemented by the Government under "Power Sports Control Board" programme under Youth Welfare Schemes;

(b) the criteria adopted by the Government for providing loan, grant of other financial assistances for these schemes:

(c) the details of the contribution of the State Governments in implementing of these schemes:

(d) the names of schemes being implemented by the Union Government and by the Government of Rajasthan or through other voluntary organizations in the State of Rajasthan under "Power Sports Control Board" programme/schemes during the last four years i.e. from April 1, 1998 till date; and

(e) the amount provided by the Union Government in the form of loan, grant or other financial assistance, year-wise, scheme-wise and agency-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir. No welfare schemes are being implemented under the "Power Sports Control Board" programme under Youth Welfare Schemes.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Implementation of Report on Crash

3708. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force is considering to effect a major overhaul of policies concerning men and material to reduce the air crash rate to the absolute minimum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the accident rate could have been reduced if work on implementing some unaddressed recommendations of report submitted in 1997 by the APJ Abdul Kalam Committee on Fighter Aircraft accidents; and

(d) the reasons for non-implementation of the unaddressed issues till now?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always afoot in Indian Air Force to reduce air crashes and improve flight safety.

Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued.

Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome any technical defects.

(c) and (d) The APJ Abul Kalam Committee on fighter aircraft accidents made a total of 84 recommendation. Out of these, 47 recommendations have already been implemented and 26 are under various stages of implementation. 11 recommendations were not accepted. As such, no recommendation has been left un-addressed.

Voter Identity Cards

3709. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that over 2 lakh people belonging to Jammu & Kashmir are living out of the State, most of them in camps etc. without being self-sufficient;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had apprised the Election Commission of this horrible situation;

(c) whether the Government would issue voter identity card to such persons and make arrangement for their voting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) As per information available, 56225 families have migrated from the Valley. Of these, 34305 families are staying in Jammu, 19338 families in Delhi and 2282 families in other States. 238 Kashmiri migrant families are living in 14 camps in Delhi and 4778 families in 12 camps in Jammu. Other are living as per their own arrangements. Various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations where Kashmiri migrants have been staying have been providing relief to the migrants in accordance with the rules in vogue in their States. The Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir had issued a public notice inviting attention of the Kashmiri migrants to approach zonal officers who have been designated at Delhi, Jammu and Chandigarh to accept applications from desirous persons applying for inclusion/correction/deletion of names from the electoral rolls.

(c) and (d) The migrants of Jammu and Kashmir living in various camps in Jammu region and outside the State have been enrolled as electors and provided facilities to cast their votes either in person or through postal ballot. It may be added that for the recently held general elections (2002) in Jammu and Kashmir, the Kashmir migrants were allowed to vote using electronic voting machines at the specially provided polling stations in Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi in addition to the facility of voting through postal ballot. For those Kashmiri migrants, who have moved out of the Valley but have chosen to keep their names in the electoral rolls of the Valley Assembly constituencies from where they had been displaced, the Commission has not yet worked out a scheme/design for the Electors' Photo Identity Cards as

their current address and the address on their electoral rolls are different.

Advertisements to Urdu Newspapers in Delhi

3710. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether there are some newspapers especially Urdu newspapers in Delhi which have very nominal circulation but are regularly getting Government advertisements;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to curb such extravagance expenditure;

(d) the total value of the advertisements given to the Urdu newspapers of Delhi during the last three years and the top three newspapers out of them getting the largest number of advertisements; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the top Government to ensure that the advertisements reach more and more people at a low cost?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) releases advertisements to newspapers/periodicals on its panel in accordance with the 'Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP'. Advertisements are released to newspapers and periodicals depending upon the publicity requirements and availability of funds. The rates for the newspapers are fixed on the basis of a formula devised by the Rate Structure Committee. In order to secure maximum coverage of the intended contents or messages, DAVP issues advertisements to newspapers and periodicals empanelled with them.

The total value of advertisements given to Urdu newspapers published from Delhi during the years, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 was Rs. 5627 lakhs, Rs. 52.57 lakhs and Rs. 45.29 lakhs, respectively. Details of top three Urdu newspapers out of these getting the maximum advertisements in terms of amount is given in Statement.

Statement

The details of top Three Urdu Newspapers Published from Delhi During the Years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, Getting the Maximum advertisements in terms of Amount (In Rs.)

S.No.	Name of Paper	Amount (in Rs.)
<i>For the Year 1999-2000</i>		
1.	Milap	939150
2.	Awam	735971
3.	Qaumi Awaz	589036
<i>For the year 2000-2001</i>		
1.	Milap	736875
2.	Awam	666929
3.	Jadid Indinon	607592
<i>For the year 2001-2002</i>		
1.	Quami away	885530
2.	Milap	625895
3.	Jadis Indinon	477236

COCO Petrol Pumps

3711. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of COCO petrol pumps given either on license or on running basis in the country;

(b) if so, whether any of these petrol pumps have been given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the policy of allotting COCO petrol pumps to SCs/STs, will also be followed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Oil Marketing Companies are not allotting petrol pups under COCO Scheme. Those retail outlets, which are

ready but selection of regular dealer is pending, are operated on COCO basis. These retail outlets are operated by an officer of the concerned oil company as over-all in charge of the outlet. Labour assistance is provided to the officer through a contractor.

[Translation]

Telephone conversation as an evidence

3712. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the doubts expressed by Delhi High Court refusal to admit telephone conversation as an evidence regarding basic character of Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA);

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

(c) whether the Government propose to incorporate some stringent provisions in POTA to make it more effective?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Special Leave Petition is being filed by the Delhi Police in the Supreme Court against the order of the Delhi High Court.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

Halt at Gossaigaon Hat Railway Station

3713. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMU-THIARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways appreciant the dire necessity and serious public importance of halting all the south-west bound trains at Kokrajhar Railway Station, the headquarters of Bodoland and the halt of Kamrup Express Trains at Gossaigaon Hat Railway Station;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) At present, Kokrajhar station is being served by 14 pairs of train services connecting it to various important destinations like Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai etc. Similarly, 5 pairs of trains including 5657/5658 Sealdah-Guwahati Kanchenjunga Express are serving Gossaigaon Hat station. These are considered adequate for the present level of traffic offering at these stations. Stoppage of additional South-West bound trains at Kokrajhar and that of 5959/5960 Kamrup Express at Gossaigaon Hat is not considered desirable at present.

Supply of Gas to RCF by GAIL and ONGC

3714. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether RCF, Mumbai Unit has been incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether GAIL and ONGC are not providing gas in sufficient quantum to RCF, Mumbai;

(d) if so, whether, the Government have taken any steps to improve gas supply to RCF, Mumbai; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. RCF has reportedly incurred loss of Rs. 133.47 crores (provisional) during the first six months of the current financial year i.e. April to September, 2002.

(c) The present allocation of natural gas-ex-Uran is 16.6 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) against the availability of around 9.0 MMSCMD, therefore, pro-rata cuts are effected on all consumers including RCF.

(d) and (e) Additional supply to RCF, Mumbai can be augmented when re-gassified Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) would be available from Dahej LNG terminal from the year 2004-05.

Storage Tanks at Petrol Pumps

3715. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the storage tanks fitted at the petrol pumps are not actually calibrated and are geometrically calibrated at the time of manufacturing;

(b) if so, whether there are always apprehension for the variation in the tank quantity because of the change of level after the fitting of such tanks;

(c) if so, whether some study has been conducted which can reflect the maximum variation in the quantity of product stored in such tanks;

(d) if not, the reasons for not considering the above mentioned two factors while conducting the inspection on the retail outlets and calculating these approximate stock figures; and

(e) the time by which such irregularities are to be stopped?

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 storage tanks and their fittings are factory made to standard dimensions as per Bureau of Indian Standards and are mathematically (geometrically) calibrated and not actually (physically) calibrated.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) During the inspections carried out at retail outlets, stock reconciliation is carried out taking into consideration permissible variation in operation level of +4% of tank stocks. For any established irregularities Oil Marketing Companies, take action as per the marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership agreement conditions.

Ticket Counters at Bhatinda Railway Junction

3716. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether this Ministry is aware of the fact that the existing ticket counters at Bhatinda Railway Junction are inadequate to cater the needs of Railway Commuters;

(b) whether this Ministry is proposing to increase the number of ticket counters; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposal and expected date from which the counters would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The booking counters available at Bhatinda railway station are considered adequate to cater to the present level of demand.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal for Additional Regional Grids

3717. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to increase the five district regional grids to eight grids;

(b) if so, the details of the components of the three new regional grids;

(c) the objectives of this decision; and

(d) the details of the benefit to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) There are five Regional Power Grids in the country. At present, there is no proposal to increase the number of Regional Power Grids.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Introduction of Heritage Tourism Trains

3718. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the various State Governments including Karnataka for introduction of Heritage Tourism Train, Palace on Wheels:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of each MOU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTAREYA): (a) to (c) The Indian Railways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra Government to operate a luxury tourist train in the Maharashtra sector. The Indian Railways have also finalised another MoU with the Karnataka Government to operate a luxury tourist train in Karnataka. The MoU with the Karnataka Government has not been signed so far. It has been included in the above MoUs that the Railways should be responsible for operating the train whereas the State Governments should provide all on-board and on-ground hospitality services.

The shells for luxury tourist train for the Maharashtra sector are under production.

[Translation]

Prices of Petrol and Diesel in States

3719. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the prevailing variation in prices of diesel, petrol and LPG in various States of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and justification thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments are charging extra taxes on diesel and petrol;

(d) if so, whether the diesel and petrol pumps situated at the bordering areas of Madhya Pradesh are on the verge of closure due to the extra taxes being levied; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to bring uniformity in prices of petroleum products throughout 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) to (e) Effective 01-04-02, the pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, have become market-determined. The oil marketing companies are now fixing the prices of these products after taking into account the prevalent international oil prices. The existing retail selling prices of diesel, petrol and LPG in the four metro towns are given in statement enclosed.

The selling prices of diesel, petrol and LPG vary from State to State mainly because of differences in the freight element and in the rates of taxes levied by various State Governments.

There exists differences in the retail selling prices of petrol and diesel in the bordering areas of Madhya Pradesh as compared to neighbouring States viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, UP and Chattisgarh. The selling prices are higher in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat when compared to Madhya Pradesh. However, the retail selling prices are lower in the bordering areas of UP, Rajasthan and Chattisgarh when compared to the bordering areas of Madhya Pradesh mainly due to difference in sales tax rates.

Statement

The current retail selling price of diesel, petrol and LPG in the four metros as on 12.12.2002.

	Diesel (Rs./Litre)	Petrol (Rs./Litre)	Domestic LPG (Rs./Cylinder)
Delhi	18.06	28.91	241.21
Mumbai	23.03	33.63	245.73
Chennai	19.83	31.45	248.19
Kolkata	19.43	30.41	266.30

[English]

Impact of Discovery of Gas in Energy Sector

3720. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of discovery of gas reserves in K.G. Basin, Andhra Pradesh in the energy sector in terms of availability and price of L.N.G.;

(b) whether the State Government would be getting royalty on account of use of gas reserves; 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) As per the Hydrocarbon 'Vision-2025' the demand of Natural Gas has been assessed to be 151 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) which will go up to 231 MMSCMD in the year 2006-07. The current supply is around 65 MMSCMD. The recent gas discoveries by the consortium of Reliance Industries Limited and Niko Resource Ltd., Canada in Krishna Godavari Offshore Basin on the East Coast is expected to produce 25.35 MMSCMD of gas as per the estimates of the consortium. Despite the additionally in gas supply there will remain a large gap between demand and supply. This may be met by import of (a) gas through pipeline, and (b) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The recent discovery of gas in KG Basin would not have significant impact on the availability and price of LNG.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Re-opening of Guwahati-Dhubri bound Trains in Lower Assam

3521. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways has contemplated to reopen the running of the Guwahati-Dhubri bound trains in lower Assam for the benefits and the advantage of the suffering people of the concerned areas:

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) 853/854 Passenger was running between Kamakhya-Dhubri upto 03.08.2000. The train had been partially cancelled from 04.08.2000 on Fakiragram Dhubri section owing to serious Law & Order problem faced in the area. With effect from 22.11.2002, the running of the train was extended from Fakiragram to Sapatgram on the request of travelling public and after clearance given by the State Administration. Restoration of the services between Sapatgram and Dhubri would be undertaken as and when clearance is received from the State Government.

Medical aid in Long Distance Trains

3722. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway identified 162 long distance trains in 2001 for provision of enhanced medical aid in the form of Augmented First Aid Boxes;

(b) if so, the total number of trains in which such facilities have been provided;

(c) the total number of trains that are likely to be provided such facilities during 2002; and

(d) the time by which all the trains are likely to be equipped with such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. One hundred and sixty two pairs of long distance, super fast trains having limited stoppages have been identified for provision of enhanced medical aid in

the form of Augmented First Aid Boxes containing a wider range of medicines and few resuscitative equipment. 98 pairs of identified trains have already been provided with Augmented First Aid Boxes. It has been proposed to provide Augmented First Aid boxes in all the nominated trains by 31.3.2003.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet at 12 noon.

11.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till twelve of the clock.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at twelve of clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE : SITUATION ARISING OUT OF REPORTED DEATH OF THREE FARMERS IN POLICE FIRING AT MUNDERVA SUGAR MILL IN BASTI DISTRICT, UTTAR PRADESH

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Farmers' agitation is going on. Many farmers have been killed(Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh) : The police have resorted to Lathi Charge and firing upon the farmers in the constituency of the Hon'ble Prime Minister(Interruptions) The law and order situation has deteriorated there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will listen to you but please resume your seat first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Government will give its response but you will have to maintain order in the House at all costs otherwise I will not be able to conduct the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

12.02 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was present in the other House. According to the information received from the State Government one person has died in Munderva. According to newspaper reports three people have died. I had spoken to the State Government and as per their information a deadbody has been recovered at a distance of 15 Kms. The body has been sent for a Post-mortem to ascertain whether the person was killed in police firing(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Please sit down. It is a matter related to the constituency of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. So, let him speak for himself(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : It has been clearly reported in the newspapers that three farmers have been killed in police firing and thousands of farmers were injured.(Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can understand the feelings of the hon. Members. As per the newspaper reports, sugarcane growers had launched an agitation there to press their demand for increasing the prices of sugarcane. They had an encounter with the police and three persons have died according to the news so published. But when I contacted Lucknow, I was informed that the police had fired some rounds in the air. Death of one person has been reported but his deadbody was found 15 Kms. away from the encounter site. It is possible that he might have died by a police bullet or may be due to some other reason? We are collecting facts and figures and have been in touch with the Chief Minister(Interruptions)

I may be given some time upto 5 P.M. I will collect the information and share it with the House....(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh needs to be disciplined. He speaks on all subjects. He is not even ready to listen to the Hon'ble Prime Minister(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, let the Prime Minister finish his reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The leader of the House is replying.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, although a discussion was held in the House on this subject and the Government has promised to facilitate payment of outstanding dues of the sugarcane growers but neither a single penny has been given to them nor a single sugar mill has started working in Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We need some time to collect information. We will divulge all the details before the House after gathering the requisite information and if the police is found guilty, even they would be punished...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Would the Government share the punishment if found guilty?...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : I would like to request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to first listen to the farmers, their pains, pangs and miseries and pay attention to their feelings. I would also request him to intervene into the matter and mitigate their sufferings ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We are making efforts to collect the information as soon as possible and will share the same with the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been a discussion in the House and a decision was reached that the sugarcane growers would be paid their dues but neither a single penny has been given to them nor has any sugar mill been started there...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This is a serious matter...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last 50 years, the Government has been

fixing the prices of sugarcane every year. Negotiable price is decided on the advice of the State Government. The price of sugarcane in U.P. has been fixed at Rs. 90 per quintal as negotiable price at the advice of Uttar Pradesh Government but the Supreme Court ordered that the sugarcane mill owners are not obliged to pay a price more than Rs. 65 per quintal fixed by the Central Government as Minimum Support Price. So, the agitation is going on against this. The government should pay attention to this very problem of the farmers. Then alone the situation can be retrieved ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Prime Minister is on his legs to give reply. Please listen to him. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the Adjournment Motion was with regard to the firing on farmers. The Government is going to collect the information.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : They are going to make a statement before the close of the day.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I would request you to admit the Adjournment Motion. Let there be a discussion. Let the Government reply to it ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was firing in Basti. The matter did not end there. Tension would continue to grow unless the problems of the farmers are not solved. Sugarcane farmers are agitated because they are not getting the price of their produce. They should get their dues outstanding against the Mills. The sugar mills are lying closed ...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, In Haryana sugar mill owners are procuring sugarcane from the farmers at the rate of Rs. 110 per quintal whereas the Mill owners in Uttar Pradesh are paying Rs. 65 per quintal to farmers of Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh adjoining Ambala in Harayana. If the mill owners in Harayana are not incurring any loss by paying a price of sugarcane at Rs. 110 per quintal, why should the mill owners of Uttar Pradesh have any problem in procuring sugarcane at the same price ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would now give the floor to Shri Deve Gowda.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, will you not allow any Member to speak in this House?

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the main issue is not the death of farmers in police firing but it is about the non-payment of the outstanding dues of the farmers by the mill owners and also about the mills lying closed. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has said that information with regard to police firing is being gathered and it would be shared with the House by evening but the primary problems of the farmers regarding fixation of sugarcane prices, payment of outstanding dues and starting sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh are not being solved...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when excesses were committed on the farmers in Maharashtra and the police forcibly arrested them from their houses in Maharashtra, nobody spoke about it and now they are expressing their concern ...(Interruptions) If they are not ready to listen to the hon. Prime Minister, why should we listen to the hon. former Prime Minister ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Deve Gowda's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Deve Gowda, I have given the floor to you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Khaire, I have given the floor to him. He is a former Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, nobody shared any concern when the sugarcane farmers were killed in Digra and Sangli in Maharashtra. Now, they are expressing sympathy ...(Interruptions) when the hon. Prime Minister was speaking, they did not allow him to speak...(Interruptions) why would we let them speak? ...(Interruptions) Many farmers committed suicide there, but nobody uttered a word here...(Interruptions) 100 farmers committed suicide. Nobody protected. There they are in power ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Chandrakant Khaire, I have given floor to him. He is our former Prime Minister. Please resume your seat now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have given floor to him. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except what Shri Deve Gowda says.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav, please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ram Nagina Mishra, I have given floor to him. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: By shouting like this, you are not doing any service to the farmers.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav, will you resume your seat now?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has said...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Chandrakant Khaire, will you please resume your seat? You are challenging the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ram Nagina Mishra, after him, I will give you the floor. Why are you agitated ? Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I would like to hear my old friend ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak for one minute only.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You can speak, we would like to listen. We would certainly listen if it is worth listening but you must speak something worth listening. This is not an issue of party. Now he is blaming the Maharashtra Government ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : This is the truth ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Now the matter of farmers has gone out of the hand of parties. They must get good price, the price available to them is low.

But I have come to know that the court has given the ruling that the Government cannot give more than this price...(Interruptions) If it is true ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : You are also not allowing them to Speak. You please sit down ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If it is true then we will have to find the solution collectively. If the decision of the court is a hindrance then we find a solution and

decide about minimum price of sugarcane. But till the discussion takes place, the matter cannot be solved. Now if firing takes place repeatedly, discussions will have to be held. If people are killed by bullets of the police, you will have to find out the time for discussion. You fix the time, we would collect all the information from U.P. and place it before the House. Now you decide.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jadhav, now please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, hon. Prime Minister has made it clear. This matter is very grave. This has to be discussed in detail. We will find some time in a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. In the meanwhile, the Government should get the information and then make a statement here. Now, Shri Deve Gowda.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, if a separate discussion is going to be allowed to discuss in this House exclusively the problems of sugarcane growers. I do not want to make any speech now. ...(Interruptions)

On a previous occasion, when we raised this issue during 'Zero Hour', the hon. Minister for Food and Civil Supplies gave a reply. When we raised the issue under Rule 193 concerning the problems of farmers, on that day also, I made an appeal that this was not a political issue. It is a problem of the farmers to be dealt with by the entire House. we do not want to mix politics with this issue.

Fortunately, you are here today. You have made a promise that you are going to collect all the information about the unhappy incident that has happened today, and the information would be given to this House through a statement either by you or by the Minister concerned.

So far as the problem of sugarcane growers is concerned, each State has got its own problem. It not merely concerns the State of Uttar Pradesh. Each State has got its own problem. So, whether we can attribute this problem to the WTO Agreement and all these things is now immaterial. I do not want to go into the details.

But when I presented the entire problem of the farmers to your goodself, Requested you to call, if necessary, all the Chief Ministers to discuss this problem because it was a Concurrent subject. Both the Chief

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

Ministers and the Prime Minister should sit together to find out a solution.

The issue of Uttar Pradesh is altogether a different matter. It has been bungled at various stages. At one stage, the High Court has given some decision. Then, the Supreme Court have given a decision. This matter is now pending before the Supreme Court on one issue. I am just mentioning it for your kind consideration. It is not going to be solved merely by the Court. If the Court wants to solve this problem, it might take two or three months. This issue cropped up in 1997 and is pending at various levels, that is, in the High Court, the Supreme Court and like that.

My earnest appeal to your goodself is that the farmers are suffering in Uttar Pradesh because of a fight in the Court by mill-owners and sugarcane growers through various public interest litigations. All these things are there. You must convene a meeting with the State Chief Ministers. The State Government is taking a different position. I do not want to mix politics with this issue. All these things are happening. The farmers has come here. They had an agitation near the *Kisan Ghat* On that day, I raised this issue during the 'Zero Hour'. The hon. Minister had replied. But it is not in his hands. As the Leader of this House and being the Prime Minister of this county, you convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers and, if necessary, exclusively for Uttar Pradesh.

The same situation prevails in Bihar. In the case of Bihar, the matter is not in the court. In so far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the matter is pending before the court. The courts cannot sort out the issue of minimum support price. The matter has to be sorted out by the State Governments and the Central Government.
...(Interruptions) The courts cannot solve this problem.

The mill owners who want to exploit the situation are asking the sugarcane growers to give the support price fixed by the State Government in writing, that is Rs. 66 per quintal or something like that. This is not going to work out. The farmers are suffering very badly for the last two months because the crop has overgrown. Overall, what is going to happen, everybody knows this. They cannot go for the second crop, that is, wheat crop. The whole economy is going to be collapsed in UP. More than one and a-half crore cane growers are there.

It is fortunate that today the hon. Prime Minister is here and he has given an assurance that he would look into it. But my request is that he should call the Chief Ministers concerned and the concerned Food Minister or

whoever he wants to call and try to find out a solution. I would also request him not to allow the matter to be settled by the court, otherwise the agitation will further aggravate. We do not want to provoke and unnecessarily infuriate the farmers. So, the Prime Minister should see that the problems of cane-growers of Uttar Pradesh are solved under his leadership. That is all I want to submit.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, after having a statement made by the Prime Minister that information will be collected, a discussion can be arranged after placing it before the Business Advisory Committee. I think, now we can move over to the next item instead of every party speaking on this at this moment. We can get the information from the Government and then on the basis of that we can find some time to discuss this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, we all appreciate the hon. Prime Minister's intervention in this matter. Certainly, we appreciate that he is to seek the information. The information will come and a statement will be made.

But the issue is that every section of the House is concerned about the problem, namely, the Minimum Support Price. It should not be treated as a routine matter to be resolved departmentally. The intervention of the hon. Prime Minister is necessary. I endorse what has been said by Shri Deve Gowda that this is an approach, which has to be taken by the Prime Minister. Sooner he takes it the better. So many States are involved and such incidents will happen, as he has just now said, if this matter is not solved, there may be similar incidents everyday, which should be avoided.

Therefore, we are happy that the Prime Minister has made his appearance on this very important issue. Let him intervene at his stage, call some of the leaders here or call the Chief Ministers and try to solve it sooner than later. That is our request ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Please take up our notice for Adjournment Motion... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you permission. I will not allow you like this.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The sugarcane of my area is sold to that mill. We have given the notice for Adjournment Motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Merely giving notice does not give you right *ipso-facto*.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not impose like this.

[Translation]

This will not do.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You said whatever you had to say, now what do you have to say ? Ram Nagina Mishraji.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should get the permission of the Chair before you speak. You are not allowed like this. I have called Shri Ram Nagina Mishra.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Akhilesh Singh, do not hold the House like this. I have to give you the permission.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on the critical problems of farmers when the Prime Minister himself is present here and he has expressed his views on it.

The problems pertaining to sugarcane growers are not new. These have acquired the dimension of cancer.

If the Prime Minister does not address it, the so called cancer cannot be cured. It is clear from the statement given by the Prime Minister that he knows everything about the problems sugarcane growers.

Today, the problems there have become grave. As per old rates, the outstanding dues of sugarcane farmers run in billions. All sugar mills have been closed. In my constituency also, four sugar mills have been closed. There also the dues of farmers are outstanding. Today, the situation is such that the farmers are selling their sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 30—35 per quintal to crushers and others. You go to Meerut and to my constituency the farmers are helpless there. The constitutional crisis has arisen. Last year the State Government has fixed the rate of sugarcane at Rs. 95—100 per quintal and the sugarcane was supplied. Right now, the mill owners have said that they are not going to run the mills. Private sugar mills are not running in U.P. The U.P. Government has said it would give Rs. 95 per quintal which was fixed last year. Sugar Mills have been closed. On this, agitation were held in Meerut and in my constituency but mills are not running. The result is that wheat which was to be sown after harvesting the crop of sugarcane in the lakhs of acres of land is not being sown. Farmers are being subject to firing.

I would humbly submit that the State Government has fixed that rate at Rs. 95. The High court has put a ban on it and said that the State Government has not got the right to fix the price of sugarcane. The Union Government has the right to fix the price of sugarcane. The High Court has said that the price fixed by the Union Government would be given. This case has come up to the Supreme Court. The farmers would not sell their sugarcane to sugar mills at this rate. They will burn their sugarcane. The price of sugar has come down. The price of sugar is not stable in the international market. If you would not mediate, farmers would suffer. Today, mills are closing down, therefore, some via media has to be searched out for farmers. Without the interference of the Union Government, the State Government cannot do anything. Therefore, I would request the Prime Minister to convene a meeting of the representatives of U.P. Government and solve this problem. It should be ensured that mills run instead of the bullets. Before this also, firing took place. Even today, firing took place in towns near Delhi. The farmers must get their dues. The Government should ensure that farmers get the appropriate price of sugarcane. Today, the sugar has piled up in abundance in the country. The Government have created a buffer stock of sugar. Therefore, they must release the dues of farmers immediately. If the farmers do not get dues, the farmers of U.P. would suffer

[Shri Ram Nagina Mishra]

a lot. Today their situation is pitiable. We know that the Prime Minister has intervened now this issue would be resolved. I thank the Prime Minister many times has he as intervened in the matter of farmers.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : The problem is very difficult. Fortunately the Prime Minister is in the House. Shri Deve Gowda and the other leader, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, have made certain suggestions. We also endorse those suggestions. Other Members also should be allowed to speak. On behalf of the Congress Party. Shri Jaiswal will speak. Let us take a non-partisan attitude to solve this problem. Let us not only have the information regarding what happened yesterday but also as to how we are going to deal with this problem.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): I want say just one sentence.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussions pertaining to sugarcane farmers of U.P. have taken place many a times in this House.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I submit that first you get the papers laid on the Table, after that discussion on this issue my take place. We are sitting here so that papers may be laid. It will take only Two minutes.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : First you allow us to express our view point. Since the Prime Minister has come, the House would continue.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : First you get the papers laid it will be over in two minutes...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : I think the Minister cannot intervene in this matter. It is the Chair to conduct the business ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I appeal to the entire House. After collecting the information, the hon. Minister would make a statement. On the basis of that statement, we can have a discussion on this matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri H.D. Deve Gowda wanted to say something on this subject; Shri Ram Nagina Mishra also wanted to say something. Some other hon. Members also want to speak on this and I would allow them. After that, let us put an end to this.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : So many days have passed. Since the beginning of the proceedings of the House, this question is being raised ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for providing me opportunity to speak.

The Government seems to be serious for the first time in the Lok Sabha on the issue of sugarcane growers. Hon'ble Prime Minister gave a statement in the House. As per the press reports, 3 farmers were killed yesterday in a police firing and about 100 farmers were injured in Basti. The number of dead may rise to 6. The figure three may as will come to one. Hon'ble Prime Minister has assured to give a statement in the evening. This is not the issue. During the last two months, there have been a number of discussions, relating to sugarcane growers in the Lok Sabha. The sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh can not sow their wheat crop until they sell their sugarcane to the mills and crushing starts. Farmers have to sell their produce. Only after their sugarcane is crushed, they are in position the sow their crops. The prices of sugarcane should have been fixed in the first week of November, but it has not been done. A case has been filed in the court in connivance of mill owners. The Government did not put in required efforts in the said case. Consequently, the court gave a decision for relief to the mill owners and on the basis of the same decision they are avoiding payment of their dues to the sugarcane growers and express their inability to buy sugarcane on the prevailing price. But the fact is that they demand to buy sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 64-65 quintal. How can the farmer sell his produce at this rate ? In Haryana the price is Rs. 110 per quintal. If this price is not profitable to the farmers then how can Uttar Pradesh farmers sell their sugarcane at so low rate as 64-65 per quintal. They are again forced to burn their produce. Until the farmer burns his produce, he cannot sow wheat in fields but this Government is continuously ignoring the matter ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I think, we have already converted this into a debate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Uttar Pradesh Government is acting in connivance with mill-owners. The present situation is consequent upon it. Hon'ble Prime Minister has said that all the parties should deliberate over the matter and find conclusions. This is right too. Court cannot solve this issue. All the political parties and Governments only can solve it. Two months have passed but sugarcane growers have not started crushing of sugarcane. I would like to request the hon'ble Prime Minister to call for a meeting to discuss the help to be provided to sugarcane growers and announce, the amount of subsidy. Sugarcane mill owners are adamant not to pay sugarcane growers, the price fixed by U.P. Government.

So in any case a meeting should be immediately called for. There should be no delay even of 24 hrs. and this problem should be solved. Instructions should be given to mill owners and they must buy sugarcane rate fixed by the Government, sugar mills be operated and crushing of sugarcane must be started. Every now and then under some section it is said that there are long pending huge dues of the farmers. Let the Government come out with exact information about the payment made out of this. The Uttar Pradesh Government too should be asked to clarify ...(*Interruptions*) We discuss the matter for several hours and waste precious time but even then neither their payment is made nor the closed sugar mills are started. Time is wasted in discussion. So my contention is that a meeting must be called as regards the sugarcane growers and the Government should decide the time limit of payment of dues to them.

Secondly, I would like to submit that the support price fixed by the Government must be available to farmers and the mills should immediately start buying sugarcane ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister wants to say something.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : It is useless to bear from the hon'ble Minister, we always hear it ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister wants to say something.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Sir, I have given adjournment motion notice ...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, I have also given a notice under rules. I would like to express my views ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : do you work under rules?

...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : I want to say something about the incident and farmers. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister wants to say something. I have given the floor to him. You do not allow him to say something.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : In this way, business cannot go on. The problem is to be solved ...(*Interruptions*)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, he has said... It should be expunged... It is not correct to say so.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Can we even not express our concern ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You must express it.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I must be permitted to express it. ...(*Interruptions*)

*Expunged as ordered by the chair.

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, it is very wrong. Please remove that word from the record ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would like you to withdraw that word.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, he should withdraw that word. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, are you withdrawing that word?

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : I take back my words ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you a chance after the hon. Minister speaks. Let there be some order in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, farmers are dying. This is the responsibility of the Centre ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, what is this? What happened to you? Please resume your seat. Will you please resume your seat?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Chandrakant Khaire, please control your Members.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Please listen to us when we discuss about farmers ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please resume your seat. I warn you. I will not give the floor to you.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Sri, Shri Deve Gowda has expressed his views in this discussion but this matter is not limited to a single state. This is pertaining to the whole country. During the debate, the Government is being asked to take immediate steps. I know that this is a serious matter. You can ask for a discussion right now, but it is going to yield nothing.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): I do not want any discussion on this. I want an action. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, please allow him to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Hon'ble Prime Minister has categorically stated he would discuss and the matter would be solved. Putting things straight, he has said that he has understood the problem and statement shall be laid after earlier information is collected.

I would like to submit that if the debate is urgent, it should be started right now. There is no problem. However, as Shri Deve Gowda has said that this is the only way and I too am with him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will discuss upon the expected action in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : In Maharashtra also sugarcane growers are in peril.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Jadhav, Please sit down. Mr. Akhilesh conclude within two minutes.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister for his sensitivity when he came to the House at 12 noon when

the Parliamentary Proceedings were suspended during the Question Hour on the issue of the farmers. I welcome the views expressed by rising above party lines for solving the problems of the sugarcane farmers. It is sad to see that in the cane growing region fuelwood is costly that the cane. Now I would like to speak on the problems faced by the sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh. As per the rule the mill owners have to pay interest to the farmers if the dues are paid after 15 days. If the mill owners fail to pay the farmers, the State Government will issue recovery certificate against such mill owners. But no state government issues recovery certificate against the mill owners and no one pays interest on the dues. If the State Governments and the Central Government follow the rules no mill owners can violate this rule.

The Government of India has fixed the price of cane at Rs. 64.50 per quintal and recovery has been fixed on the basis of 8.5 per cent. If the recovery goes up by one per cent and taking into account the current average recovery of 10 per cent in Uttar Pradesh the farmers in Uttar Pradesh would get a maximum price of Rs. 75 per quintal. This is the outcome of the High Court judgement in Uttar Pradesh. The High Court has ruled that the State Government has no right to fix the price of sugarcane. The price fixed by the Centre would be final. In such a situation it is the duty of the Central Government to overturn even the judgement of the Courts and the Central Government should fix the price of sugarcane so that the sugarcane growers are not agitated.

Uttar Pradesh and Haryana are neighbouring States. Ambala in Haryana and Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh are adjoining districts. The quality of sugar cane of Saharanpur is better than that of Ambala. The mill owners will pay Rs. 74-75 per quintal to the cane growers of Saharanpur and the mill owner after paying Rs. 110 per quintal to the cane growers of Ambala will not suffer loss. The mill owners of Uttar Pradesh say that if they pay Rs. 95-100 per quintal, they will suffer loss. This clearly shows the duplicity and the double standards of the mill owners. This is a way to fleece the farmers. I want to make it clear that three logic is not tenable. It is correct that the prices of sugar are falling in the international market. But it has not fallen so much that last year's price cannot be paid to the farmers. Hence I request that when you convene a meeting on this issue, the representatives of the farmers, the leaders of all the political parties and the Chief Ministers of all the States should also be invited. In the meantime you must direct the Uttar Pradesh Government to certainly pay the farmers at least the previous year's price of Rs. 95-100 per quintal. If this is not done the cane growers would be agitated they would be fired upon and again this situation would arise.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Sir, I would also like to speak ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am calling only those Members who have given notices for Adjournment Motion. The hon. Prime Minister has already stated that there will be a meeting and

[Translation]

you all decide that together. Kindly be brief. Discussion will be held no doubt.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : This issue has two aspects. The first relates to the farmers and the other relates to the firing.

I would like to tell the Prime Minister, he is a well known litterateur, that there was no encounter. We should not use this term here. The farmers proceeded there peacefully. They were fired upon which resulted in the killing of three farmers and seven were injured whose condition remains critical. Capt. Gopal Singh is the leader of Kisan Union there. I had a talk with him at 11.00 a.m. before coming here. The situation is alarming there. The farmers are agitated over this. The Prime Minister will reply on this issue here in the evening. The Uttar Pradesh government has no right to remain in office for a minute considering the barbaric manner in which it acted. Firing should be used as the last resort. The State Government should resign for firing on peaceful farmers. No politics is involved in this. The Prime Minister should hold talks with them there. The farmers are agitated and they are gathering in huge numbers in Basti. Any untoward incident may take place there. Therefore, I request that reply must be given on this issue. But before this, it must be ensured that peace is maintained there so that the farmers do not turn violent.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. As Shri Sharadji said now ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : When you are allowing everybody, why are you not allowing the members from smaller parties to speak?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how many Members from his party will speak ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Three. I have given a chance to those first who have given notice for adjournment motion.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : This will result in a very long discussion. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should also be given a chance to speak ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name does not figure in the list of those who have given the notice for adjournment motion notice.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Does the names of all the Members who spoke now figure in the list?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you a chance after those who have given the notice for adjournment motion. Why are you being so impatient ?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, firing took place yesterday in Munderva, in Basti district. According to the newspapers three farmers were killed and more than 100 were injured. Regarding the incident involving Shri Devendra Yadav, the Home Minister in his statement has said that the Police Commissioner, the Home Secretary ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not speak on this issue now and do not make such a long speech. We have to discuss other issues as well.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the farmers were fired upon killing three of them ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Stick to this topic.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : According to the statement of the Deputy Inspector General of Police there, published in the papers, the farmers did not die due to police firing. It is a very serious issue. The farmers have

been agitating peacefully outside the sugar mills continuously from 2nd December.

Sharadji was asking to hold a discussion on it. The issue of farmers has been discussed in the House not once, but many a time, What is the use of discussion? The Government's approach to the issue should be positive after a discussion. Now, the price of sugarcane would be fixed by the High Court and the Supreme Court. It is a serious matter. The sugarcane growers have not been paid their dues. Sugar mill owners don't want to run their mills. The farmers have launched agitation everywhere. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has committed to pay Rs. 95, but their Government has said that they will be paid only Rs. 65. I allege that the approach of Government towards the issue of sugarcane growers reflects its sinister connivance with sugar mill owners. Chaos is being created intentionally. Whenever the farmers demand their rights, they receive bullets. I feel that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji has rightly said that the Government of Uttar Pradesh should be dismissed, then only, the farmers will get justice ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the police opened fire on the farmers who were demonstrating peacefully in Basti. They were staging a demonstration to highlight their problems.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are confronted with two issues. First, whenever the farmers stage some peaceful dharna or demonstration in Delhi or in the States, the State police lathi-charge and open fire on them barbarously. This is not the first incident that ever happened in Uttar Pradesh. Earlier when farmers of Maharashtra staged a demonstration on the issue of prices of sugarcane, the police there beat them up after entering their houses, and more than hundred farmers got injured and whole lot of the country are facing such a bad situation. Sumanji was speaking here a short while ago. Here, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadavji is sitting injured. When farmers of Bihar came to Delhi to demonstrate against their problems, Delhi Police beat Shri Yadav ji and the farmers barbarously. Thus the farmers of the country are facing injustice and cruelty. I would request the hon. Prime Minister that the way the State Police are Lathi-Charging and opening fire on farmers, he should, in order to put a check on their barbaric behaviour, call a meeting of the State Governments under his Chairmanship so that farmers may not be lathi-charged and fired upon.

The second issue is that the problems of sugar cane growers are different in different states. We were just talking of sugar mills. I would like to inform that Marhaura

sugar mill is lying closed for the last 7-8 years and an amount of Rs. seven crore of farmers is outstanding for the last ten years. As a result, the farmers are on the verge of starvation. This way, different States in the country have different problems. Bihar is facing the problem of procurement. Sharadji is sitting here. Hopefully, he will answer. Not single tender has been opened so far for the procurement of the grain produced by the farmers of Bihar. Sharadji gives speech, the Government of Bihar also makes tall promises and the farmers get assured by listening to those speeches and reading such reports in newspapers. So, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to pay head to both these problems and try to discipline the unbridled police force and the State Governments. I further request him to solve every problem of sugar cane growers and the issue of procurement in Bihar by convening a meeting of the State Governments.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been a practice for the last 50 years that statutory minimum price of sugarcane is fixed by the Central Government and state Governments, accordingly, fix the negotiation price by discussing it with the representatives of the farmers and the millowners collectively. This practice is being followed for the last 50 years. Earlier, Bihar used to fix as much price as was fixed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. But the situation became worse after the verdict of Allahabad High Court. The Governments have fixed Rs 64-65 per quintal statutory minimum price of sugarcane while the Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh should have fixed the price of Rs. 89-90 per quintal as per the norms. But, the sugar mill owners say that they won't pay more than the statutory minimum price. So there is a difference of Rs. 30-35 per ql. This has created an unrest amongst the farmers and they are getting agitated over it. The sugarcane growers of Sitamarhi have burnt their sugarcane crop. The mills there started late and 15 sugar mills have been closed down and outstanding dues of farmers are yet to be paid by these mills. These are the problems, the sugarcane growers are facing. We raise questions, discuss it in the House. The matter is discussed and nothing is done after that. No action is taken, the Government do not respond. This is why the problems are not solved. The problem is not a new one. Since the commencement of the session, the question has been repeatedly asked that the Government are not aware of the problems of sugarcane growers and other problems. So there will be agitation, police firing and lathi charge. The farmers will come to the streets, launch agitation and demonstration. What else can he do ? I urge upon the Government to take some action. Discussions alone

will not solve the problem. The discussion should be directed towards finding a solution. As long as the Government is not serious, the problems of the farmers cannot be solved.

Sir, the Government have announced to create a 20,000 MT buffer stock of sugar. The sugar mill owners are going to benefit by this to the tune of thousands of crores of rupees. Similarly, the Government have doled out hundreds of crores rupees from Sugar Development Fund by taking a decision in favor of the farmers. Sugar mill owners were provided loans of hundreds of crores rupees on a cheaper rate of interest and on easy instalments from the banks. Whatever decision the Government are taking, it is solely in the interest of the sugar mill owners and paying least attention towards the sugarcane farmers. As a result, the farmers are showing unrest, launching agitations and are disturbed. Their problems should immediately be addressed ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the whole House is concerned about the problems of the sugarcane growers. I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister of the country, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that he has made serious efforts to solve the problems of the farmers. We all including Atalji are of a unanimous opinion that the problems of sugarcane-growers and the issue of sugarcane price is not affecting only one State of Uttar Pradesh, but it is an issue affecting the whole country. The majority of cane growers come from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. The condition of the cane growers of Maharashtra is even worse than those of Uttar Pradesh. The cane growers of Uttar Pradesh are going to get Rs. 65 per quintal as minimum support price, while Government of Maharashtra has decided to pay Rs 450 per ton. This way it is going to be Rs. 54 per quintal in Maharashtra. The Governments of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have fixed Rs. 110 per ql. Rs 65 and Rs 54 per ql. respectively. This is a very serious problem for the farmers of Maharashtra.

Sir, the sugarcane growers of Maharashtra had started a public movement under the leadership of Vitthal Patel for the solution of their problems. Police lathi charged the farmers of Sangli and Digras. Not only they lathi charged them, but hey dragged old and weak farmers out of their homes and snatched mangalsutras of their ladies, which is the symbol of their saubhagya (good fortune). This way, Maharashtra police tied to snatch their good fortune. Police of Maharashtra acted even more brutally than that of Uttar Pradesh.

[Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav]

Sir, this way farmers of Maharashtra would not be able to survive and if farmers of Maharashtra die, the economy of Maharashtra would collapse. So, I submit the hon. Prime Minister that a uniform policy should be framed for the cane growers of the country. However, the problems of cane-growers have been discussed in the House, but no action has been taken and no results were achieved.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : On the issue of farmers problems, many hon. Members have given their views. Hon. Prime Minister has also made it clear to make a statement in the House after ascertaining the facts. We may take up that matter in the BAC and decide the issue as early as possible.

Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

13.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section(1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual report of the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, along with audited accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6358/2002]

- (b) (i) Review by Government of the working of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual report of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6359/2002]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6360/2002]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6361/2002]

(2) A copy of the Annual Administrative report (Hindi and English versions) of Cantonment Boards, for the year 1999-2000.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6362/2002]

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) (1) correcting the reply given on the 16th May, 2002 to Unstarred Question No. 7510 by Sarvashri R.S. Patil and Chada Suresh Reddy, MPs regarding Agreement for Procurement of Sukhoi-30, and (ii) giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6363/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : Sir, on behalf of Shri K. Jana Krishnamurthy, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(2) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of

the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6364/2002]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the RITES Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the RITES Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6365/2002]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the IRCON International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the IRCON International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6366/2002]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual report of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6367/2002]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General Thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6368/2002]

(2) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against vacancies reserved for them in recruitment and promotion categories on the railways for the year ending the 31st March, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6369/2002]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) Under Section 34 of the Prasar Bharti (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 :—

(1) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) (Announcer posts) Service Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F. No. N- 10/ 18/2001-P.P.C. in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 2002.

(2) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Hindi Officer Service Regulations, 2002 Published in Notification No. N-10/6/2001- P.P.C. in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2002.

(3) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Junior Civil Construction Wing Posts) Service Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. N-10/10/2001 P.P.C. in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2002.

(4) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) (Junior Administrative and Allied posts) Service Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. N-10/10/2001 P.P. C. in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6370/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) Sir, I be to law on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(i) The liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Amendment Order, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 177(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th March, 2002.

- (ii) The Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply and Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) (Amendment) Order, 2002 Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 211 (E) in Gazette of India, dated 16th March 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6371/2002]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (i) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956: -

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6372/2002]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-02, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6373/2002]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata for the year 2001-02, along with Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6374/2002]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with

Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6375/2002]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-02, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6376/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6377/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Medical Facilities) Regulation (First Amendment), 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 2/1(21)/2001/CERC in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2002 under section 56 of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6378/2002]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (i) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of The National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6379/2002]

13.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE

Eleventh Report

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I present the 11th report (Hindi and English version) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sitting of the House.

13.01¹/₄hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

(i) Twenty-Fourth to Twenty-Seventh Reports

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I present a copy each of the following report (Hindi and English versions) of the following reports of the standing committee on Labour and Welfare :

1. Twenty-fourth Report on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Twenty-first Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on Ministry of Labour—Demands for Grants 2002-2003.
2. Twenty-fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment—Demands for Grants 2002-2003.
3. Twenty-sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Twentieth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on Ministry of Tribal Affairs—Demands for Grants 2002-2003.
4. Twenty-seventh Report on "The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Second Amendment), Bill, 2002".

(ii) Action Taken Statements

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements

(Hindi and English versions) of the standing committee on Labour and Welfare :

1. Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained by the Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (2001) (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the Recommendations/Observations contained in Eleventh Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2001-2002 of the Ministry of Labour.
2. Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained by the Seventeenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (2001) (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the Recommendations/Observations contained in Twelfth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2001-2002 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
3. Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (2001) (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the Recommendations contained in Thirteenth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2001-2002 of the Ministry of the Tribal Affairs.

13.02¹/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(i) Hundred-twenty third and Hundred-twenty fourth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI BALI RAM KASHYAP (Bastar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each of the Hundred Twenty Third and Hundred Twentieth Fourth Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply of Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2002, and the Protection from domestic violence Bill, 2002 respectively.

(II) Record of Evidence

SHRI BALI RAM KASHYAP (Bastar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I lay on the Table a copy of the Record of Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on the protection from Domestic Violence Bill, 2002.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar) : For the Enquiry into the incident which took place with Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. A committee was constituted as per the directions of the chair. Police lathi charged them. We want to know about its report.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I was calling his name only.

[English]

I have already called him to move a statement in this regard.

13.03 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY CHAIRMAN

Committee to Inquire into the Incident of Assault on Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, MP

Preliminary Report

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : I, the Chairman of the Committee to Inquire into the Incident of Assault on Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, MP on 9 December, 2002, in New Delhi, present this preliminary Report to House on the incident of assault on Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, MP while he was leading a demonstration of farmers organised to demand permanent solution to the perennial flood/drought problems in Bihar.

The Committee at their sitting held on 11 December, 2002 decided that the factual note in this matter which was called for from the Ministry of Home Affairs and was expected to be received by the Secretariat should be perused before taking any further step in the matter.

The Committee, at their sitting held today, felt that there is a *prima facie* case for holding a detailed inquiry into the matter, which will require examination of relevant material connected with the case, viewing of video cassettes and perusing other information available. The Committee will also have to record the evidence of the concerned police officers who were on duty at the time of incident and other witnesses.

The Committee recommends that in order to ensure transparent and impartial inquiry into the matter, it will be in the fitness of things that Shri Manoj Lal, Police Officer-in-Charge be placed under suspension till the inquiry by the Committee is completed. The Committee, however, like to emphasise that the above recommendation of the Committee should not be construed to mean that the concerned police officer has been found guilty.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was about to call him.

[English]

I have already called him to make a statement in this regard.

13.04 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Re. : Situation arising due to delay in starting the Dabhol Power Project

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Item No. 13—Calling Attention.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising due to delay in starting the Dabhol Power Project resulting in increase in Power cuts and grid failure in various parts of the Country, particularly, in Maharashtra, and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the Dabhol Power Project in Maharashtra was entered into between the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) and the Dabhol Power Company (DPC), a special purpose company established by Enron and their associates. Phase-I of the project 740A was commissioned in May 1999 and was supplying power to MSEB. Due to disputes between DPC and MSEB.

Phase I has been shut down since May 2001 and construction on Phase II (1444 MW) also stand suspended. Both parties to the PPA have initiated legal proceedings against each other. On a suit filed by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) representing Indian Financial Institutions, who have the major stake as lenders in the project, the Mumbai High Court has appointed a Court Receiver who took possession of the assets at site on 2.4.2002. The Court Receiver has engaged M/s Punj Lloyed for security and asset preservations activities.

2. Recognizing that resolution of the legal disputes could take considerable time and the need for preventing deterioration of the assets and equipment at the plant site, government of India has attempted to facilitate restart of phase-I with the National Thermal Power Corporation as O&M (Operation & Maintenance) Contractor on an interim basis, pending overall restructuring of the Dabhol Project and settlement of the legal issues. The efforts made by the Government of India include:

- (a) Advising Government of Maharashtra and MSEDCL to settle with lenders led by IDBI terms for purchase of power from phase-I.
- (b) Advising lending institutions to restructure the outstanding loans and carry out required financial re-engineering to reduce tariff.
- (c) Persuading NTPC to run the plant on behalf of the lenders as O & M Contractor.
- (d) Advising the main supplier of equipment M/s GE and EPC (Engineering Procurement & Construction) Contractor. M/s Bechtel to provide necessary technical support to NTPC to restart the phase-I.
- (e) Exploring possibilities of reduction in fuel cost, so as to bring down the tariff; and
- (f) Setting up a joint team of officials from MSEDCL, IDBI, GE, Bechtel, NTPC, and CEA to inspect and evaluate the conditions of the plant.

3. On the basis of the above efforts, there has been substantial progress on all fronts. The joint team has since inspected the plant and has expressed satisfaction about the general upkeep of the plant and preservation activities. The team, however, observed that the internal conditions of various equipments and facilities can not be ascertained by visual inspection and that a detailed assessment would need to be carried out by a team of experts.

4. Government of Maharashtra (GOM) have also conveyed their decision to allow MSEDCL to purchase power from phase-I. Of the Dabhol power project at a Plant Load Factor (PLF) of 823% at the rate of Rs. 2.80 per unit. This arrangement will be *pro tem*, for the period of one year and *ad hoc* and will be without prejudice to MSEDCL's/GOM's rights and contentions in the pending arbitration/judicial / Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) proceedings. Government of Maharashtra have further conveyed that the rate and quantum of power indicated above will be subject to the approval of the MERC. The price of naphtha will be a pass through in the tariff.

5. Further steps to be taken involve the following:

- (a) MSEDCL and lenders have to jointly approach the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) for approval of the proposed interim tariff.
- (b) Lenders led by IDBI have to approach the Mumbai High Court/Court Receiver for securing necessary permission for restart of phase-I.
- (c) IDBI (assisted by NTPC) will have to finalize the technical scope of work of GE/Bechtel and negotiate commercial arrangements.
- (d) IDBI will have to finalize commercial arrangements with NTPC for its work as the O & M contractor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to clarify about the supply of electricity in Maharashtra here :

6. Supply and distribution of electricity within a State is in the purview of concerned State Government/ State Power Utility. The priority of power supply to various categories of consumers in the State is decided by the State Government, keeping in view the total availability of power from various sources in the State. During the period April-October, 2002, Maharashtra experienced energy and peaking shortages of 12.9% and 18.6% respectively. The corresponding figures for the country are 9.3% and 14% respectively.
7. Maharashtra has an installed generation capacity of 13180 MW. The present allocation from Central Government generating stations in Western Region is 2125 MW, including diversion from other States. In addition, the state has been

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

allocated 11% (87 MW) from unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations in Western Region.

8. According to MSEB, the total average availability in the State during the peak period from its own generation, Central Sector share and assistance from neighbouring regions for the months of September, October and November upto 24th Nov. 2002, were 9934 MW, 10713 MW and 10863 MW against the average demand of 11129 MW, 12286 MW and 12314 MW respectively, representing shortfall of 1195 MW, 1573 MW and 1451 MW.
9. MSEB have taken following steps to meet the shortfall, the information which MSEB had given, I would like to place that information before the House, through you:
 - (1) Planned load shedding of 1650 MW in rural areas from 0600 hours to 2200 Hours in a block of 4 hours by rotation and planned load shedding of 450 MW in Urban areas from 0900 hours to 1800 hours in a block of 3 hours in rotation.
 - (2) Automatic Under Frequency load shedding programme is being implemented to get load of 340 MW each at the frequency 48.2 Hz. and 48.0 Hz. for 0.3 seconds and 0.4 second delay respectively and 415 MW load relief at frequency 47.9 Hz. Instantaneously.
 - (3) Industries in Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) industrial area and industries having express feeder have been excluded from above load shedding programme.
 - (4) Interruption in power supply except load shedding is kept to minimum Maintenance of equipments is carried out during load shedding period so that there is no interruption to consumers on that account.
10. Sir, Ministry of Power has planned a capacity addition programme of 41, 110 MW during the 10th Plan, which consists of 22,832 MW in the Central Sector, 11,157 MW in the State Sector and 7121 MW in the Private Sector. The Government of India, Ministry of Power on its part is taking the following steps to augment availability of power in the Western Region (WR) of which Maharashtra is a constituent:

- (1) A generation capacity of 2480 MW is proposed to be implemented in the Central Sector in the WR during 10th Plan in which the State of Maharashtra will also have its entitlement.
- (2) Strengthening of inter-regional transmission links for enhancement of inter-State and inter-regional transfer of power for optimal utilization of existing generation capacity in the country. Already 220KV Budhipadar-Korba project has been commissioned which has enabled flow of surplus power from Eastern region to Western region. 400 KV Raipur Rourkela double circuit line is under implementation by Powergrid. Which is expected to be commissioned by December, 2002/ January, 2003. After commissioning, it will facilitate transfer of 800-1000 MW power from Eastern Region to Western Region, in which Maharashtra could also secure a share.
- (3) Strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution network of the state system for reduction in T & D losses and improving quality in power supply. Funds are being provided to States for undertaking schemes for strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution system under Accelerated Power Development & Reform Programme (APDRP) .
- (4) Providing credit with interest subsidy from Power Finance Corporation & Rural Electrification Corporation for Renovation, Modernization and Life Extension (RM&LE) of old and inefficient generating units for improving generation performance under the Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP) .
- (5) Assistance for taking up Demand side management and Promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures.
- (6) Strengthening/augmentation of Transmission system and formation of National Grid by the end of 11th Plan which will facilitate smooth flow of power from surplus States/Region to deficit States/Region.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Kirit Somaiya has called the attention and has put questions, I have given reply of those questions in detail.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has elaborately replied it

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I have given reply elaborately. I hope that there will be no need to raise any more question on it.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister for giving very good and detailed reply. I would like to mention that I welcome his efforts, but despite that there was load shedding, power shortage in September, October and November due to the Dabhol Power Project not been commissioned or due to some other reason.

[English]

Power shortage in there and load shedding of 1650 MW per months is planned.

[Translation]

Theses figures were given by the Government itself. In Maharashtra and other States of the country dials six to eight hours load shedding is being resorted to.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli) : Load shedding is undertaken even for 12 hours.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The hon. Member has highlighted that due to load shedding the plight of farmers is miserable. Lay off is going on in the industries and symptoms of closure of industries are evident. Please tell what State Government is going to do to tackle the power shortage. The four pages reply given by you is very good but we want to know

[English]

what is the time-bound action programme.

[Translation]

How and by when the Central Government along with the State Government will solve the problem of power shortage? The Central Government is providing expected assistance, guidance to the State Government. Further, how the State Government is going to utilise it? In fifth para hon. Minister has written that :

[English]

Further steps to be taken to involve the following:

[Translation]

He has mentioned four things A, B, C, D. Regarding M.C.P. it is mentioned that interim order has to be taken from NERC. So, I would like to know in how many days they will take this order and whether the State Government has applied to NERC? Regarding lenders and Financial institutions, it has been mentioned that

[English]

They will have to approach Mumbai High Court. If they have approached it, what is the status? When and how will the problem be sorted out?

[Translation]

Besides this, I want to submit another thing that it is also mentioned in the reply—IDBI and NTPC would have to handle it jointly. Moreover, in the end I would like to submit that it is stated in the reply.

[English]

There are more than ten agencies involved. It is the State Government; within the State Government, the Ministry of Power is there; within that, there is MSEB and MERC. Then, in the State Government, the Ministry of Finance is there. In the Government of India also, there are the Ministry of Power and Ministry of Finance. Simultaneously, there are financial institutions. Then there are Enron. The American Company, the Dabhol, the coal companies and so on. There are multiple agencies. My request to the Government is

[Translation]

which is the nodal Ministry or task force or coordinating agency or group in the Government of India for handling it or who will handle it? Further, whether the Central Government is requesting the State Government that

[English]

they should appoint one person and one agency. Due to the involvement of multiple agencies, everyone is passing on the buck to the other one.

[Translation]

In the end I would like to know whether the Government would take any action for maintenance of assets to stop wastage of national assets and whether Government have any proposal for tax restructuring ?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The rule permits only one clarification. But you have asked four or five questions.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): It is important for Maharashtra ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why I permitted him.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even the Government of Maharashtra has admitted that there is shortage of power in the State and they are resorting to load shedding, which I have mentioned in the early part of my reply. Making good the power shortage is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Government to devise ways to meet the power shortage. So, in this regard, it is not possible for me to give any reply. Through you, I assure the hon. Member that the Ministry of Power of the Central Government will definitely examine the proposals received from the State Government to meet the power shortage and will also render all the assistance to the State Government in this regard.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, this must be applicable to all the States. The hon. Minister is representing the Union Government. If there is a similar shortage of power in other States and if a proposal comes from such States, then also the should give a response like this. That is my only submission to you.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Let him complete and then you may ask your supplementary.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am only supporting his generosity and the whole approach. I want that it should not only be confined to Maharashtra but it should extend to other States of the country also ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : This Calling Attention is with reference to Dabhol Power Project resulting in power cuts and grid failure.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is a particular reference to Maharashtra in the Calling Attention.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The Union Minister of the Government of India is making a policy statement. He says that due to power shortage if any State Government makes any proposal, he will not only consider it but will also try to see that it is complied. I say that the Union Minister of the Government of India is not representing Maharashtra alone. I want an assurance from him that if such similar things come from other States, he will give the same response. I want this assurance from him ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him complete. In case, this is not included in his reply, then you may speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am thanking the hon. Minister and we need such a Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us hear the Minister now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : There is acute shortage of power in my State also. All the reservoirs have dried up due to shortage of power. You have also seen it*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : As a matter of policy, as mentioned by Shri Dasmunsi, hon. Minister will touch the point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : In Kerala, there is no water in the reservoirs. All the reservoirs are drying up. The situation is very serious.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you know the rules.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The situation in Kerala is more serious than what it is in Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you know the rules. In the Calling Attention...

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The Calling Attention is not only for Maharashtra. It is for the entire nation. How can you confine it only to Maharashtra ? It is applicable to other States as well.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, if the situation is so serious, then you should also have given the notice. Now, the Calling Attention is in his name. So, he has brought out the case. Shri Dasmunsi has raised a relevant issue. The hon. Minister is in a mood to answer. Let us hear him.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I should raise my case. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : He always stands up for technicalities.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is because Shri Radhakrishnan was Speaker of the Kerala Assembly.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am raising an issue of my State. There the situation is far more serious.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : He has raised a technical issue. I have raised the practical issue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : In Kerala, no water is available in the reservoirs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, let me now ask the hon. minister to give the reply. Will you allow now ?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Maharashtra is not the only State which suffers from this kind of shortage. Kerala is also suffering from this kind of shortage.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised various questions in the House. He has said that Maharashtra is facing power shortage. NTPC, a public undertaking of the Ministry of Power, is running a number of projects in the country to meet the power shortage. NTPC runs power projects in various States for generating power and from a single power project, power is supplied to three-four States. In the Western Region also, NTPC is running some projects. An offer was made to the Government of Maharashtra regarding setting up of an additional 1500 MW Power generation project. However, till date the Government of Maharashtra has not responded to the proposal. Honourable Member, Shri Dasmunsi is concerned about power shortage in almost all States of the country. I assure Shri Dasmunsi that the Ministry of Power, in the matter of proposals seeking cooperation and assistance, will extend all cooperation to the State Governments.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rashakrishnan, are you happy now ?

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, hon. Member Shri Kirit Somaiya has raised various questions regarding Dabhol Power Project. Through you, I want to bring to his notice that the matter is *sub judice* and is also pending with the Maharashtra Regulatory Commission. Therefore, it would not be in the fitness of things to discuss the issue at length. However, in this regard, the Ministry of Power will definitely take all the necessary steps. Moreover, all assistance and cooperation will definitely be extended to them.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty-one minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

- (I) **Need for separate building bye-laws for rehabilitation colonies in Chandigarh for the benefit of the poor**

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, issuance of resumption notices to a large number of allottees of tenements in rehabilitation colonies in Chandigarh for starting small shops there has resulted in anxiety, concern and panic amongst them. In the absence of any employment or job available to them, the least they expect from the administration is that they be not barred from trying to take out a living from their petty premises. Rehabilitations and slum clearance will lose meaning if the people belonging to weaker sections of society are penalized for starting or carrying out minor businesses from the tenements allotted to them.

I urge the Government to frame separate building bye laws for such tenements permitting mixed use thereof. Application of standards fixed for the city will only lead to injustice, hardship and denial of right to work to thousands of young unemployed youth who have no access to any other source of income.

- (II) **Need for early clearance of Arpa Bhaiajhal Irrigation Project of Chhattisgarh**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Arpa Bhaiajhal Irrigation Project of Madhya Pradesh (Chhattisgarh) is pending for clearance for the last 20 years and about 200 residential buildings and offices were constructed at village Sakari in Bilaspur

[Shri Punnu Lal Mohale]

district for this project work. It was being executed by appointing employees officers but suddenly the work on this project has been stopped. The Government of Chhattisgarh has forwarded a scheme to the Union Government after conducting a survey in this regard. After completion of this project, 10,000 acres of land is going to be irrigated and the economic condition of farmers will improve. Therefore, I request the Union Government to give clearance to Arpa Bhaisajhal Irrigation Project of District Bilaspur immediately.

(iii) Need to hand over the management of M/s. Sambhar Salt Limited to State Government of Rajasthan for its smooth functioning

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir M/s. Sambhar Salt Limited is suffering losses due to excess expenditure, mismanagement and low production, whereas other salt companies like Deedvana handed over to State Government by the Central Government in 1960 are earning profits. Similarly, Pachbhadra Salt Company run by the State Government is earning profits every year and providing employment to thousands of local people. M/s. Sambhar Salt Limited has failed to implement the award given by Justice Shri V.V. Krishnamachari. If this award had been implemented then the State Government would have earned more revenue.

Therefore, I demand that M/s. Sambhar Salt Limited be handed over to the State Government for its smooth functioning and proper utilization of its resources.

(iv) Need for Proper Maintenance of National Highway between Jhansi and Barman via Sagar

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the North-South corridor Lane, a four line express highway, to start from Kashmir to Kanyakumari passing through my parliamentary constituency, Sagar, was known as National Highway No. 26. The road from Jhansi to Sagar and near Barman is in a dilapidated condition and owing to national importance of this road the number of traffic plying on this road is very high. But due to damaged road the drivers and passengers have to experience much difficulty. Wear and tear in vehicles and consumption of diesel and petrol has increased. Therefore, on the one side, the journey time has increased and on the other the expenditure on maintenance of vehicles has increased.

Therefore, I request the Government to construct a road between Jhansi and Barman via Sagar on priority basis in view of the importance of this road.

(v) Need to clear the proposals of Government of Karnataka for revival of sugar Industry in the State

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga) : Sir, the State Government of Karnataka had given a brief to the Union Agriculture Ministry on 24th July regarding the problems being faced by the sugarcane growers in the State due to excess sugar production.

A total of Rs. 7.43 crore worth of sugar is stocked in the godowns of the State. Considering this fact, the Centre has been urged to pass an order enabling the release of sugar in the open market. The proposal to remove the Sugar Control Act is pending before the Centre.

Sir, out of 18 sugar factories in the State, around 15 have incurred a cumulative loss to the tune of Rs. 33.3 crore. In all, 10 factories have been identified as sick and a proposal for revival of these factories has been sent to the Centre.

I request the Union Minister of Agriculture to consider the proposal submitted by the state Government of Karnataka in this regard and take early decision to help the sugarcane growers in the State of Karnataka.

(vi) Need to expedite construction of Yatri Niwas at Madurai, Tamil Nadu

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : Sir, Madurai is an ancient and second populous city in Tamil Nadu. This has become one of the major tourist centres in India. There are many worth seeing places around Madurai. As tourism is getting recognition as an industry, many players have entered into this field.

Last year, Railways' earning was Rs. 60 crore, inclusive of Rs. 4 core earned through 30 chartered trains that carried tourists. Of the total revenue, seven per cent comes from tourist trains.

So, to promote tourism, the foundation stone for 'Yatri Niwas' was laid by the Hon'ble Nitish Kumarji in 1998, Minister of Railways at Madurai Junction. This was found entered in the Pink Book of the Railways.

However, This was suddenly deleted and the entire construction was entrusted to the newly created Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation in the year 2000. Thereafter no action seems to have been taken.

This is a 'passenger amenities year'. In consonance with this declaration, the construction of Yatri Niwas at Madurai may please be taken up and completed expeditiously.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, have you got anything to reply? I Think, no.

(vii) Need for a circular train service connecting Vijayawada-Guntur-Tenali stations in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI Y.V. RAO (Guntur) : Vijayawada, Guntur and Tenali are important and busy railway stations on the South Central Railway portion of the State of Andhra Pradesh. They are extremely busy nerve centres of traffic in coastal Andhra Pradesh with the establishment of Large number of Engineering and Medical Colleges in that area, the growth of traffic in the recent years have been phenomenal.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested that the Railways should consider establishing a Circular Railway System between these three important towns of Andhra Pradesh. Each station is about 30 kms. from the other and any fast moving Circular Train System will attract a lot of traffic to the Railway, decongesting the road system and bring down pollution levels.

There is no direct train to Chennai via Guntur other than 7054 Chennai Express. The existing 7054 Secunderabad-Chennai Express is not catering to the demand of rush of passengers. Hence, there is a dire need to run a day time express train to Chennai via Guntur or to divert the Pinakini Express or Circar Express or Janashatabdi Express via Guntur which justifies the demand of passengers from Guntur and its vicinity to Chennai.

I urge upon the Government to at least order a survey in this regard in the next railway budget, that is, 2003-04

(viii) Need to take steps for revival of handloom industry in Orissa

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur) : Orissa is famous for its tie & dai work in handloom fabrics. Orissa's handloom productions, particularly the Sambalpur handloom sarees and other productions like wall clothes, door and window screens, bed-sheets and shirting are famous all over the country. The country earns good amount of foreign exchange through export of handloom products of Orissa. The pioneer of Orissa handloom is

the Sambalpur Bastralaya Handloom Cooperative Society which was founded during the freedom struggle by late Padmasree Dr. Krutartha Acharya who was great disciple of Mahatma Gandhi. The Sambalpur Bastralaya is one of the largest primary cooperative societies in handloom sector in the country having more than twenty five thousand weavers in its fold most of whom belong to SC and ST community. This organisation once occupied a pivotal position not only in the handloom sector, but also in the cooperative movement of the country. But this great organisation, whose foundation was linked with the freedom movement, has now begun to decline. Its financial condition is precarious. If proper remedial measures are not initiated forthwith, not only thousands of poor weavers will be thrown to bewilderment, the great weaving art of the country will also meet a dark fate.

I, therefore, urge upon the Textile Ministry of Government of India to extend all possible help and assistance to this organisation for its revival and proper existence.

(ix) Need to Open a Central School in Maharajganj District, Uttar Pradesh

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my Parliamentary constituency Maharajganj district is located on Indo-Nepal border. There is no Kendriya Vidyalaya in my Parliamentary constituency whereas many officers and employees of the departments of the Central Government viz. Customs, Railways and SSB are posted there. District Maharajganj is very backward from educational point of view.

Therefore, I request the Government to set up a Kendriya Vidyalaya anywhere in district Maharajganj for educational development of the district.

14.34 hrs.

**TRANSFER OF PROPERTY (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2002**

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up Item No. 15 of the Agenda.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY) : Sir, I beg to move :

[Shri K. Jana Krishnamurthy]

"That the Bill further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, be taken into consideration."

It is a very small amendment. This amendment will go a long way in putting an end to the confusion with regard to the notice of termination of leases. There are two varieties of leases, yearly lease and monthly lease. Yearly lease means six months' time is needed for termination notice and if it is monthly lease, a 15 days' notice has to be given.

The whole question that has arisen, throughout all the courts in the country has been from which the date the notice should be reckoned. Different interpretations have been given. So many cases have come up on that basis. The Supreme Court also has given a verdict. The Law Commission has also made a recommendation that there should be some certainty and fixity with regard to the date from which this six months period or 15 days' period will have to be recorded.

We have brought amendment to section 106 of the Transfer of Property Act just to give a particular time from which the date will have to be fixed. In the (Amendment) Bill that I am now moving clause 2 reads as :

"Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the period mentioned in sub-section (1) shall commence from the date of receipt of notice."

There are literally thousands of cases pending throughout the country only on this question. What happens is that if it falls short on a day, then the case goes. Then, immediately that is dismissed. A fresh notice is issued. Again another suit is filed. In this way, thousands of cases have been pending. Now, the fixation of the period will solve this. When this amendment comes about, I am quite sure that all these cases will get disposed of properly and there will be no confusion. Since this matter relates to cases, we are also giving retrospective effect to it so that it will also bind the existing cases. It will enable the client. It will not, in any manner, affect the lessee. It will only enable the lessor. It will stop the confusion. This is the amendment. I Hope the House will extend its full co-operation in supporting this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, be taken into consideration."

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga):

Sir, I support this Bill as it is a timely one. From 1965 onwards, the Supreme Court and other courts have commented upon this particular provision and interpreted it in different ways. Finally, it was settled in the judgment of the Supreme Court. But at the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the hon. Law Minister that the Law Ministry has worked with some speed. Immediately on submission of the 181st Report of the Law Commission, the hon. Minister has piloted this Bill. The hon. Minister has come forward with this Bill in a very fast way. If the same fastness is applied to all the judgements, then a lot of problems can be solved. This is now coming up as a conflict between the Judiciary and the Legislature. Even many Constitutional provisions were made inapplicable or *ultra vires* or they were struck down, but all those provisions remain even now in the Statute Book. That should be considered by the Law Commission. It should find out a way whether the Judgement can be applied as it is or, as the Legislature feels, the present statute is to be applied by annulling the Judgement. This aspect should be considered by the Law Commission and the Law Ministry. When there are cases coming before the High Courts and the Supreme Court, they want to assert their own judgments rather than the statute which is at present without any amendment is force. Therefore, this conflict between the Executive *versus* Legislature and the Legislature *versus* Judiciary should be annulled with.

With these submissions, I would like to appreciate the Law Ministry or having taken this step. The Law Minister has come forward to solve the problems which are very much in the rural areas. Section 106 of the Transfer of Property Act is useful only in the mofussil areas. Many statutes have come up before the State legislatures. By way of Rent Control Act, Agricultural Rent Control Act and so many other enactments, these problems were solved by giving proper notice. A statutory notice was provided in the Acts passed by the State Legislatures. But at the same time, section 106 of the Transfer of Property Act is applicable where there is no building or where there is no superstructure. It is applicable to the vacant site or to the agricultural land or to manufacturing. Manufacturing is very important now. When this enactment had come in 1882, at that time, manufacturing was done in a small way. But now it is done in a bigger way. A lot of investments are made. If there is a contradictory agreement made or there is no mention about the time-limit in the agreement between the lessor and the lessee, then this provision will be enforced by the lessor and the lessee will be evicted very quickly.

Therefore, that should be considered and that particular word, "manufacturing" has to be interpreted in a much more general way so that the manufacturing industry is not affected by this new provision.

I am happy that the hon. Minister of Law and Justice has taken into consideration the pending cases. Plenty of pending cases, as the hon. Minister has observed, are going to be settled simply by this enactment.

Under section 106 of the original Act, the provision in the last line: "expiring with the end of a month of tenancy" is now deleted. At the same time, the provision for 15 days' notice has been made broader. The 15 days' time starts from the date of receipt of the notice. This gives the right to the lessor. At the same time the provision for sending and receiving notices is given in a broader way, which could be very easily misused by the lessor. Now, it says :

"Every notice under sub-section (1) must be in writing, signed by or on behalf of the person giving it, and either be sent by post to the party who is intended to be bound by it or be tendered or delivered personally to such party, or to one of this family or servant at this residence, or (if such tender or delivery is not practicable) affixed to a conspicuous part of the property."

I think, this is a very broad one. There is no registered notice mentioned here. Therefore, they can very easily send the notice under certificate of posting or they could say that they had pasted the notice in a conspicuous place or that they had given it to a servant who had just been removed or to a family member who had come just for dinner. So, there should be some focussing that it should be a registered notice. In the case of registered post, an acknowledgement is also given. Apart from the Postal Department, there are also private couriers who get the signatures and give acknowledgements. The limitation starts from the time of receipt of the notice, which is now made a focussing point. Therefore, the provision that was already in the principal Act should be given much more modernity so that it could be accepted from that date onwards or from that minute onwards the limitation starts.

Along with these observations. I would like to suggest that whenever this type of amendments are brought forward, the new developments should also be included. Now, e-commerce and electronic communications have come up and information technology is improving. So, these modes of sending notices could also be included so that the cost of sending the notices could be reduced.

With these words, I support this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Law Minister, please explain to the House what would happen to the judgement delivered in *Mangilal vs. Sukan Chand*, AIR 1965? For the last 37 years, this judgement has been in force. What would happen to the pending suits? Would the principle of *res judicata* apply? Can they institute a suit again ?

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY : Sir, later on, there has been a Supreme Court judgement, AIR 1965 SC 101, 104. In this case, the Supreme Court has dealt with this particular subject. Once a Supreme Court judgement comes in, all other earlier judgements automatically stand superseded. In the Supreme Court judgement, it has been held that while computing the period of notice the day on which the notice is served is required to be excluded. That was the Supreme Court judgement. They are giving a *quitus*. In the lower court, they did not give a *quitus* because it was not known to the lower court advocates and clients. Still the confusion prevails. In order to see that this confusion is removed once and for all, this present amendment is being brought about. I do not think, the present amendment would in any way come in the way of either this judgement or that judgement.

It is because the Parliament makes the position very clear that the period will have to be reckoned with only from ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly explain to the House what about the fate of the dismissed suits because the policy of *res judicata* will prevent filing a fresh suit.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY : If it is being dismissed only on the question of the date, then, naturally, he has got that opportunity to send a fresh notice and then start a fresh suit. If it has been decided on merits, *res judicata* applies, but if the court gives a finding that it had to be only on the basis of the notice, this comes to his rescue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : This is not a correct information. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I just wanted the hon. Minister to explain the position.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: If the case is dismissed, he has to file a fresh suit. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY : The hon. Chairman's question was not that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let there not be a debate on it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY : That is why, I said that it is not a court. It is Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have started a good convention. There was apprehension about the Bill presented. As you are a legal expert you have rightly detected the right point in the Property Transfer Bill, 1882. The hon'ble Minister has brought an amendment in section 106 of the old Act. He has claimed that he has brought this amendment on the basis of Supreme Court's verdict given in Mangilal versus Sukan Chand case and 181st report of the Law Commission. Earlier there was provision to dispossess a person of one year lease by issuing a notice of six months and one month's lease by issuing a 15-day notice. But the period of 15 days or six months passed without the notice being served, because the processes of serving notice is very complicated in our country. He said that the notice would be served under his signature. It will be received by the person or some other person or on his behalf by his servant. If it is not received then it will return. There is no provision in regard to the period by when it will return; please clarify.

Secondly, he has said that it would be implemented with retrospective effect. If it will be implemented with retrospective effect then it will suit cases presently pending but it has no provision for those cases which have been dismissed on technical grounds. This will lead to confusion again and cases will be procrastinated. The Government have shown concern that a number of cases have increased due to it and a number of cases have been dismissed on technical grounds. The Hon'ble Minister has said that the Law Commission has concluded from this section that many cases were filed due to ignorance of this law and these cases were dismissed only on this technical reason. This Bill is silent in this regard as to what will be the fate of these cases.

The main concern of the Government was the number of cases and they will get some relief if this Bill is passed. The period for serving notice has been removed. It is all right that period for servicing notices has been taken as six months and 15 days respectively. But what about the

cases which have been dismissed? Problem will arise in serving notices and if notices are not served, the server will write that nobody was present; then what will happen in such cases ? The Government should clarify position in respect of these two type of cases. It is a Money Transfer Bill. There are a number of disputes in such transfers and courts are loaded with such disputes. It is related to lease holdings related to temporary transfer of property in which one may take land on lease for cultivation or for manufacturing. It has said the lease holder may surrender lease or the lease issuing authority may get the lease hold dispossessed of the lease but he will have to give notice for this. The technical problem in the notice should be removed. But what will be about the problems arising out of this law, the Government should clarify this point.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the purpose of the provision of Section 106 in the T.P. Act is that the relationship of the lessor and the lessee should be terminated before the lessor sues for possession. He has no right of entry before the tenancy is disrupted. Further, an opportunity should be given to the tenant; sufficient time should be given to the tenant by this notice before he is asked to vacate the premises. Without a notice under Section 106, the tenant should not be asked to vacate and for that too, 15 clear days notice should be there.

The hon. Supreme Court, in a decision given in 1965 in Mangilal vs. Sukan Chand made it clear that when computing the 15 days, the day on which the notice is served should be excluded and their Lordship also mentioned that this Section is meant to benefit the lessee so that maximum benefit should be given to the lessee in interpreting this and they deliberately interpreted it in such a way that maximum benefit should be given to the lessee.

Of course, I welcome this amendment. This will be a small step in preventing multiplicity of litigation in various courts. But I would like to point out that a Section which is beneficial to the tenant, which was interpreted by the Supreme Court to benefit the tenant, is being amended. In fact it is going to benefit the landlord. I would like to make that point.

Of course, the Law Commission has strongly recommended that this multiplicity of litigation should be put to an end and they should be clarified in such a way that anything regarding this notice should be settled. But

my point is that since the Supreme Court has interpreted deliberately that this is the settled position that this Section should be interpreted in this way, by amending this, we are going to favour the landlord.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is after 37 years.

The hon. Minister to reply now.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY : Sir, I would like to clarify the doubts raised by one of our hon. Members. If the amendment is properly read, the confusion need not be there. In amendment 2, it say : "shall commence from the date of receipt of the notice" and not sending of the notice. When you say "from the date of receipt of the notice", it is for the lessor who tries to terminate the lessee and he is required to send a notice and show that the notice has been served on that particular date. So, doubts like whether a person is there to receive or not, whether it reaches him or not, cannot come because the amendment clearly says it is from the date of receipt of the notice. Unless there is proof that there is a receipt of the notice, the court will not accept that a notice has been sent.

So, under these circumstances, the apprehensions raised by the hon. Members may not hold good inasmuch as the amendment specifies the date and that specified date is the date of receipt of this notice, when it was served.

The second thing is that it is not in favour of any landlord. This amendment has not been brought here either to favour the landlord or to disfavour the tenant. The simple question is when the lease has been entered into, whether it is a yearly lease or it is a monthly lease—yearly lease requires six months' notice and monthly lease requires 15 days' notice—whether it can be terminated and whether it is properly terminated, for which the notice is to be given. All the merits of the case etc. will be looked into by the court. The court for this purpose only sees whether the notice has been sent, whether it has been properly sent and from that time, 15 days or six months are to be calculated etc. So, it does not go to favour or disfavour either the tenant or the lessee.

With regard to some comments on the courts that the Supreme Court or High Court is coming in conflict with the Executive etc., I think, that is not the matter to be discussed in this context today for the simple reason that the court is supreme in its own way. It has got the right to interpret its own law and if, after the interpretation by the High Court or Supreme Court in a particular branch

of law, the Parliament in its wisdom feels that an amendment should be brought, we can always bring an amendment. If it is in consonance with the law and the constitutional law, no court will set it aside. It has always upheld it.

I think, with these explanations, I seek the permission of this House to fully extend their total co-operation for this Amendment Bill so that these amendments to the Transfer of Property Act can be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.58 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2002

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

[Shri K. Jana Krishnamurthy]

I have already moved an amendment that by mistake, it has been mentioned as Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002. That amendment has already been given. It is only Representation of the People Bill, 2002.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion Moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir. We support this Bill, but at the same time, we have to draw certain interpretation which may come in the future and which must be considered. This Bill gives the commencement of the disqualification for a particular period if the fine is paid by the accused. That is from the date of the order of the judgement, that is, from the date of conviction. At the same time, if the sentence is imprisonment, then the disqualification will come into effect from the date of the release of the accused. That means a person can easily be caught in the hold of this type of offences. For example, we know very well that a competent rival who can become the Chief Minister, who was a Chief Minister earlier, can be very easily brought into the fold of enactments like the Prevention of Corruption Act or even the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

15.00 hrs.

They can be put inside a jail and a small conviction is sufficient for that. Very leading Members were now booked under POTA and they are inside the prisons. Suppose, they get some punishment, even a fine is sufficient to put an end to their political career because they will go for an appeal, then they will go for a second appeal or a revision. It will take about ten years. Afterwards, if it is confirmed, then they will go to the prison to undergo the punishment imposed on them. When they come out or when they are released, they will be feeling handicapped in their day-to-day life as a politician. Therefore, this legislation is a very serious legislation having serious consequences.

Actually, these types of enactments are being forced upon us by the fourth pillar, that is, the Press and the media because media wants the politicians alone to be puritans and they should not have any black marks in their career. Therefore, they want the politicians not to involve themselves in any activity other than the political activity. However, in the course of the political activity, there is a power struggle. If a person wants to get power,

then the person who is already in power would not like to allow that person to come into power. Since they have power in their hands, be it for a three-year term or a five-year term, they can very easily get the witnesses. Normally, the Indian judiciary depends on oral evidence in criminal cases. There cannot be documentary evidence in every case and, therefore, more dependence is on the oral evidence. Oral evidence can easily be arranged or tutored. In this fragile system where the judicial interpretations are done, how are we going to face the situation ?

We can even mention the case of a Tamil Nadu Chief Minister who has faced many cases and on whose head a Damocles sword is hanging now. Do we have to create such situations just to satisfy the Press or the so-called intellectuals who conduct seminars and who feel that the politicians alone should be puritans and they do not care about the rest.

I am in no way supporting the regular criminals who are coming to Parliament. I am in no way supporting them, but at the same time, here is a possibility and we have got the specimen cases in front of us. Therefore, this Amendment Bill will open the Pandora's box. That is why, it should be implemented with a lot of precautionary measures so that the power struggles should not make it a draconian law or it should not handicap the politicians who are civilised and who want to lead a proper life in their own way.

A judicial magistrate or a district judge can impose simple fines, and oral evidence is sufficient for the higher courts to confirm that punishment. We know how many politicians were crucified by this method of judicial pronouncements. I would like to say that this Amendment Bill may have a lot of repercussions and, therefore, there should be proper consideration and precautionary steps should be undertaken.

My senior colleague feels that if possible, it can be referred to a Standing Committee or a Select Committee because it will have very strong repercussions
....(Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF (Bangalore North) : The hon. Law Minister is sitting here, He comes from Tamil Nadu and he knows what is happening there. It is happening not only in Tamil Nadu, but also it is happening in Bihar. You need to look at the whole spectrum, I mean, the situation prevailing in different parts of the country.

People have reposed faith and given us the opportunity to enact laws. Let us be careful and truthful to ourselves and also to the people while framing the laws. Let us not be driven by the opinion of the people, the intellectuals who are sitting in air-conditioned rooms and debate such issues as these and play to the gallery. Let us be careful about such things.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) Sir, after he has completed his speech, we should also be given a chance to speak.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY : Probably such a confusion would not have arisen if I had, in a regular manner, explained the scope of the Bill.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF : I suggest that this Bill be referred to a Joint Select Committee. When there is a case against a political activist, cost of fighting the case for the Prosecution is borne by the State Exchequer, but the individual has to fight his or her case by spending his or her money, which by itself is a Herculean task.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY : I will reply to that.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to mention about the Tamil Nadu case. The present Chief Minister was prosecuted by the previous regime and now after she has assumed office, she is taking a lot of steps against the Ministers of the previous regime. There are raids being conducted in their houses. Corruption cases are being filed against them. There is a virtual war between the politicians. What would happen in future? I am not saying that I want to protect the corrupt politicians. But would this not be a tool in the hands of the people who are presently in power to see that the people who intends to come to power is handicapped? In case of a flat race when a person is running he or she should not obstructed by the other person, maybe, in such an event, there is a possibility of even the other person ending up winning the race. This should not be allowed to happen. At the same time, I would like to very candidly submit that persons who are criminals should not be allowed to come into politics. But the politicians should not be misconstrued as criminals simply because of this enactment. This would have very strong repercussions. It is because the persons who comes to power, either at the Centre or at the States, would remain in power for a period of five years and within this period of their being in power, they can mis-utilise the provisions of this enactment by putting their political opponents to various kinds of hardships.

We are aware of many such incident that had happened in this country. I need not name the persons, who had the potential of becoming the Prime Minister of this country, who were facing corruption charges simply because some initials of their names were found in diary belonging to a person who was involved in a scam. They were prosecuted for so many years. Fortunately for us the politicians were acquitted by the higher Courts. Otherwise, what would have happened to their future? Such politicians would never have been involved in any case of corruption in their life.

Therefore, I would request that there should be some thinking on this. There should be a thorough study on this. There should be precautionary measures. I am not saying that every law is misused. But we are witnessing such things everyday for the last about seven years. The same thing happens in other places as well. It can happen in other states as well by utilising the provisions of this type of an enactment. That is my question. It may be considered by this august House whether, even after this Bill has been discussed and debated, it could be referred to a Standing Committee or a Joint Select Committee for further consideration or not.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support this Bill brought by the Government. The persons representing the people should not have criminal background. It is often said that there is a dominance of Mafia and criminal gang in politics. In a number of States such persons enter into Parliament, Legislative Assemblies or other Institutions after winning election with the help of muscle power, criminals support and money power. This Bill has been brought to remove this drawback so as to ensure that people joining politics do not have criminal background. This is the observation being made in the country criminalisation of politicians and politicization of criminals' which are dangerous for our public representatives. That is why I want to congratulate NDA Government, for bringing this Bill but they are bringing this in piece meal.

It would have been better had a comprehensive election reforms bill was brought. It is better to do something than nothing. That is why I want to congratulate this Government. This is the tradition of our country and I want to give one instance about that. When king Ashvaghosh was asked about people of his kingdom, then he told that no drunkard, corrupt, criminal, dubious person lives, in his kingdom. Such was a position in our country too. But, now, the criminal tendency is also

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

developing among people's representatives of the country. It is said that "as is the king so are the subjects" That is why it is very necessary to bring improvement in king also. That is why representation of the people (Second (Amendment) Bill, 2002 has been brought. Since the enactment of Representation of the People Act, 1951 a number of elections of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have taken place but since then many defeats have cropped in the election procedure. In order to remove them improvement have been made at regular intervals and this amendment is one of them. It has been mentioned in the Bill that from which date such conviction should be considered and the candidate to be declared disqualified.

[English]

(iii) for the portion beginning with the words "shall be disqualified" and ending with the words "such conviction", the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"shall be disqualified, where the convicted person is sentenced to—

- (i) only fine, for a period of six years from the date of such conviction;
- (ii) Imprisonment, from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release",

[Translation]

All this has been included in this Bill. Three points have been mentioned. Under the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987, the practice of Sati is legally prohibited, but some people emotionally are encouraging the practice of Sati, Wherein it is the Divrala incident of Rajasthan or incidents of Sati occurred in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Anyone who is found to be involved in the practice of Sati and simultaneously those who have been proved corrupt under prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 or those indulged in corrupt practices or embezzlement of money by some other way have also been included in the disqualification list. This rule has been brought to declare persons convicted under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 disqualify for politics.

I think that the Government has taken a very courageous step Definitely such kind of law was very essential to bring probity in politics; to attract good people in Politics, to prevent the tendency of criminalisation to keep criminals away from politics, and thereby preventing its consequences. Everybody should welcome such law.

I would like to refer one point in this regard. The report of Dinesh Goswami about election reforms was presented. It has recommended certain amendments under the Representation of the people Act. After this a number of Committees have also been constituted in this regard and they gave many suggestions but all those suggestions have not been implemented yet. What should be the expense of election? Large amount of money is spent on elections. The information is given to Election Commission for eye-wash only. They come in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly by spending a lot of money in the elections. The fund should also be provided to contest election from the exchequer as is being done in other countries. So that unnecessary expenditure is prevented. the Government should implement the recommendations of Dinesh Goswami Commission at the earliest so that probity is brought in elections. This is a case to free politics from criminalisation. "Jaisa Khaiyenge ann vaise banega man, jaisa peeyenge pani vaisi bolenge vani, jaisa karenge sang, vaisa charhega rang, jaisa hoga aachar, vaisa banega vichar, jaisi hogi mati vaisi hogi jeevan ki gati, jaisa janege dharm, utana hoga shreshth karm, jitni logi neeti utni hogi jeevan ki riti, jaisi hogi kami vaisi paar utami."

On the basis of these principles and to bring probity in politics, these amendments are very essential in Representation of the people Act. I feel that now this dispute should come to an end that from when such persons should be considered disqualified? It is clearly said that by the day penalty is imposed he will be considered disqualified and he who has been given Imprisonment will be declared disqualified for six years. He can not contest an election upto six years since his release from jail and upto six years in the case of penalty.

Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I congratulate the Government once again that it is making amendments in the rules regarding election reforms slowly. A day will come when Representation of the People Act will be so strong that no criminal will dare to come in politics.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I beg to apologise that I was not present when you called my name to speak on this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I assure you that it will not be repeated.

Sir, I rise to extend our very critical support to the Government on this Bill. The critical support is not in the sense that we are questioning the spirit of the Bill. We are very sincere to support the very spirit of the Bill. We are also sincere to understand the requirement and the need of the day. We are also extending our support to the Government for their realisation of bringing forward this amendment.

There is a saying in English : 'It should not only be good; it should appear to be good'. Now, criminalisation of politics and criminalisation in politics have been the talking point in the entire country for the last so many years. You go to any society, you go to any place in public life, if anybody is denigrated today in the eyes of the people and whom people talk with contempt, unfortunately, it is the politicians. But look at the days of the struggle of the people who came from the Freedom Struggle, who built the entire India's political with great sacrifices. They never even dreamt of that the politicians who are the worshippers of the democracy, who are devoted to the cause of the people, will be once dealt with contempt.

Unfortunately the focus of the media, especially the focus of the electronic media today is that if you are a Judge, you are a holy man.

If you are a journalist you are a super holy man. If you are a bureaucrat, you are a master of the situation but if you are a politician, you are a dirt. That is how we are being considered and treated. We have to address ourselves as to why we have come to this stage.

It is because, cutting across party lines, the social and the political situation in various parts of the country sometimes compel us I am not taking the name of any particular political Party—to make compromises, in a given situation, with the undesired elements. As a result, presence of even one or two out of 543 Members in an Assembly make the whole situation muddy and people feel that the whole assembly is of the same kind. That is why we have been led to this situation.

Most of us have joined politics with certain commitments and vision, whichever Party we may belong and this vision begins with a dream to serve the people and to take up issue of the people in terms of the democratic arrangement of country. When I joined political party through the students' movement we had a few good many friends. We did differ on occasions. Myself and the present Chief Minister of Bengal studied together and we fought on the political principles and ideologies. In those

days we had a dream to be a leader like Prof. Hiren Mukherjee of CPI, Shri Namboodripad of CPI (M), Shri Minoo Massani of Swatantra Party, Shri Kamat, Shri Madhu Limaye, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Humayun Kabir and other great parliamentarians who used to come to the House. We used to copy them—including Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and his colleagues in our mock-Parliaments. This is the kind of a situation we wanted to see in the country. We wanted to see this type of Parliament, Assembly and also this kind of politics. We used to hear them, sitting in the Visitors' Gallery, with rapt attention. When we were students, we used to read their speeches, copy their speeches from the Parliament Library to ensure the strength of the debate. Where have those days gone? Who bid good-bye to those days? I would say that unfortunate social tensions and development have resulted in this. If people believe that good people should come to politics then good people should make a motto to join politics. Let them join any Party they like. If good people, good technocrats, best students or best lawyers choose to serve the political system of the country without avoiding it, the system will be strengthened. When I feel the future of the democracy of India, its Constitution, is enriched and strengthened. It is, therefore, the bounded duty of the political parties to find the people of this calibre and bring them into the mainstream. I will give you an example.

Suppose, we choose the best man and bring him to the Party office on the day of nomination to election, the first remark will be that he has come straight from the University has he served the Party at the grass root level? No. So, he may be considered only an intellectual or a brilliant person in Army or legal profession, brilliant in his approach to science and technology but certainly he is not a grass root level worker of the Party. This is the first criterion.

The second criteria is this. Does he stand by the workers? We get confused because of such issues. There are two aspects of serving the workers. Firstly, educating the workers to build up the political struggle and to defend the workers in some violent situation.

Sometimes somebody becomes famous by using his gun power widely and recklessly in one or two violent incidents and he becomes a *dada*. At some point of time, even some political party may consider him a powerful man who can manage booths for it and can terrorise people. Due to this, he is sure to win. The political parties think that they would not make him Minister but if he joins us, he would add to their strength. This very concept is a concept of compromise in our

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

entire political system cutting across party line. The day we make this compromise, any number of Bills we may bring, we cannot strengthen our democratic system and other things.

Sir, Shri Rajiv Gandhi gave ticket to Shri Nitish Sengupta, the former Revenue Secretary. But some other person as the aspirant to get ticket from there. So, some of our people shaved this head and put all dirty things on his head. They did not even allow him to file his nomination paper. He was able to file his nomination paper with great difficulty. He is not present here. He would have vouchsafed for what I am saying. But the other section of the workers said that he is a good man and he should come. So, this is how we ourselves have polluted the system. Therefore, I first address the issue that the spirit of the legislation can be enriched finally if all the political parties address themselves to support the political system with the best possible talents of the party, come what may.

The other day, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was telling me the legacy of Uttar Pradesh Assembly. It used to send such stalwarts who were more powerful than the parliamentarians of the Lok Sabha. It sent a lot of good people. Where have those days gone? This is the talking point, in the media today. Where is that Legislature of Uttar Pradesh? Where is that Parliament of India? It is not that we are all fools. We are also good people. But due to two-three incidents, the entire system gets bad colour. Therefore, logically this kind of provision in the law is not doubt, very much justified. As I said earlier, it should not only be good but it should appear to be good.

Now let us discuss the answer. I am not trying to score a political point today. But if I hold a very high office in the Government and I am *prima facie* charged with some offence by any court of law, should I remain in office? To justify the intention of the Government, the legislation should not only be good but it should appear to be good. Does it not address to my conscience that I should leave the office till the whole things settled? I praise profusely late Madhavrao Scindia and Shri Advani. On a small, unfortunate, uncalled for, and ill-motive charge about a *havala* transaction, they resigned and said that they will not come back till it is resolved.

These are the things where people are won. People do not read these Acts. How many people read these Acts? It will be confined to you and I and the people who argue in the court. But the people in democracy are the most sensitive. They are convinced when they watch

and see the system. That is why, I said that the legislation should not be good but it should appear to be good.

In that context, while we address this legislation, we must know what we did, Shri V.K. Krishan Menon was not a dishonest man. He was a great man and a great champion of our freedom struggled. In those days, he held many meetings in London against the British Raj. He was a very competent Minister of Defence. But during Chinese aggression, when he was charged in this House for certain irregularities, he resigned. He was a towering personality. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had no other option but to advise him to step down. He stepped down and Shri Y.B. Chavan was brought in. Are we following the same legacy today? We are not.

Sir, this morning, Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra presented a Preliminary Report on the incident involving Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. The Committee had recommended that to ensure transparency of the investigation, the Deputy Commissioner of Police should be put under suspension without accusing that he is guilty.

It is an observation not to influence the inquiry. Is it, therefore, not desirable that if any court finds anybody in the Government as an accused *prima facie*, he or she should not remain a part of the Government till cleared? Whatever may be the case: they may be in the Government or on the other Benches, if there is an observation by a court of law that this man is accused *Prima facie*, or that he is required to be tried, till the trial is over he should not be holding any public office. It is justify the notion that 'it is not enough to be good, it should also appear to be good'.

Are we doing it? We are not. There we take a political stand. What I am saying is not a political stand; it is a logical stand. I know a friend of mine, Shri Chandrakar. Today he is not alive. He was a Minister at one time when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister. A report came that without intimating the External Affairs Ministry, Government of India, or our Party, he went to Taiwan maybe on a private visit and a dossier came. Then he was asked to step down from the Ministry.

In this Bill there is a provision for imposition of fine. The Law Minister may kindly explain this to us. If in a offence, only a fine of Rs. 10 or Rs. 10 lakh is imposed and the imprisonment is only for three years—or either a fine or imprisonment—even for that fine, you may like to appreciate this point, should a person be disqualified? This is a grey area where I need your guidance. You will have to educate and enlighten us as to what is your

intention. This is wrong. The parliament must also consider as to how this will be applied.

I am not casting any aspersion on the Judiciary. I have been watching for the last one or two years an uncalled for and unwarranted enthusiasm in the name of judicial activism in this country. It is totally uncalled for. Today our respected Prime Minister intervened in the matter of sugarcane growers. Knowing full well that the Government of India can decide the matter, the court stepped in and asked what would happen to the sugarcane growers. Tomorrow the court will guide the Parliament and say it should do it or do that. This is too much. If the court considers a few judges of Karnataka to be examined on certain things and we try to remotely react to it, they say we are attacking judiciary. I am not attacking the judiciary. Judiciary is one of the respected pillars of democracy. But an impression is created that all politicians are thieves and dacoits whereas only holy people are sitting in the temple of judiciary and they will try us. This impression I warn, is an indication of demolition of the constitutional system and Parliamentary Democracy. For a single case, for a single black sheep, for one bad judge as I cannot accuse the entire judiciary, in the same manner, for one offence committed by a particular politician of a particular State, if the judiciary tries to summon the lawyer and tries to teach him a lesson by saying that "oh, after all, he is a politician", this is a dangerous thing for the entire country. They should stop this kind of character assassination.

You have given this power of imposing a fine. It simply means I have not been given punishment of imprisonment, I will have to give only a fine to an individual and I am giving the fine. For this fine also to you mean to say that I will be disqualified? Here I thought you could have discussed the issue with us or sent it to a Joint Parliamentary Committee to call more experts and give wider thought and then bring it here. But I do not know what for you are in a hurry. If I oppose it now, you would say the Congress Party is against it.

[*Translation*]

The Congress Party prevent us in doing good work. I will never stop you, you keep on doing good work, if some day you face problem then do not complain to me.

[*English*]

I will conclude in a few minutes. The Minister is kind enough to bring in these provisions. Commission of Sati Act 1987 is one provision. I am grateful to our late lamented leader Rajiv Gandhi.

I was also a Minister in his Government. At that time, he had brought this legislation. ...(*Interruptions*) It is

brought within the purview. I salute and the Parliament also should salute the contributions of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. It is he who first created the movement in the banks of Ganges against the British *raj*. He was not only against the British *raj* but also against the orthodox, religious, obscurantist Hindu community which tried to misinterpret the provisions and misguided the society. I do not know how many great holy unfortunate mothers has to die in that compulsion. This is all done by Hindu fundamentalists. Raja Ram Mohan Ray stood against them. I am glad that the Bill has now been brought. You must bring this provision. I am grateful to the Minister for having considered this matter.

The second point is on POTO. Do not take in that I am scoring political points here. For instance, if Shri Vaiko is convicted under POTO, he cannot contest for six years and the court, whatever may be the judgement, may punish him for 10 or 20 years. After all, in a political system, POTO can be misused sometimes. You may agree or disagree with me. Even I can misuse it if I would come to power. For that reason, I may take political revenge against a friend like Shri Raghunath Jha saying that he was behind sabotage of the Rajdhani Express, and that he should be brought under POTO by influencing various things like assuring somebody that he will be put as the Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry and if he would give the findings against Shri Raghunath Jha to settle my score, he is also influenced. So, this provision is good but there should be a Committee to review all such decisions and judgments. Otherwise, I am afraid that it could be politically misused.

Other provisions are all right like the Prevention of Corruption Act. You have brought it and I am grateful to you as this was highly required. But my only last appeal to you is this. Why not you think of, if not today or tomorrow or in the next Session, a law which says that whoever hits or engineers in hitting the secular foundation of the Constitution, be it a church or a temple or a mosque, after the last findings of the court, should not enter into Parliament. It is because Parliament is for the secular foundation of democracy. This Parliament is the only guarantee for secularism. Till a charged person is found accessed, he should not hold an office. You may bring such a law. Let it be the case of a Hindu temple or a Christian church or a Muslim mosque. Those who are found guilty should not be allowed to enter Parliament. If this could be further rectified in your period, then I should say that the intention is not only good but it appears also to be good.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to speak on the Bill and to make my brief presentation.

At the outset, I am inclined to support the Bill on the ground that it has some something, though not full, and as such, I am giving my qualified support. As a student of management, I have been given to understand that any single problem will have more than a one solution. In that way, instead of making a comprehensive electoral reform. They have made a beginning and I am happy that the Bill has been brought to a limited extent.

As far as the Bill is concerned, as other Members who spoke earlier to me rightly pointed out, it has crossed over various stages. In pursuant to the Supreme Court direction. The Election Commission has issued instruction prescribing affidavit and on that situation, the Government has come forward to promulgate an Ordinance. The Ordinance has now been formalised. It is now becoming a law. To that extent, this Bill is before us now.

Sir, as far as the Bill is concerned, it has got a lot of inadequacies from what the Supreme Court has said and what the Election Commission has followed. I would like to mention the following inadequacies. They have mentioned about educational qualification, but that has been left out. As far as the disclosure of assets and liabilities are concerned, only the candidate's assets and liabilities are taken and that of the spouse and dependants have been left out. Not only that, there has been shift of filing 'from whom' and 'to whom'. The candidate, before election, has to disclose all these information regarding assets and liabilities. before the Returning officer. Now it is changed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Sir, this is Second (Amendment) Bill. He is speaking about something else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know. Shri K. Malaisamy, this is not that amendment. This is a limited amendment to include three or four offences.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Before touching upon the merits of the Bill, I am trying to make certain observations. We are living in a democracy, that too in the largest democracy in the world, that too in a working largest democracy. We are used to free and fair elections. As you know, Sir, conducting free and fair elections periodically is not an easy task. It is a gigantic and massive task, ranging from 500 million electorate going

up to 5.5. lakh polling stations throughout the length and breadth of twenty-eight States and seven Union Territories, one end at the top of the hill and other end beyond the sea, in the islands and in thick forests. All these things have been done. This kind of free and fair election is the bedrock of our democracy. Over a period of time, during the last five decades, the elections have been going on and we pat ourselves that we have done excellently well in democracy. In the initial two decades, everything went on well according to me. It is the report of others also. It went on. Free and fair elections were there.

From the third decade—till now, the deterioration and de-generation started and erosion of ethics and vanishment of values have crept in. The entire House will agree that there is a total deterioration and de-generation not only at the level of politicians but at all levels. The perceptions have changed and the value systems have changed, not only in the case of politicians but also at every level. I want to insist that it is at every level. In that case, due to the system, due to the electoral system, due to the governance, due to other situations, one has to make a lot of compromises. But unfortunately, politicians are being spotted out easily. That is why everybody seems to be looking at us with contempt. On the other hand the persons who are blaming the politicians, blaming the system, are educated, well informed enlightened, and sophisticated. That cadre of the society should come to politics and try to cleanse the politics instead of sitting on the fence and trying to blame us. What I am trying to say is that, political leaders with vision and mission, political leaders with direction, political leaders with disinterested devotion, and true spirit of honourable service were there. They were with 3S namely, self-discipline, sacrifice and service. This is no one side. Now a days, it is accused that politicians are endowed with five Ms. What are these five Ms? The five Ms are: Muscle power, Money power, Ministerial power, Media power and Mafia power.

This is the way that we are being branded. Now, communalism, casteism, corruption, criminalisation of politics are surfacing. This is the serious situation which is prevailing, for which something has to be done. I agree with the attempt to bringing a Bill to control this kind of evil. This is not enough. Mr. Minister, my point is that you must go in for a comprehensive electoral reform. A number of Committees were there. A pretty number of fine electoral reform measures have already been given. How to improve upon them, how to cleanse the system and how to attract the well-meaning, decent and dignified politicians like many of us to come to this House, should be the approach.

I want to get some clarifications from the hon. Minister before I conclude. As I could know, right to vote is the statutory right. It is not a constitutional right or a fundamental right. As per the observation of the Supreme Court, it is a natural right flowing from the concept of democracy. They have not said it as a fundamental right. If that is the case, should it be taken as a fundamental right? This is my first point. What is your view on that?

Sir, I have got the greatest respect for the judiciary. The Indian democracy stands on three pillars of, the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary operating through the bureaucracy and assisted by the Fourth Estate. These three pillars, the three limbs of democracy should revolve round their own orbit without dashing with each other. But, unfortunately, the judiciary seems to be encroaching upon the legislature and Executive. It is assuming more powers. As has rightly been said by Shri Dasmunshi, there is uncalled activism. Many times, it is said that from activism, it has gone to the extent of adventurism. It is not only that. They do not stop with that. From adventurism, they go rarely to terrorism also. This is what many people say. So, I would like to know whether the supreme Court has got the powers to give a direction to the House to legislate; whether it has got the power to ask us to legislate in a particular way.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Even the Supreme Court has said that it has no power to compel the Parliament to legislate.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Sir, I thank you very much for giving a clarification. On that point also, I need the hon. Minister's clarification.

Then, my third point is whether it is desirable or advisable to over rule the guidelines of Election Commission.

Now, I come to one important point. It is about the disclosure under the Act. (*Interruptions*)

Let me conclude now. That will give a sigh of relief to the Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Bill is quite simple. The provisions are about corruption, *sati* etc.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : I feel that many anomalies are there. According to me, the period of operation of disqualification starts from the date of release and it goes beyond six years. I endorse the view of many of our colleagues here. I would like to know whether it is right

or not. On the point of fine also, I am in agreement with the views expressed by the earlier speakers.

With this I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (*Sambhal*): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank the Hon. Minister for Law and Justice for presenting in the House the Representation of the People (*Second*) Amendment Bill.

Sir, I am happy that on pursuance of directions of the Supreme Court and after a detailed discussion on the impractical decisions taken by the Election Commission, the draft of the said Bill was prepared with the co-operation of all political parties on this subject.

15.50 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Since Hon. Member Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunshijee has put all the facts before the House therefore, I do not want to repeat all that but I would like to submit a few main points. We have always been of the opinion that criminalisation of politics can only be contained by the political parties and not by the law. And if attempts are made to contain it through law, it will be misused only. We do not want to repeat, but once this law is enacted nothing will remain in your hands. In the Joint Session, we have said this about POTO also. We submit again and again that it would be misused. Valkojee had said the those who opposed POTA Bill were obstructionists. But we were the one who said that it will be misused against you and that happened. Unfortunately Shri Murasoli Maranjee is not keeping well these days. We wish him speedy recovery. He supported National Security Act before anyone else and it was misused against him first of all. Hon. Law Minister, political changes do continue to take place. But you should think over it seriously as both, the one who have brought this bill and the opposite side are equally vulnerable. We thank you and support this bill.

So far as the question of preventing criminalization, is concerned, those who are culprits in the eyes of people are really criminals. All political Parties know that they are criminals in the eyes of people. If political parties do not distribute tickets to them, this problem will automatically get over. We feel that you are wrong and you think that we are wrong. You provide us the list of our criminal candidates and we will provide the list of

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

such candidates of your side to you and then the matter can be discussed. We are even ready to hold mutual discussion for identification of criminals so that they do not get ticket and they are debarred from contesting the election. But criminalization cannot be stopped by law. In such a situation, a good person will not get an opportunity to fight elections. We will have to kneel down before collector Saheb or S.P. Saheb that do not register any serious fabricated case against us if a case is registered, we will not be able to contest elections. In this situation, we would not be able to fight against any injustice. This is our fundamental right, democratic right, and constitutional right, even then we cannot exercise it. Recently hon. Member Devendra Prasad Yadav was manhandled. You did a good job by bringing this legislation. Earlier laws were passed without given a thought. But Mr. Minister has presented this bill after consultation with all political parties and we support it completely. I reiterate that this problem will be solved automatically if political parties do not distribute tickets to criminals. We are observing those whom we consider criminal, anti-law as Dasmunijee has said are being patronised by the Government of a State.

If we do not distribute ticket to such candidates who have criminal background, then political criminalizations will automatically be contained and the House should take this resolution, and in this case law should not be resorted to.

Sir, even today it is the politicians who serve the people most, and most of the political leaders who serve the people have no vested interest but they are criticised most and criticism is done by such people who have nothing to do with serving the people. These people just want to remain in limelight in media and want to gone popularity. They level serious allegations and get their name published. If we say some thing positive the media will not publish it but it will give coverage as to stories of Mafia. Hon. Somnath Chatterjee is an ideal member of the House, but no article would be written on him but articles would be written on criminals. We are always at the receiving end and the most negative aspect of it is that unfortunately political persons are the fore runners and we and you become the victim.

Sir, I have drawn the attention of the House towards this fact a number of times that whenever some injustice has been done to any Member the entire House raised voice against it unitedly. It has been the tradition of the House. Priya Ranjan Das Munshijee, Raghunath Jhajee and we all started politics under the leadership of Acharyajee, Jai Prakashjee and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiajee. They were our ideals. We started our struggle

at the age when we were students under their leadership and went to jail also.

15.57 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

We were fortunate that we worked under their guidance and leadership. I was so impressed by them that I joined Samajwadi Andolan and when irrigation tax on farmers was enhanced I went to jail at the age of 13 years only. Though I was served a punishment for 28 hours and others got for two months, I joined politics, suffered imprisonment, because I was impressed by the views of such idealists. I had never thought that Mafia people would get ticket in future and they would win by big margin. Today we tell the Minister of Law and Justice and Deputy Prime Minister who holds the charge of Ministry of Home Affairs also that the bureaucrats and police provide maximum help to mafia. Reforms should be brought in this law after giving it a serious thought to so that good people are not deprived from contesting elections. When we go to file the nomination, the papers are scrutinized, and on the same night two serious cases are filed against us, and on that basis alone objections are raised that the papers may be rejected as there are two cases are against us. There who do not know about ground reality give such suggestions. They are so called intellectuals who do not have the experience of the role of the police. In that situation, he will play the role of inspector of police. *(Interruptions)*

I do not want to take more time of the House. Leave aside Vidhan Sabha, whatever has been said today, is correct. We want to say that combined number of members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is about 786 and out of it hardly 2% are such which have tainted image. Have you ever thought about the image of people of other areas i.e. or bureaucracy or film world in other areas ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, how much time you will take.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAY : Mr. Speaker. Sir, I would sum up my speech in five to ten minutes.

16.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhjee, I want to take up discussion first. You can speak even later because I will have to arrange other discussions at four o'clock as per rules.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAY : I agree with that and rise to support. But I want to bring certain practical facts before you. If law is enacted on the basis of opinion expressed by those intellectuals who have nothing to do with politics and have no knowledge or ground reality, it would be unfair. We have suffered a lot. It is only we know the obstacles we have to face in politics. We should also discuss about the state of bureaucracy and industry.

They are always concerned with their self-interest. We should not be abused and criticised at their instance. Our Hon. Member must deliberate upon it seriously. I want to say that politicians should not fall in their trap. These two amendments are very necessary. You have included very dangerous laws in it. I gathered information from our representatives who attended the all party meeting. But you have added this part on your own. It has got a provision of 6 years disqualification even on a small penalty which may be misused especially under Prevention of Corruption Act. Everybody knows that the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister has been implicated. Of course he said that on moral grounds that he would not come to the House till proved innocent. But that is the punishment for those who implicated him. The whole life of many people was ruined. Once the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister became very emotional and said that such a charge of 'Hawala' is levelled against the then Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, a person of his stature. I did not believe that your name would be implicated in that.

If an income tax officer is annoyed with anybody, he would impose a penalty on him, we would not be able to know his intentions and will not be able to contest elections and will be debarred for six years. I want to ask you as to who has given these suggestions to you? This situation is worse than before. Therefore, amendment must be done in it and this part must be excluded from the Bill. If in such cases more than two years sentence is given even then a person can be held for disqualification—such was the provision from the very beginning. Now if an income tax official takes an umbrage, he can ruin the political life of a political person by levelling a charge of keeping income more than his known sources. Therefore, amendment in it be made after discussion seriously over it. We welcome the bill and thank the hon. Minister of Law and Justice and request that this amendment may please be accepted.

Everything was decided in the draft which was prepared by Hon. Pranav Mukherjee. But this was added

to it later, this should not have been done. When all decisions were taken in the All-Party Meeting, it should not have been added. With these words I sum up, but along with I want to say that secular character is given by the Constitution of the country and those who want to eliminate secularism from its roots should not get ticket. This must be included in the Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : A discussion on internal security is being started under Rule 193. Shri Prabodh Pandajee.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, may I submit one thing? We are thankful to you for allowing this discussion. This is one of the very important topic which should be discussed on the floor of the House. Next to national security, this is an important matter. I am afraid that the time which is available today may not be sufficient. If it is agreeable to the Government, we may have it continued on the other day also.

It is because a full-fledged discussion on this can take place. We are not interested in *Tu Tu Main Main*. We are not interested in blaming each other and apportioning the blame. The discussion should take place in a structured manner. I hope, my request will be acceded to.

MR. SPEAKER : Has the Government any objection to this suggestion?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : The Government has no objection. But the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was telling me that he has some other legislative business which he would like to have passed on Monday. So, if at all it is to be continued, we can continue it on Tuesday. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : I believe on Tuesday, namely, 17th December we are discussing disinvestment. It is slated for 17th December. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : In the meantime, I will discuss it with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, we will accommodate the Government's difficulties also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : We will adjust.

...(*Interruptions*)

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Sir, we would like to speak on this Bill. Please give us some more time to speak on this Bill. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: If the debate is to continue on Tuesday and not to be concluded today, as most of the speakers on this particular Bill have spoken, if we conclude the debate today by 4.30 p.m., we can start the discussion under Rule 193 at 4.30 p.m. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, it can be done. We would like to conclude the discussion today on the Bill by 4.30 p.m.

MR. L.K. ADVANI: It is because then to be Bill will be passed. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: So, at 4.30 p.m., we can take up the Discussion under Rule 193. Shri Prabodh Panda, Please sit down. We will start the discussion at 4.30 p.m. Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak on the Bill.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, we are discussing the Second Amendment only On principle, one accepts this amendment.

What we have been saying for a long time—I am glad that Shri L.K. Advani is here—is that we are trying to tackle the question of electoral reforms in a piecemeal manner. There have always been piecemeal amendments that have come. The major issues or the major lacunae in our electoral laws are not being addressed to in a manner, which will bring about a comprehensive change in the whole situation. There is no dearth of reports. I had the great distinction of being a member of the Jagannath Rao Committee. All the reports of these Committees have been, with exception of some minor issues, unanimous. That means the entire spectrum of the political thinking in this country has been of unanimous decision.

One other proposal has come for the purpose of incorporation in our statute law. But still, the hon. Minister will agree with me that the question of criminalisation of politics has become a very major issue. It is because we have not been adverted to it in a manner which would have shown a concerted political will as well as administrative will to tackle this. It is becoming a graver and graver issue in our body politic. It is a matter of great agony that after we have celebrated our Golden Jubilee, a law has to be brought to keep out criminals from the House.

We cannot but remind ourselves of the report of the N.N. Vohra Committee. Hon. Shri L.K. Advani was on this side. We had all criticised or referred to the serious situation that had been brought out in that report of the N.N. Vohra Committee, as to how this system was being misused by some persons who had no commitment to the basic principles of our constitutional framework and the question of public service was anathema to them.

But, where are we today? Have we really tried to solve those problems? Why is it that the criminals are getting interested to come inside the House? Why do we have to shout that *Mafia* is overtaking the political system? It is because they find that the politics gives them, provides them a good medium to carry on with their depredations so far as polity is concerned. It has become a method of making money. Corruption has somehow been glamorised in this country. This is a matter of great agony and I am sure most of us share that agony that after the Golden Jubilee of our Constitution, we have to put our heads together to keep out criminals.

We have a lot to say on the other Bill. Of course, we are party to that which it is more important. Here, of course, really an important provision is made except POTA. It is not that I am trying to glamorise or support the terrorists. But our very good friend Shri Vaiko provides a shining example of its misuse. I am happy that the hon. Deputy Prime Minister is here. If he likes, he may intervene to tell us how POTA has been able to solve the terrorism in this country.

I know that mere detention under POTA will not disqualify anybody until there is conviction. But what is the fate of Shri Vaiko? The onus will be on him. If he is ultimately tried, the onus will be on him and if he cannot discharge the onus, which is not so easy, then he will be disqualified for six years after his release. Of course, I have not given any amendment; but I am requesting all my friends from all sides, including the Government that do not put it on a pedestal which it does not deserve.

It is painful to me and at least to many of us that even now the system of *Sati* is prevalent somewhere and we have to, in the year 2002, try to incorporate it and make it more stringent. It is already included. Take the case of Prevention of Corruption Act. These have to be made more stringent. I have no objection to it. The other Bill has got some other important issues to be considered. But I cannot deny myself the opportunity that has given to us, especially because of the presence of the hon. Deputy Prime Minister. It has been thought by everybody

that State-funding may reduce dependence on black money or corrupt method of acquiring money.

As soon as hon. Shri L.K. Advani became the Home Minister, he appointed a Committee. We appreciated that. No less a person than Shri Indrajit Gupta, with the largest experience of the functioning of this House, was chairing it.

I had the great privilege of working under him and we gave a unanimous report. Where is it? I hope, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister will intervene. I do not mind. I would request him to intervene.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, to the best of my information—perhaps the Law Minister may guide me—there is a Bill which incorporated both the Indrajit Gupta Committee's Report as well as some other proposals with regard to funding of elections.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: It is pending with the Standing Committee. It has not yet come up.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am sorry.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is not yet introduced.

Now, the hon., Minister of Law and Justice has little time after his visit to Gujarat. (*Interruptions*) I saw him here and also the distinguished most hon. Deputy Prime Minister therefore, this is a matter pending for nearly three years. Then, the suggestions of the Dinesh Goswami Committee are also pending.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It is yet to come from the Standing Committee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Some progress has been made.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Much progress has been made.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is limping.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Before the Standing Committee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we are passing some of the Bills without referring them to the Standing Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: That is an exception.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Shrimati Sushma Swaraj Persuaded all of us to get the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Amendment Bill relating to conditional access through. I am being abused by others in the other House as to why we have allowed it to be passed without its being referred to the Standing Committee. Therefore, he could have persuaded us without much difficulty.

What I am saying is that let there be rigorous punishments. I do not mind, but the situation we see in this country is that people who are actually in jail are getting elected by huge margins. This is a paradox. The longer they are in jail, probably they are getting larger majority. What is the reason? The reason is the whole system of political propaganda or political activity is being sought to be vitiated. This must be the reason of *mafia* domination or money power. So many other things are also there. Therefore, I am saying that anybody can take a holier than-thou attitude, but my appeal to all sections of the House is that if we really believe in maintaining a true parliamentary system of Government in this country, we have to do something. Whatever may be our political views, we know that in India, there is no alternative today. As a matter of fact, I am also a votary—and at one time, Shri Advani was also a Votary—of a partial list system. I do not know whether he still maintains it. That is one of the things we thought might reduce the influence of the *mafia* or reduce the influence of money or money power.

There is also a recommendation, but who is concerned about it? These are tinkering with the issue. It gives a good mileage, maybe, to our distinguished Minister of Law and Justice, who is now without Department of Company Affairs is his charge, to say how concerned he is to weed out criminals from politics. Hon. Minister is not even scratch in the surface. Well, if anything good comes out, let it come, but please do not denude the people. There should not be any thinking that after this, India's political system will become free of criminalisation. To that extent, I supports it, but much more needs to be done.

I am sure, wherever that Bill is, probably, it is with the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, the hon. Chairman and Members of that Standing Committee will try to expedite it. Of course, I do not want to hurry them and I want their jurisdiction intact.

We have shown that we can really act unitedly in our fight against terrorism. Tomorrow is the anniversary of what could have been a great tragedy to our Indian Republic. All sections of the House stood up to express

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

their condemnation and also to pay respect to those young, innocent people who lost their lives. In so many matters, we have all worked together.

It this system goes, if the parliamentary system of democracy in this country is affected, I do not know what is the future. What is the alternative? Of course, presidential system is a great favourite subject of Shri Advani. Even that presidential system cannot thrive on criminalisation of politics. There it will be much more important and the President will have to be free from everything.

Therefore, Sir, my request to the Government and to all parties here, and, I am sure, everybody will generally agree, is that the time has come, let us not scratch on the surface, let us try to pay proper attention to this. It is a matter of shame that a country like India with such a tremendous traditions, talent, and history are today shouting about that we have been overtaken by criminals, that Mafia are trying to rule us and that the entire political spectrum is being controlled this agony. I do not know why nobody thinks about it or says about it. Why should any political party give any nomination to any such candidate? However, we find in the lists that there are so many candidates who can be called Mafia or criminals or history-sheeters. Why do the political parties not proclaim, 'Come what may, we will never give nomination to any candidate who is tainted'? Then, this going cannot come. Maybe, one or two independent candidates, by show of force or some other method, can get elected, but that will be more by way of an exception than a rule. Today, we have a list of ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Why can there not be a code of conduct among all parties?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We have so many codes of conduct, but who follows them? Even the law is not being followed, what is a code of conduct! If the code of conduct had been followed, then this Bill would not have been necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: How much time you are going to take?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I will conclude in a minute. Therefore, code of conduct does not help. I want principled stand and a principled action by all political parties. I am sure, Sir, I can request you to take a lead in what matter because you are occupying that seat. It is a very important position that you are occupying, Sir. Therefore, we shall all support you if you take that lead.

MR. SPEAKER: I was thinking of requesting the Minister to reply to the debate. However, there are two or three more speakers, and if they do not insist, then only the debate can be finished by 4.30 p.m. May I now request the hon. Minister to reply to the debate?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I would like to speak on this Bill. How can you have such an unparliamentary haste? We must consider the Bill that is there. The Bill has not even gone to the Standing Committee for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, I have taken the sense of the House.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: We have always cooperated, but this haste, I would submit, will be an unparliamentary haste.

MR. SPEAKER: If you think so, then we can go ahead with the debate. There are three more speakers, and the debate will have to be postponed to some other day.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: That is a different thing. You can regulate it, and we do not mind it. However, let there be no haste.

MR. SPEAKER: You are aware Shri Banatwalla that a few minutes ago, the House agreed that this debate has to be concluded today. Therefore, I suggested that.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, should it be at the cost of the Members?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, it is unparliamentary for you to be standing when I am speaking.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, please hear our voices also.

MR. SPEAKER: Then I will continue this debate later and now we would take up the discussion under Rule 193.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, just give me five minutes to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: You will be given a chance to speak on this, but not today.

Yes, now Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I endorse and support the principle of the Bill, thought in

the matter of important details, there are certain differences. As far as the principle of the Bill is concerned, I support the Bill.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to state that India is the largest democracy in the world. The basis of democracy is the right of the people, the citizens to vote and to contest elections. It is strange that this right to vote and to contest elections, which is the basis of democracy, is not a Fundamental Right in our country. It is a mere legal or a statutory right at the mercy of an enactment that may be passed by a simple transient majority in the Parliament. It is a very unhappy situation. Therefore, I would, first like to emphasise the need that participation in an electoral process should be made a Fundamental Right.

Sir, coming to the provisions of the Bill, I would like to submit that an important aspect of the Bill is to add to the number of offences which may lead to disqualification of a person from contesting elections. Offences under certain enactment have been added in this particular Bill. Here I would like to point out that by a mere legislation, the question or the issue of criminalisation of politics cannot be fully addressed. Two things are necessary.

Sir, in the first place, there is need for a political will and a total non-partisan attitude on the part of the Government with respect to the entire situation. We are coming across this phenomenon that there are individuals who are challenging the law. There are individuals who are vitiating even the communal atmosphere in our country and they go totally scot-free for reasons that they may be from the same party or of the some *parivar* as the ruling party. If they are not brought to books, if they are not brought to the courts and convicted, then the provision of this Bill of disqualifying them does not come into operation. This situation must end.

Sir, While there should not be misuse of powers, it is necessary that those guilty of heinous crimes should be prosecuted, should be brought to books and non-partisan attitude should be taken rather than a Nelson's Eye being turned to their activities. It is when they are booked, it is when they are prosecuted and convicted that the question of their disqualification would come up.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, you will be on your legs. We will go ahead with the discussion on internal security now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I may be permitted to continue whenever this discussion continues.

MR. SPEAKER: You will be allowed to continue.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, Let us finish this Bill. It will take only ten more minutes. After Shri Banatwalla, I am the last speaker on the subject. Let us finish with it.

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, only two Members will be permitted.—Shri Banatwalla and Shri Simranjit Singh Mann. Thereafter the Minister will reply and we can finish this Bill. But, it depends on the House.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: My name is also there in the list. I am here to expose the shortcomings in the Bill. I am also sitting. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I did not see you.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want to do injustice to anyone. If you want to sum up in two-three minutes, it is all right.

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, tomorrow is Friday. It may not be possible now because everybody would be getting up and asking for time.

MR. SPEAKER: These three hon. Members had already given their names. Therefore, I have to allow them. No more speakers will be allowed.

[*Translation*]

I think that it would be appropriate to finish it today. You sum up views in two-three minutes.

[*English*]

I think this is the sense of the House.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is another important point. On the one hand, we require a Government that has the political will and a non-partisan attitude and, on the other hand, we need individuals who respect democratic conventions, democratic propriety and parliamentary propriety. Then only we can have an ideal situation. Parliamentary propriety and democratic conventions demand that when a person faces serious charge framed by a court of law, then he should not

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

contest elections. Conviction may come later on. If there are charges framed by a court of law, propriety demands that he should not contest elections; propriety demands that if he is a sitting MP, or an MLA or a Minister, he should tender his resignation.

However, we are sorry to find that even at the national level, not one, not two, but three Ministers are there in the Cabinet, accused of the heinous crime of demolition of the Babri Masjid. No resignation from them! The point of propriety is that not one, but two courts of law came to the conclusion that there is a *Prima facie* evidence. The court proceeded to frame charges but there were certain technical loopholes. Therefore, we see that there is a necessity for two things, Firstly, a non-partisan Government to see that those flouting such laws that entail disqualification are really brought to book and no Nelson's eye is turned towards them, and secondly, we need individuals respecting democratic conventions and the propriety.

16.34 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

I will conclude by saying that we have a strange phenomenon that important Commissions like Minority Commission, Human Rights Commission, concerned Citizens Tribunal, practically go on saying that a particular person, even the Chief Minister of a State, is responsible for genocide, and yet such persons with accusations of genocide go scot-free, moving about not merely participating in the campaign but leading the campaign. Such is the unfortunate nature of our democracy! I have given notice of an amendment also on that particular point.

The last point—I will conclude because of the haste—is that an offence under this Prevention of Terrorism Act is also brought under the Bill to disqualify a person.

Our views about Prevention of Terrorism Act are very well-known. It should not be misunderstood for the purposes of defence of the terrorists. I had made my submission at the time when that particular Bill was there before the House and the Joint Sitting. But here we have, in the Prevention of Terrorism Act, a law which is a lawless law against all the settled principles, respected principles, well-established principles of jurisprudence.

Now, the need is to repeal such a law. Here, even that is also being included.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please concluded now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I am just concluding.

Sir, there is a need for further strengthening of the Bill. There is a need to see that such things as a nominal fine for some simple conviction should not result in a disqualification. These are various factors that need to be considered, and I hope that this House and the Government will consider them seriously.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me some time to speak on this very important legislation.

The hon. Law Minister in the Statement of Objects and Reasons has said that the issue of criminalisation of politics was discussed by the Government with political parties on 13.9.2001. But my humble submission is that we, the Sikh Members of the Shiromani Akali Dal, have never been invited to the All-Party Meetings despite our saying so to the Speaker and to the Prime Minister.

I want to give you a little background about the promises made by the Indian leaders to the Sikhs. There was a congress session at Lahore from 28 to 30 December, 1929 and the hon. Moti Lal Nehru and hon. M.K. Gandhi approached the Akali leaders and promised not to betray the Sikhs. The Congress and the leaders assured the Sikhs that no solution thereof in any further Constitution, will be acceptable to the Congress that does not give full satisfaction to the Sikhs.

Then again, on 15 July, 1934, a delegation of Sikhs met the hon. M.K. Gandhi, who assured the Sikhs that the Congress shall not accept any Constitution that did not satisfy the Sikhs.

Now, Sir, is this the way we are going to be treated? These promises are historic. The British Constitution is an unwritten Constitution. The British Constitutional system runs through conventions, traditions and promises made to the people. These promises made by hon. Moti Lal Nehru and hon. M.K. Gandhi have the same force of law. After all, do we not refer to the Constituent Assembly Debates, when we speak in Parliament and argue a case in the Supreme Court? Because the Sikhs were not taken into confidence, our two representatives Sardar Bhupinder Singh Mann and Sardar Hukum Singh did not sign the Constitution of India as the promises made by the Congress leaders were violated.

Sir, now, I wish to state that this POTA and TADA are primarily used against the minorities. At the moment, in Patiala House, New Delhi, I myself am facing the

charges under TADA. These charges have been made under TADA and POTA by the majority against minorities. Even the Indian Government is so prejudicial against the minorities that the Amnesty International and the International Committee of the Red Cross are not allowed to visit Punjab, Gujarat, North-East and Jammu and Kashmir.

Now, Sir, as Shri G.M. Banatwalla has said, we the minorities, if the disqualification has to be done, must also follow the norms set by the International Convention under Geneva, under UN Treaties.

For example, if 1948 Convention on the Prevention of Punishment of the Crime of Genocide is brought into a legislation, as per article 51 of the Constitution, then the atrocities, and the genocide of the *Sikhs* would not have taken place in 1984 and the Muslim would not have been massacred in Gujarat. Also, what is going on in North-East and Kashmir would not have happened. We also say that 1966 Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights must also be signed and brought into a Municipal Law. We have another convention, that is the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Why no Bill has been formulated according to these UN Conventions? Had a Bill been brought about, the *Babri Masjid* and the *Golden Temple* would not have been reduced to rubble. We also have 1984 Convention against Torture and other cruel Inhuman or Degrading treatments of Punishment. But, yesterday itself Shri Devender Yadav was tortured in a cruel manner. I myself have been tortured. Today, farmers have been killed in U.P. If these legislation are brought and people are brought to book, certainly the minorities will have some faith in the Constitution of India. We also have 1984 Safeguard and Guaranteeing Protection of the Rights of those facing the Death Penalty and 2001 Rome Statute by virtue of which the International Criminal Court has been set up at The Hague. Why all these Conventions not being honoured?

I think the fear is that most of our Indian leadership has committed crime of genocide and if they enact these legislations they are likely to be hauled up by the Rome Statute. Might be, you remember that President Pinchet of Chile was caught in Britain on the mere warrant issued by a magistrate. If they escape the crime of genocide, I can assure you, Sir, when they visit European countries on a similar warrant they may be caught for the crime of genocide.

I would beg to tell you that the intention of the amendment Bill, of those who have brought and vetted

it, is not to halt the march of criminals, cross and scalawags from entering the legislative bodies on India but to impede the progress and efforts of Indian Minorities to enter these representative chambers. Therefore, my Party, Shiromani Akali Dal, Amritsar and I oppose this partisan amended legislation and ask the Government to hold its horses till it gets legitimate approval of the minority who stands to lose the right to enter the statute formulating halls of this country. In its present stage, it is one-sided, discriminatory and a biased piece of legislation. I reject it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, the Government were about to make a statement on firing on farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They would make the statement at 6 o' clock.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Who will make the statement?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Food would make the statement.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is People's Representative (Second Amendment) Bill 2002. How did the second amendment come leaving the first?

[*English*]

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: I had made a mention in the very beginning itself that it has been typed by mistake and I have moved an official amendment for that.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has come by mistake. Government amendment is there in it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: If it is a Government amendment and has been brought by Hon. K. Jana Krishnamurthy. In order to withdraw the Second Amendment, Shri Ravi Shankar's Amendment has come.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Since I am the Minister of State in the Minister of Law, I make a submission.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: To correct the senior Minister, the junior Minister has brought it. Is it a question of propriety?

[English]

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Sir, perhaps he was not present when I moved the Bill. If he was present, maybe, he did not hear me properly.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It seem that there is a contest between the two to eliminate criminalization of politics. There has been great confusion between this amendment and the second amendment. Hon. Malaya Swamiji started speaking on first amendment. This gives the indication of the thinking that this government have no criminalization of politics? He has brought the bill to eliminate criminalization of politics. Is there any strength in this Bill? Suppose that somebody gets 10 years sentence, from the day of sentence, he may be rendered ineligible to contest elections for six years. He is in jail and would continue to remain so for four years. Under this law, the disqualification will be for six years. If he remains in jail for four years, he would be eligible to contest election after that. I have already spoken on the previous bill. Of course criminalization of politics is the main problem of the country. Democracy means rule of votes. Therefore, unless reform is brought in the voting system, this will continue. Right now, an Hon. Member was speaking about five Ms, i.e. money, mussels, madira (liquor) etc. Therefore, my suggestion is that comprehensive Bill on poll reforms must be brought. If you have will power, you may bring a bill breaking the nexus between politicians, criminals and bureaucrats on the basis of the reports of Dinesh Goswami Committee Indrajit Gupta Committee and Vohra Committee.

He said that the person who is fined or the day he is convicted it means he will be disqualified for election for six years. The person who is sentenced and undergoes imprisonment, he would be disqualified for six years from the day he is released. This is the basic objective of the Bill. I want to know from the Government if Lower Court gives punishment, and District Court increases or reduces the punishment or likewise if High Court and Supreme Court reduce or increase or quash the punishment, in such a case which court's judgement would be treated as final. If District Court gives the punishment for ten years to someone and he moves High Court and files appeal and if hearing is on then from which date conviction would be taken into account and which procedure will be followed and the punishment of which Court will be accepted? Judiciary has three Tier

system. Out of these three tier system the punishment for 6 years by which lower court will be accepted as final. There is a great confusion in this. There must be a complication.

My last question is this that the person who is fined will also disqualified for six year and he who undergoes imprisonment, will also be disqualified for six years. The person who is innocent is also likely to be punished because there are a number of laws to implicate one. It does not seems to be as per the norms of law. He who pays the penalty and one who is hard core criminal both will be disqualified for six years? This may be in the dictionary of the Government. The Government does not have political will power in this regard. There is a need to have a strong will power to do away with the political criminalisation, so that there should be electoral reforms and democracy can be strengthened.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, no member from Samta Party has been allowed to speak I may be given two minutes time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The name of Shri Raghunath Jha was called but he was not present.

[English]

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Mr. Chairman Sir, I shall be very precise and concise in my reply. I have been very carefully listening to the viewpoints expressed by various hon. Members with regard to these Amending Bills. Many Member advanced arguments keeping some other bill in mind. Incidentally, I will clear the confusion which the hon. Member who spoke last has.

We introduced a Bill for discussion. But that could not be taken up at all. It was only circulated during the last Session period. So, that became the Representation of the People (First Amendment) Bill. In this Session, when we came forward with this bill, it had to be introduced as the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill. This is not the second amendment as such, but this is the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill. There is no confusion in our minds at least between the Cabinet Minister and the Minister of State.

16.54 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

This is a very simple amendment, not as complicated as many Members thought it to be. The heading of

Section 8 of the Act itself is 'Disqualification and Conviction' for certain offences. I am not introducing Section 8 Now. It has been there for the last so many years in the Statute Book. What we are trying to do by this amendment is that under Section 8 (1), if anybody gets punishment, including the term of punishment of imprisonment, the total number of years of disqualification is only six years.

On the other hand, under Section 8(2) and 8(3), if a person is punished, then the sentence will be the period of imprisonment plus six years of disqualification. This was the difference. Under the same disqualification section, under one section, the punishment is plus six years and under sub-sections (2) and (3) and under section 8 (1), the total punishment is six years. So, an anomaly arose. If a person were to get sentenced for ten years under section 8(1), then the six years disqualification goes and remaining in jail, he can contest the elections. In the Supreme Court, the present Chief Justice Shri Patnaik, when he was Justice Patnaik, brought out this anomaly saying as to how it can be under the same section 8. So, the Parliament should pay attention to see that the anomaly is removed. This amendment tries that and while doing it, we tried to bring POTO or one or two other Acts which we have mentioned.

I am not discussing POTO. This House has discussed POTO and all the hon. Members have expressed their views and it has become an enactment.

An hon. Member said that since the hon. Minister is from Tamil Nadu, he should be aware that POTO is being applied in Tamil Nadu. I am aware of it. It is not only in Tamil Nadu but in the rest of the country also. The matter is in the court. We are not interdicting POTO here. The question is, suppose under POTO, a person is arrested and sentenced for six years, should he be disqualified or not. This is the only question here. So, we included POTO in this to see that under the enactment, if a person is punished under POTO for six or eight or ten years or so, what will happen ultimately? After six years, having been punished under POTO, he will be entitled to contest elections.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want a clarification from the Government. Hon'ble Minister is not giving reply to the question asked by Hon'ble Member, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. I want to know whether the punishment of lower Court or the Higher Courts will be accepted.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I hope you have understood his question.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Sir, let me complete my reply and then, I will answer his question also.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, have you heard the question which he has asked?

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: I will answer it at the end of my reply.

MR. SPEAKER: How much time will you take to conclude? I am asking this because I have to start another discussion under Rule 193 regarding internal security.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: I would conclude within ten to fifteen minutes. This amendment is only to see that section 8(1), 8(2) and 8(3) are of the same order. Whatever punishment is given by the competent court of law through due process of law, it would be the period of the sentence, whatever it may be, plus six years disqualification. That was not there under section 8(1). This amendment is trying to set it right.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Prabhunath Singh had asked whether punishment of lower Court will be accepted. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister will give its reply later on.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the appeal has any significance or not? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister will give his reply later on.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I want to ask if an appeal is admitted then what the Government is going to do in that case? ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: I have got a court judgement before me. I would quote it. You have put a question on whether it is the lower court or the higher court Judgment. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The Government give the reply, what is the judgment of the court? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: I am to reply your question. This matter came up in the All-Party meeting held on 13.9.2001 and there was a consensus in that All-Party meeting. I am not talking of the All-Party Meeting which was held this year. This meeting was held on 13.9.2001.

17.00 hrs.

The consensus in the above-said meeting was:

"The provisions of sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Representation of People Act relating to the commencement of the disqualification period be brought at par with sub-section (2) and (3) of section 8 of the said Act."

This amendment does only that. Nothing more than that. We have brought only two additional things. We have brought POTA and Prevention of Corruption Act. There is one small anomaly in the Prevention of Corruption Act. Under Section 3(8) (b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, if a person is sentenced to two years and more then he is disqualified from the period of conviction plus six years. What we are trying to do, by bringing this amendment is that, if he is sentenced under the Prevention of Corruption Act even for one year, the period of conviction plus six years will hold good. So, we are harmonising the whole thing by this small amendment so that disharmony in the same section, between the two sub-sections will not be there.

A question was asked with regard to the judgment. Always the Government's view is that whenever a person is sentenced in the lower court and then it is taken for appeal in the Supreme Court or the High Court, whatever be the appeals court, ultimately if it gets confirmed or if it gets reduced etc., then it is on the basis of the conviction of the lower court. This is what the Supreme Court also has upheld. There can be no doubt that in

criminal case, acquittal in appeal takes effect retrospectively and wipes out the sentence awarded by the lower court. This implies that the stigma attached to the conviction and the rigorous suspensions are completely obliterated and that does not mean that the fact of the conviction sentenced by the lower court is obliterated until the conviction sentences are set aside when appealed at court. Law is clear on this. There is no confusion at all.

Almost all the members and parties generally supported this Bill. Some might have said that they are giving critical support. Some might have said that they are extending a general support. They say: "I generally support the spirit of it, but with one or two suggestions". I have explained that the scope, purport and purpose of this amendment is very limited. It is not that I am introducing Section (8) itself for consideration. So, in these circumstances, I am quite sure that the House will extend its full support for the entire amendment as such. Some other arguments have been advanced. Incidentally, Shri Somnath Chatterjee is not present here. He asked me as to what steps have been taken with regard to many of the other Bills. I tell you that six Bills are pending. When Business Advisory Committee finds time, all these Bills will come here. Some Bills have come with recommendations from the Standing Committee. One or two Bills are still pending with the Standing Committee. We will take up every Bill for consideration. Many of the arguments or many of the view points that have been expressed here are more related to these Bills rather than to this Bill.

So, I seek and I would request that this House unanimously support this amendment so that it takes care of the purpose for which it has been brought to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has said that the punishment given by lower Court will be accepted as punishment.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is aware of your question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: There is one confusion if punishment of the lower Court is accepted as punishment then in the case of appeal if there is no decision of the case for fifteen years in the High Court, and six years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked a question, if Hon'ble Minister has wished, he would have given the reply.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The reply of our question has not yet come.

MR. SPEAKER: You asked the question twice. If Hon'ble Minister had wanted, he could have given the reply.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He has not given the reply, please get it cleared.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

**Clause 2—Amendment of Section 8 of
Act 43 of 1951**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri G.M. Banatwalla, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Yes.

I beg to move:

Page 2,...

after line 20, insert,

'(iii) after sub-section (2), the following sub-sections shall be inserted (2A) Where a Commission of enquiry set up under the Commission of Enquiry Act concludes that there is enough evidence to establish that person is guilty of an offence that may involve sentence of imprisonment for not less than six months, the person concerned shall be disqualified to participate in any electoral procedure or campaign for a period till an appropriate court convicts or acquits the person concerned of the offence.

(2B) Whoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (2A) shall be punished with imprisonment of either description which may extend to three years.' (1)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 1 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill

Clause 1—Short Title

MR. SPEAKER: There is a Government Amendment No. 2. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad to move it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): What is that amendment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): It is the first Bill only, not the second one.

I beg to move:

Page 1, line 2,—

for "(Second Amendment)"

substitute "(Amendment)" (2)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

Page 1, line 2,—

for "(Second Amendment)"

substitute "(Amendment)" (2)

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: 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 title were
added to the Bill.*

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, Shri Banatwalla represents the Muslim community. I represent the Sikh community. The Bill is prejudicial to the interests of the minorities. This is ethnic cleansing. so, the Muslims and the Sikhs reject it....(Interruptions)

17.07 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Internal Security

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We start the discussion regarding Internal Security now. Shri Prabodh Panda to speak.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, today is the 12th of December. Just tomorrow, we are going to observe the anniversary of the attack on the Parliament, attack on the Holy Temple, the highest apex Temple of parliamentary democracy. On the eve of that day, I rise to initiate the discussion on the matter relating to the internal security of our country.

This problem has not cropped up right now. It is a standing problem. Since Independence, our nation has been facing the problem in this respect. Bapu ji, the Father of the Nation, was assassinated by the RSS people. Now, the followers of RSS are in power. Our country has lost two Prime Minister to the assassins. Recently, there was the killing of Shri Nagappa in Karnataka. We have witnessed terrorist atmosphere in Punjab, Delhi and Mumbai. In Delhi itself, we have witnessed the emergency situation. But now the threat to the internal security has assumed a serious proportion. It

is horizontal. It has spread across the length and breadth of our country. During the last one year, we witnessed the attacks on the premises of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. We have also witnessed the attacks at Kaluchaak, Qazim Nagar, the American Centre in Calcutta, attack on the Akshardham Temple, the Raghunath Temple, the attack at Ansal Plaza in Delhi and in so many places.

Now, civilians are being attacked, pilgrims are being attacked and *jawans* are also being attacked. The nation feels less internally secure than it did three or four ago despite presence of, I must say, self-certified '*Desh Bhakt*' in the North Block.

Sir, what are the sources of these kinds of threats? In the report submitted by the Group of Ministers on National Security, it is stated:

"Present trends reflect new threats to internal security emerging out of religious fundamentalism, illicit narcotics trade, smuggling of weapons and explosives, Infiltration from across our borders and terrorism sponsored by Pakistan."

Apart from these, we cannot deny that threats are coming from extremists of different types. In reply to an Unstarred Question on the 20th November, 2002, the hon. Home Minister stated:

"The occurrence of extremist attacks took place in 17 States. They are, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The number of incidents is 5,626."

This was the answer given by the hon. Home Minister.

Sir, the management of internal security is vested upon both the Governments, the Union Government as well as the State Government in the context of constitutional provision. The Constitution provides the basis for the rule of law. Therefore, supremacy of the Constitution has to be upheld by the Legislature, Executive and also Judiciary. When we take legislature in this contest, we have, I must say, more than sufficient legislation in our hands, including even the draconian law like POTA. So, there is no substance in the point that we do not have sufficient legislation. We all see how POTA is being used now. During the discussion on POTA, we have raised apprehension that it would be applied, in most of the cases, for taking revenge against political opponents.

Sir, as far as the Judiciary is concerned, the Judiciary is not accountable to Parliament, but I must say that the slow pace of criminal justice is a matter of serious concern. So, I would like to focus mainly on the Executive, mainly on the Government. The main stress is on the role of the Home Ministry, as the Ministry of Home Affairs has the nodal responsibility for maintenance of internal security and has to ultimately deal with the consequences.

As far as the functioning of this Ministry is concerned, it is most disappointing. Please allow me to quote from a Report of the Group of Ministers. It says.

"The Union Government's ability to deal with the situation caused by the threats to internal security has eroded over the years and needs to be strengthened."

Our vast nation, having a population of more than one crore, expects a bold and responsible stand from the Minister of Home Affairs. If that Minister himself has been accused for committing heinous crimes, how do we expect that the internal security of our country would be restored? So, this is a shame on our nation and us. This is also a shame on this Parliament. Not only the Minister of Home Affairs, but there are also so many other Ministers, including the Minister of Human Resource Development and the Minister of Coal and Mines, Kumari Uma Bharati, who are very much involved in several scams. They have been accused at different places.

When we talk about the Ministry of Defence, that Ministry has the responsibility of defending the country. But a Tehelka-tainted person has immorally occupied the ministerial berth. ...*(Interruption)* That case is still pending. We are talking about cross-border terrorism. It has been correctly said that terrorism is the main danger. It is very much correct that threats come from the terrorists. But the Ministry of Defence has failed even to know about the infiltration of terrorists—*Jehadis*. Ultimately, our brave *Jawans* fought like anything, drove them out and were able to recover those places.

Now, the same Ministry is involved in the coffins scandal. When we say about national security and internal security, how are all these to be restored?

There is insurgency and terrorism in the North-East. Most of the areas of Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh have been declared as 'disturbed areas'. A 20 km. border belt between Assam and West Bengal has been declared a disturbed area. Most of the militant outfits have been banned. The situation remains tense. How are we to face these challenges? The role of the Union

Government is disappointing. They took up this matter for their political gains. Their role had caused serious violence in Manipur—it is known to everybody—and other State of the North-East. The genuine problems of the North-Eastern States had never been thought of. Now some terrorist forces in West Bengal are linking themselves with ULFA and raising slogans for 'Kamtapuri'. Their aim is to bifurcate West Bengal. It is amazing that partner of the NDA Government is extending its support to the Kamtapuris for political interests.

The situation in Karnataka is very much alarming. There are threat from organised crimes. Just in the discussion on the Bill a few minutes ago, some relevant and pertinent questions has been raised by the hon. Members in this august House. In a given situation, criminalisation of politics has assumed the worst proportion. Also, so many criminals are enjoying the opportunity of security coverage. In *The Hindustan Times*, the following nerves had appeared on 16th June, 2002. It says:

"In UP during Rajnath Singh's regime, around 1,400 politicians, including many with criminal records, enjoyed special protective coverage."

This is happening. The State police is the most visible authority. Its failure to effectively maintain law and order has not only eroded the credibility of Government but also emboldened the criminal elements. So, the State Police force have to be strengthened and modernised. I do agree this. There are more than 12 lakh defence volunteers. There are six lakh home guards in the country. They should be treated as regular forces for maintaining the law and order situation.

The Minister of Home Affairs should initiate consultation with the State Governments for replacing the existing Police Act. Under the Home Ministry, there are paramilitary forces of six categories. Their total strength is around 5,37,000. They can play a vital role in encountering militancy and terrorism. keeping border vigil and maintaining internal security.

The State Governments have been frequently demanding more of the forces to deal with their problems, but instead of that the Government of the day is politicising the situation. Not only that they are also encouraging the religious fundamental forces to continue with their diabolical games. This is my main charge. I charge this Government. What have we noticed in Gujarat? Today polling is taking place. I think the people of Gujarat will decide this. The result will come within day or two.

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

The other day, the hon. Home Minister has talked about pseudo-secularism. Yes there is pseudo-secularism. If we talk of Lashkar-e-Toiba, if we talk of Jais-e-Mohammad, if we talk of the Taliban groups, yes, they are pseudo secularists. They follow pseudo-secularism. If you target them, then I have no objection to it. But what about the Hindutva brigades?

Is it not pseudo-secularism? Talibanism and Jihad are not Islam but at the same time, this Hindutva is not Hinduism. Hinduism teaches us tolerance; Hinduism teaches us unity. This sort of a fundamentalism is terrorism. What happened in Gujarat was State-sponsored terrorism. Is it not a danger to our country? What happened in the Orissa Assembly was vandalism by Hindu fundamentalists. What happened in the Taj Mahal complex was vandalism by fundamentalists. It is amazing that the hon. Deputy Prime Minister himself addressed these forces and encouraged them. Is it not his indulgence? Does it help in restoring our internal security?

This Government is calling itself the 'National Democratic Alliance' Government. They are calling themselves 'national' while they are pursuing anti national policies. They are calling themselves 'democratic' while they are adopting all sorts of anti-democratic policies. They are calling themselves an 'alliance' but they are following the hidden agenda of the RSS. This is a very dangerous symptom

We are proud of our rich experience and we are proud of our traditions. We have enormous strength and a glorious past. We have enough forces an intelligence network to restore normalcy, peace and internal security but this Ministry, instead of raising more police battalions and earmarking more budgetary allocations for police force modernisation, has done nothing to restore normalcy in our country.

What is of paramount importance is that there should be effective governance. In the initial stages, this Government assured the nation that they would at least give effective governance is to have effective governance, a clean image and proper co-ordination with the States so that they can tackle the situation. My concrete proposals, in this regard, are as follows. Regular meetings of the Inter-State Council are very much required, matters pertaining to internal security should be discussed with the leadership of different political parties to generate consensus, steps have to be taken to arouse feelings of patriotism and socialism and other cherished national ethos and stringent action should be taken against religious fundamental forces of all types. The Government

has banned the SIMI. It is very correct but why has the RSS not been banned? I am not going into the details. Their activities are very much known to all hon. Members here. So, I demand that for restoring normalcy in our country, the RSS should be banned.

Sir, stringent action against all types of religious fundamentalist forces should be taken. The police and paramilitary force should be modernised and the intelligence network should be strengthened.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, I have only two points to mention.

Firstly, there should be a proper coordination between the intelligence forces and the police. In the case of attack on our Parliament, we have seen that there was a gap. In the case of Purulia airdrop, we have seen that there was gap. It was also admitted by the Home Department and it was published in the Press.

My sixth and the last point is that adequate stress should be given to solve the socio-economic and ethnic problems of different States and places. There should be positive attitude to solve the socio-economic and ethnic problems of our country. I think that this point should be discussed in depth.

Sir, our internal security is very alarming and our internal security is not safe in the hands of this Government. So, this Government must go if we have to secure internal security of our country.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion about internal security is going on and you have given me time to speak, I am obliged to you for this. This discussion is being held on the eve of 13th December. The 13th December is a black day in the history of democracy and Constitution of this country which we can not forget, nobody of this country can forget this.

The Parliament is the temple of constitutional and democratic faith of this country and if this faith is attacked then this country is very much hurt and the country cannot bear this. I would respectfully pay my homage to deceased courageous souls again who defended the dignity of the Parliament at the cost of their lives they lost their lives, I respectfully salute those martyr soldiers.

This country is proud of such brave soldiers. Hon'ble Pandaji referred to the proud moments and I am also round of the same. The soldiers and youngmen of our country did not care for their lives while protecting the sanctity and dignity of those places, whether it is the Akshardham Temple or the Raghunath Temple or any other places. Whenever the enemies of our country tried to desecrate those places, our soldiers failed their plans at the cost of their lives. That spirit of courage, determination and patriotism towards the country have made our democracy strong. As long as these spirit and sentiments remain, nobody can harm our nation and our nation will continuously progress with all its dignity and respect.

This is not fair to play with the memories of the people of the country like Mahatma Budha and Mahavir. India has given the message of non-violence to the world.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Do you also remember Gandhi Ji?

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: I had only talked of Mahavir and Mahatma Budha, you interrupted me. Atleast you should have allowed me to speak about Gandhiji. I remember Gandhiji more than you do and remember even Lohia ji whom you often forget.

We have not only remembered him, ...*(Interruption)* If you want to discuss such things, we can discuss it outside. The discussion can not take place on such subjects in the House.

I was stating that the cultural legacy what we have inherited leaves no room for such violence, there is no scope for violence. This country has always criticized violence. That is why, we have always said that non-violence is the best religion, 'Ashok Chakra' has been given a respectful place as insignia in Parliament and Government. Any type of non-violence is not acceptable to common man here, there is no mass acceptance of it. There is no social and religious acceptance either. Nobody accepts this. We have two neighbouring countries. Earlier, it was one but now there are two neighboring countries. Both of them have resolved that we will not be happy and nor will allow neighbouring countries to be happy. They do not tolerate the progress and democratic framework of this country, they cannot bear the democratic to flourish here. We cannot bear the terrorism supported by the likes of ISI institutions or by any other in the country. Just now, our Hon'ble Member, Pandaji, had referred to SIMMI. I feel that this is our weakness, instead of preparing nation and ourselves to face the challenges

before the country, we use each and every challenge for taking political benefits. We can also take political benefits by some other way but at the time of discussing about challenges before the House, nation and country, we should have the resolution of protecting the country, nation and constitution but we deviate from this. We try to give political twist to each and every discussion. The message which should have been sent from this House is not conveyed to the country, criminals, wicked, sinners and terrorists to whom we want to. One message should be sent from here. Was the attack on the Parliament of 13th December an attack on any party or any Government? It was not an attack on any party and Government? It was an attack on the country, constitutional dignity of the country, faith of the country. However, strongly we may condemn, that's not enough. The House condemned this attack in a single and one tone. We should keep it in further discussions. As we have to unite and if that spirit is lacking, we are pained.

Pakistan waged war on various occasions and it tasted defeat every time. It is trying to demoralize and destroy us by resorting to proxy war and other evil means. It is also trying to cripple our internal security, but our country is not so weak. Even though we raise different voices due to political reasons, yet we all are of the view that we will leave no stone unturned to give them a befitting reply. We are all united on this issue. I remember that when a discussion on Raghunath temple was going on here, our leader, honourable Shri Mulayam Singh ji had asked as to why we should not destroy the hideouts of terrorists in Pakistan? We feel that every section of this House want that such bases should be attacked.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): But the Government is not prepared for that.

MR. SPEAKER: Athawale ji, you have just come to the House. You please have some rest and speak later on.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: The problem is that when I stand up to speak, he also stands up and when I sit down he also sits down.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that it is a national challenge and the Government has left no stone unturned to face that challenge. I still remember the elections of Assam which were conducted under shadow of terrorism. What was the percentage of voting in that election? Our senior leaders are sitting here and they all know about the percentage of voting that took place there. When elections were held in Punjab, what was the percentage

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

of voting there. The elections which were held recently in Jammu and Kashmir, should be compared with Assam and Punjab elections and it should be assessed whether or not the voting in Kashmir was more than Assam and Punjab. Even the parties which have formed a Government there, have also agreed that free and fair election were held there and this voting has helped in increasing the level of confidence among people.

I read in a newspaper recently that people there handed over a terrorist to the police. This has given a boost to their morale and if instead of appreciating their courage, we try to gain political mileages, then their courage would not get a boost. They would also indulge in politics. So, we should not take it from political point of view.

Just now one of our respected colleague was talking about Mahatma Gandhi. I salute Mahatma Gandhi and will continue to do so in future....(Interruption) we do not need his advice in this regard. I used to salute Mahatma Gandhi before joining the politics and I want to submit that the institution which I represent, still reverberate with the prayers of Mahatma Gandhi. We start prayers at 5 o'clock in the morning. Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh is known for it. We still offer those prayers there. This practice is still prevalent there. We wake up at 5 o'clock in the morning, offer prayers and go for a walk. We have assimilated Gandhi ji in ourselves. But R.S.S. is held responsible for the murder of Mahatma Gandhi ji. All reports of enquiry have come out and all have concluded that, 'Sangh' is not responsible for the murder of Gandhi ji. It is strange that same issues are certainly raised in Parliament at regular intervals. This issue is raised every time. But it is not good. We should understand all these things with the passage of time. Not only Mahatma Gandhi, Shrimati Indira Gandhi was also murdered. Rajiv Gandhi was the third Gandhi who was murdered. You cannot come clean by putting the blame on R.S.S. for the murder of Mahatma Gandhi. But our country can not forget the murder of Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi. They sacrificed their life for this nation because they had become a challenge for terrorism. That is why they were killed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today a terrorists named Ali was arrested in Bangalore who was responsible for the attack on R.S.S. office in Chennai. He hurled a bomb over there.

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): You are also doing the same.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: We have not yet attacked anybody. Let the time come. The names which he has revealed and the names which are in the hit list in this dairy included the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs, leaders of opposition and other prominent people. Their intentions are still same. They are playing their tricks. But our security forces are keeping strict vigil on their activities. More than two hundred such people have been liked. Security forces are keeping a vigil on the people who are still active and they can not escape from the dragnet. This is not a few days fight. I was saying that the lives of the hon. Prime Minister and Ex-Prime Ministers are in danger. It is a long battle which could not be won in a few minutes or hours. Some people try to become leaders at international level and insist on holding negotiations. How can we hold negotiations with criminals, terrorists, whose intentions are not good, who believe that India is their enemy and who want to destroy India. These big nations should understand that how can we hold talks with these criminals. Should we talk to the people who attack our Parliament, our legislative assemblies, our temples, our mosques, our Gurdwaras?

We should deal with these people in their style. We should make up our mind for that. It is not that we are not keeping vigil on them. We are having an eye on them, so they would be dealt with at the appropriate time.

Sir, SAARC Conference has been cancelled now. If Pakistan wanted SAARC Conference to be held there, then it would have talked with India and handed over 20 people wanted by us and who were responsible for the attack on Parliament and whose list was given by India to Pakistan. If Pakistan had met the above demands, then we definitely would have thought about the negotiations. But India would not accept any pressure from any country for holding negotiations with those whose intention are not good. Negotiations can be started with the people whose intention are clear but how can we talk to and believe on people whose intentions are mala-fide.

Sir, our intention is very clear and we want good relations with our neighbouring countries. We do not want to put in trouble our neighbours and it is not our intention today but it has been our intention for hundreds of years. However, our neighbours are destroying themselves by creating trouble for us. I would like to submit that doors of this government are open for those people who believe in the Constitution of India and democracy, and are willing to hold negotiations by abjuring violence and weapons. It is not that people have not come forward to hold talks.

Various organisation have come forward. Among them are B.E.L.T. Bodo liberation Tigers. In north-east, N.S.C.N. is also ready for negotiations. They have changed their intentions.

Sir, I would like to ask hon'ble Mufti Saheb to hold talks with the Centre and also with those who are willing to hold talks, who accept the Indian Constitution and who are willing to follow the democratic tradition. There is no difficulty in holding talks with such persons. But it is a wrong precedent to release the terrorists from jails merely to fulfill promises made during the elections. It was wrong to release terrorists for securing the release of his daughter or to release terrorists or criminals in exchange for 300 passengers. We should be firm in our determination and under no circumstances should we free the criminals and the terrorists no matter what sacrifice we have to make so that the terrorists would get the message once and for all that such acts would not bring the Government to its knees. They should be dealt with an iron hand. This is the only way to overcome them. Success can only be achieved with such resolve.

Sir, I would like to make it clear that India is facing immense challenges from Pakistan and Bangladesh. This is not in our nation's interest. Not only in Pakistan and Bangladesh but situation is not conducive in Nepal also. India shares a border with Nepal. Only a few days back I had been to Betia, Bugha and Motihari districts in Bihar, situated on the Nepal border. I was told that people come from the Nepal side and forcible take away men and women. There is danger on our border with these three countries.

Sir, with due regards to the feelings of our colleagues I would like to say that madarasas should remain sacred. Science, Mathematics and other subjects should be taught in the madarasas. Their numbers are increasing alarmingly in the Terai region of Nepal giving rise to suspicion. I want to pose three questions. What is taught in the Madrasas? Who teaches there? Who are the students? How are they funded? Such things should be made public. We should know the total number of Madarasas being run in the country with their locations by the different communities, or by those who speak a particular language. For this the madarasas should be registered. If this is not done, the mushrooming of madrsas in this manner in the terial region of Nepal raises suspicion and causes fear. I would like to request the hon'ble Home Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Prime Minister that the educational institutions should be registered and should not be misused.

With these words. I ...*(Interruption)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Tell us about Shishu Mandirs. ...*(Interruption)*

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Akhileshji is right. Discussion should also be held on Shishu Mandirs. They are registered and are recognised. Shishu Mandirs are also in your Parliamentary Constituency we can discuss it. ...*(Interruption)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: My Parliamentary Constituency is along the Indo-Nepal border. I challenge respected Swamiji to visit my constituency. Their party is in power in Uttar Pradesh and at the Centre. I have been demanding through this House repeatedly that the Government should identify the Madarasas which are working as a front for the ISI and those involved in anti-national activities....*(Interruption)*

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: I only want to say that who are we to run them? The Government should monitor their working. What is their credentials or for that matter ours? ...*(Interruption)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: If such serious allegations are levelled to discredit a particular community then the society and the country. ...*(Interruption)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: For this reason I want to know the source from where the Madrasas are funded. The country should know this. ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruption)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): He should tell us how authenticate ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion has begun on a good note. Akhileshji, If you have to say something you can do so when your turn comes. But this is not the way. When an hon'ble Member is speaking there is a procedure for opposing his views. How can this be allowed?

...*(Interruption)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): What is the amount being received by this organisation from outside. ...*(Interruption)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Shri Advaniji is the Deputy Prime Minister as well as the Home Minister. Instead of discussing in this manner it would be better to name the Madarsas involved in anti-national activities. We will accept it. Otherwise questions would be raised regarding the source of funding of Shishu Mandirs, there activities and as to who are involved in anti-national activities....*(Interruption)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You tell us about the activities of Shishu Mandirs ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: Swamiji complete your speech. Your time is up.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: I accept Mulayam Singh Yadav's proposal. I want that both should be registered and their funding source should be disclosed...*(Interruption)* I want to know why the mere mention of Madrasas should cause uneasiness. ...*(Interruption)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Will you fight the terrorists by levelling such allegations? Will you treat a particular community like this? ...*(Interruption)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): No community has been named. If any one is a traitor action should be taken. ...*(Interruption)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be a good and healthy discussion.

...*(Interruption)*

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

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am not making any allegation. ...*(Interruption)* If the terrorists are to be fought*(Interruption)*

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, may I make one submission?

MR. SPEAKER: Are you on a point of order?

SHRI ANADI SAHU: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, please sit down.

...*(Interruption)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: ISI is more active in Nepal. ...*(Interruption)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The entire country would have to be taken into confidence. If an entire community is looked upon with suspicion then not only you but no one in the whole country would be able to combat terrorism ...*(Interruption)*

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : A parliamentary group may be constituted under the leadership of hon. Mulayam Singhji. He will get it investigated.

MR. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair and conclude your speech.

...*(Interruption)*

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a serious matter and then, I will conclude. ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER I cannot allow everyone to speak.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Weapons only are not being discussed....*(Interruption)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: If he has some solid information, he should share with us. He cannot make allegation like this. There is no meaning of blaming without substantiating the facts.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: I have not made allegation I have only said that the sources of income of Madarsas should be investigated....*(Interruption)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: If they go on doubting the intentions of Muslims, the country would be divided. Every time they doubt the intentions of the Muslims. What they are doing is enough to divide the country ...*(Interruption)*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Who has mentioned the word 'Muslims'? ...*(Interruption)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: What do you say ...*(Interruption)*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Are you exclusive care taker of Muslims? You should address the Chair...*(Interruption)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: No, not we but you are the caretaker ...*(Interruption)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Action has been taken in respect of Madarasas in Pakistan ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mohan Rawaleji, you also please sit down. You should speak, when you are given the time. I am going to give you chance to speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: How long we are going to doubt the loyalty of Muslims? ...*(Interruption)* If we will fight terrorism on the one side and doubt over the loyalty of Muslims, how will it work...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: You listen to me also.

[English]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Addressing a Combined Commanders' conference of the armed forces on October 26, the Prime Minister conceded.

"The threats to our security from terrorism are not only restricted to Jammu and Kashmir but also else where in the country. Technology has now created chemical and biological weapons of great diversity that are difficult to detect."

[Translation]

If we are to strengthen our internal security, we have to strengthen our network as well as to equip our security forces with resources that are being introduced at international level such as biological equipments. Biological equipments are being developed to create distress in the country. I, therefore, submit that terrorism is a big challenge before the country and we all have to face the challenge of terrorism together. We have to take the responsibility of uprooting terrorism not from India only, but from the world also.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the Minister here. We have discussed the matter related to farmers, that they have been murdered, the Minister is going to speak, let him speak.

The matter would not be discussed today. It would be discussed on Tuesday. After the speech of the Minister, the House will adjourn.

17.59 hrs.

[Translation]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Agitation of cane growers of district basti (U.P.) for Enhancing the price of sugarcane

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have received report today, the 12 Dec. 2002 from the State Government in regard to agitation of cane growers in district Basti (Uttar Pradesh). Wherein it has been stated that the since 2 Dec., 2002 workers of Bhartiya Kisan Union had been picketing at the gate of Munderwa Sugar Mill for enhancing the piece of sugarcane. 50 workers in Thana Munderwa and 17 workers in Thana Gaur were arrested on 10.12.2002. The workers were annoyed because of these arrests. When Additional Superintendent of police reached on the spot on 11 December, 2002 there was a scuffle between the people and policemen. The policemen were beaten up and their Government vehicle was brunt. When additional police force reached there all these workers ran away and a roadway bus was burnt on National Highway. After sometime at a distance of 3 km., two more Roadways buses at L.R.P. bypass were burnt and stones were pelted at other vehicles. The police chased the workers at these places but the workers ran away in different directions. Some workers also burnt water corporation store Cabin and one seed godown of the town. The police chased them and the fire was put under control. The workers squatted upon the Gorakhpur-Lucknow railway line and the railway line was damaged and railway traffic was obstructed for about five hours.

18.00 hrs.

According to the report of the state Government, workers continuously pelted stones on police forces and some people in the crowd were also firing. In this incident, Inspector-General of police, Gorakhpur and Additional

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

Superintendent of Police Basti, Sub-Inspector and some Policemen were injured. Sub-Inspector was admitted to Lucknow Medical collage hospital because of head injury. In this stampede one man was found dead, after the crowd dispersed and probably he was injured with fire arm which possibly was fired by someone from the crowd. 10 persons have been arrested in this regard. According to the information received, condition is tense but under control.

It is note worthy that on the basis of the recommendations of C.A.C.P., the Govt., decides statutory Minimum price of sugarcane after having discussions with the State Governments, Associations of sugar industry and sugarcane farmers organisations. Even then, most of the sugar mills pay the price suggested by the state Government or pay the support price which is often more then statutory Minimum price. During the sugarcane season 2001-2002, the statutory Minimum Price for Uttar Pradesh was in between Rs. 62.05 per quintal and Rs. 81.76 per quintal. While sugar mills infact paid the price of sugarcane in between Rs. 92.50 and Rs. 100.00 per quintal.

For the present sugar season 2002-2003, the Govt. has announced Statutory Minimum Price of Rs. 64.50 per quintal on the basic "recovery" of 8.5% in which there is an arrangement of giving Rs. 0.76 premium on 0.1% more "recovery" from the said level. The Government of Uttar Pradesh maintained the level of price of last year for U.P. State Sugar Corporation and co-operative sugar mills dated 12th November, 2002 on which Allahabad High Court had issued the stay order.

It will be pertinent to mention here that this year sugar mills situated in Uttar Pradesh have started the crushing work with some delay in comparison to earlier years. According to the position on 12.12.2002, 81 sugar mills out of 101 sugar mills running in the state have started the crushing work.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make one more request. Today morning when this issue was raised Honourable Prime Minister himself was present into House. He has intervened on this question. I want to say one thing through you that sugar industry is in great crisis. Before this statement, I talked to Honourable Prime Minister to solve this problem. I have requested him that the Chief Minister of sugarcane grower's areas should be called and the outstanding amount settled. We have made buffer stock and Rs. 786 crores have been given out of outstanding amount of Rs. 1100 crores. This is not a

small relief. We are trying our level best continuously to give outstanding amount. In this regard, for the first time, a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonne of Sugar has been setup. We have given assistance from the sugar Development Fund for the development of sugarcane and modernisation of mills. But inspite of all this, this, industry is in crisis. Today I have requested the Honourable Prime Minister in this regard. He was present here, you were not present here, honourable Deputy Speaker was present here. Honourable Prime Minister came here to intervene on this issue, I also reached here. This issue is related to the farmers. Sugarcane growers have the problems and sugar industry is also in crisis. It is very essential to solve this problem by giving assistance. That is why I requested in the House through you. Honourable Prime Minister is also worried. Before this statement I have talked with him twice. The Government is serious on this issue and will try to find out the solution, I want to say this much only.

MR. SPEAKER: Suman Ji you know the procedure. There can be discussion on this issue. You can ask a short question, I am granting permission but do not deliver a speech. You want a clarification, you can ask. I am giving the permission.

...(Interruption)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, I will take only half minute ...(Interruption)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me also one minute. ...(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, I will also give you an opportunity to speak, Suman Ji, please speak.

...(Interruption)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: This is the statement of Honourable Minister wherein it has been stated that one man who was injured in the firing was found dead after the crowd dispersed in the stampede and the firing was probably done by someone in the crowd. I would like to submit that the case related to Devendra Prasad Yadav was raised day before yesterday and Honourable Home Minister gave the statement. It was mentioned in that statement that after talking with the Government, Home Secretary and Police Commissioner he has come to know that police neither resorted to firing nor lathi charged. This statement has also been made after making inquiries from the State. DIG in the state Government said yesterday, and has said today that nobody died in firing

...(Interruption) This is a case of death in firing and the Government are concealing the facts. People were continuously demonstrating peacefully since 2nd December, but why there was no firing? Why people were not murdered? This is a very serious matter. Injustice has been done to farmers and I want your protection. This statement had no relation with the truth. Send a Parliamentary Committee which should investigate the whole facts and after that real picture would emerge. I do not want to put blame on others but when farmers were demonstrating peacefully since 2nd December what happened resulting into the killing of three farmers in firing. The Government is concealing the facts intentionally.

...(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Ministerji, please go on. I cannot allow a speech here. You can ask a question. Hon. Minister, please go on.

...(Interruption)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the issue raised by Mr. Suman in the morning is concerned, I also read the sad news of death of farmers and I accept that there is a problem. The arrears are not of one or two years. These are outstanding for three and four years. When all the members arisen this issue then hon. Prime Minister gave an assurance to give details of the incident in the evening and said that he had no other feed back. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs and hon. Prime Minister also assured the House in this regard because the police is under their control. The Union Government get information from the State Government

...(Interruption) I have given information after their briefing, therefore, I believe that this information has been received just this morning and the information cannot be wrong that the death of a man

...(Interruption)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Sharad Yadav, you and I, both have been the students of the same school

...(Interruption)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: What I am saying here? What I have said

...(Interruption) Please tell me. What is the basis on which I can tell? You asked that a statement should be made

...(Interruption)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Are you satisfied with this statement

...(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: They will ask such questions. There is no need to give answers to such questions. Please address the Chair.

...(Interruption)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, with regret I have to say that such a statement has been given by hon. Minister for Food. I thought that we would not be ready to give statement on this issue because he is in the habit of speaking in the favour of roads, soil and work but after hearing his speech, I have to say with great regret that his knowledge is incomplete. If it is a fact that murder has been committed by the mob, the Government should say that farmers had assembled there with arms. Did the farmers come with weapons. Secondly, I have to say that no other class in India is as simple and peace loving as farmers are. Farmers do not have any union. There is a little consciousness about unions in the west districts otherwise there are no associations of farmers. The Gorakhpur district is near Basti where this incident took place. I am talking for your kind information that this place is known as Chauri-Caura. More than one dozen farmers sacrificed their lives there in the freedom struggle one by one but they unfurled the national flag and due to this incident Mahatma Gandhi called of the campaign. Mau and Ajamgarh are near this place where this incident took place. At Madhuvan also farmers attacked the police station and sacrificed their lives one by one but succeeded in raising the flag.

I have to say with regret that farmers never came with weapons even with knives or a stick in any agitation. If buses were burnt there and violence took place, who forced them to resort to this? There is a arrears of payment of Rs. 850 crore. Those farmers whose loans are due against the Government are in jails. Atrocities are being committed against them. Those who have got this Rs. 850 crore are taking interest from banks for this amount. They are not making payment, they are getting interest or depositing in banks. They are investing this money in business but farmers will not get even interest. Farmers are suffering loss on the basis of prices. I would like to ask that whether the Government are making arrangement for payment of Rs. 850 crore? If the Government of Uttar Pradesh is not making payment what action is being taken by the Central Government in this regard. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is busy with development of parks in the state. The State Government is changing crossings and installing their election symbol and the Prime Minister propose to visit there. The hard earned money of farmers will be spent there and Prime Minister will go there to see and to be glad. Places are being developed for voluptuousity. Therefore, I would like to say that the Government cannot escape by making excuse of High Court. I am happy that the Government have helped farmers of Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. Can the Government not help the farmers of Uttar Pradesh similarly.

...(Interruption)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Farmers of Bihar also.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Not only farmers of Bihar but I am telling about farmers of the whole country. The total population of farmers in the country is 76 percent but of these 72 percent have land for cultivation and 4 percent are landless workers. The Government cannot ignore 76 percent population. The Government order firing on these armless and innocent farmers and support such actions. Mr. Minister you have got such a traditions that you worked for workers and tillers and you have committed a sin by giving such a statement ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, it will be better to give reply after hearing all Members. Reply all questions once at a time

...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot give chances to all. I can give chance one by one otherwise complete debate will start.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, this incident took place in my constituency so, I beg for two minutes....*(Interruption)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, about sugarcane farmers. ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: No question is asked at this time, as this issue is serious, therefore, I am giving permission. Do not make a speech.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I am not making a speech. I do not make a speech, you know this.

MR. SPEAKER: I know that.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, the incident of firing in Uttar Pradesh during the demonstration regarding the problems of sugarcane growers was raised in the House in the presence of the Hon. Prime Minister. The hon. Prime Minister admitted that the issue is quite serious and stated that it would be resolved through parleys. I am quite confident that he will keep his promise.

Sir, this is not the problem of Uttar Pradesh alone but is same everywhere, where sugarcane is grown and sugar mills are functioning viz. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra. I am sure that the hon. Prime Minister would take urgent concrete measures. The hon. Minister has stated in the statement that the State Government has

informed about some one firing from the crowd. However, on the one hand facts are contrary to what has been stated by the Government in the statement and on the other hand Police is hatching conspiracy to implicate and arrest some farmers for the alleged incident of firing.

The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is present here. I would like to request that if this discussion is to be guided by the version of the State Government, as the hon. Minister has mentioned in the report about firing, the farmers will be definitely arrested. So we want that the hon. Minister should take initiative in this regard. I do not demand that a committee should be constituted because in how many such cases committees will be set up. However, I would like to submit that this incident proves the lackadaisical approach of the State Government and its anti-farmers stand. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to intervene in the matter for the well being of the farmers to prevent arrest of the farmers and for building up pressure on the State Government to punish the guilty police personnel.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit two things to the hon. Minister. This morning the hon. Minister in the Statement mentioned that the issue of support price cannot be resolved in court. The Government it seems is also aware of the secret understanding between Uttar Pradesh Government and sugar mill owners that if stay order is obtained from the High Court on the issue of support price it would not be contested. This is the core issue due to which the matter is pending for resolution for the last one month and a half. ...*(Interruption)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I also support him.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The hon. Prime Minister has rightly stated that this is not a matter to be resolved by the court. Today the hon. Minister did not give any categorical statement even though we urged the Minister to direct the State Government to constitute a committee of the sugar mill owners and public representatives to resolve the matter and immediately a meeting should also be convened. The support price of the sugarcane should be decided and it should also be decided when the procurement of sugarcane is going to be started and withdraw the case in the High Court. The hon. Minister has not given any such reply and the Government has only stated that same type of arrangement would be made for clearing the thousands of crores of rupees of outstanding amount of the farmers by the mill owners. If the State Governments are not in

a position to clear the outstanding payments then the Central Government should give same grants to at least clear part of the dues to improve the plight of the farmers. The farmers are agitating on this issues and in the firing incident 2, 3, or 4 people had been killed. We do not hope that the State Government will dispatch the correct report incorporating even the lacunae. I.G. and D.I.G. must have drafted the report as per the laid down constitutions of the State Government. For unearthing the truth, I would like to urge the hon. Minister, through you, to direct the State Government to order a judicial enquiry to look into the causes of firing. ...(*Interruption*) The sort of treatment meted out to the farmers should be incorporated in the reply by the hon. Minister.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister admitted and informed the House that people are agitating and courting arrest in protest against the Allahabad High court verdict and things did slightly slip out of hand. ...(*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can only ask specific questions as I have not given you permission to give speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: For resolving the matter in favour of the sugar mills a decision was taken to build the buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar. However, to the detriment of the interests of the farmers the verdict was given by the High Court. About the firing it is being mentioned that only one person got killed and not three. Thereby, further complicating the situation.

Such incidents may take place in Bihar too as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are adjacent to each other. So, the price of sugarcane should be the same in both the States. If in Uttar Pradesh the price of sugarcane is fixed at Rs. 90- 95, it should be the same in Bihar. Immediate action should be taken, since firing incidents have taken place there. ...(*Interruption*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like know from the Hon. Minister of Food that if the sugar mill owners do not clear the dues of the sugarcane growers, as per the policy, with 30 days then whether recovery certificate against the guilty sugar mill owners would be issued. In Munderva many farmers were agitating because they did not get their dues cleared for 4 years. Therefore, whether any recovery certificate was issued? Last year the price of sugarcane was Rs. 95 to 100 per quintal. It had been decided between the Government the sugarcane growers that if the price remains the same, as had been fixed last year, then the later would sell sugarcane at the old rate. However, the Mill owners did not agree to this rate. Uttar Pradesh and

Haryana are adjoining States. In Haryana the price is fixed at Rs. 110 per quintal. In such circumstances it needs to be looked into how the mill owners in Haryana are paying Rs 95-100 per quintal while in U.P. the sugar mill owners find it unviable. ...(*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister may now reply.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: When the farmer were agitating in a peaceful manner then what happened which forced Police to open fire on the demonstrators on 11th in which buses were also torched. ...(*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question. If you go beyond your question, I will call the Minister for reply. Ask only one question.

[*English*]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, last year, all the State Government provided the support price. But this year, the farmers are suddenly losing their support price. How can they manage the cultivation charges?

Secondly, the sugar price all over India is the same. There is no variation in that. The mill owners give the price to the farmers according to the recovery made. In Haryana, they are giving, Rs. 1100 per quintal ...(*Interruption*) Why can the Government not call the Chief Ministers' meeting? If that meeting is called, then the Chief Ministers can have meeting with the private mill owners and do the needful. ...(*Interruption*) Today, the Government is not able to control the sugar mill owners. The Government is going to sell all the public sector undertakings. In future, how are we going to control the situation? The State Governments are not in a position to extend financial assistance. So, the Central Government must provide financial assistance to the State Governments for giving the support price.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): Mr. Speaker I have been aggrieved by the statement given by the Government. I raised the issue in the House in Zero Hour on 21 and told that farmers are in much grief and troubles If the government don't take effective steps the situation there would become worse. I also wrote to the Prime Minister in the last week of November that the condition of sugarcane farmers is very bad and it will make their condition worse. I drew attention of the Government towards this issue one month ago in this House in Zero Hour. Farmers are being paid Rs 100 in

[Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana]

Haryana but the Government are not ready to pay them even Rs. 50. There should not be such injustice to farmers....(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, Please begin your reply.

...(Interruption)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruption)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon., Jaiswal, Raghuvansh Prasad and other hon. Members put their views in the House. ...(Interruption)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I have also to speak on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Athawale, I have given permission to many Members while it is not in procedure. I gave permission considering this issue a serious matter.

...(Interruption)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I have to speak about farmers of Maharashtra.

MR. SPEAKER: I will talk to him about farmers of Maharashtra. I shall take you also for discussion with him.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, certainly hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has mentioned a point. I accept that a farmer has been killed whether this farmer was killed by the bullet of police or by some one else. I don't like to go into this dispute. But it is very unfortunate. Just now Jaiswal Ji expressed concern over buffer stock, arrears of Rs. 1100 crore of farmers and revival of industries. The Government have made an

amendment in sugar development fund in this very House for arrears of Rs. 1100 crore of farmers. The buffer stock of Rs 778 crore will go to farmers according to law. This will be paid to sugarcane growers directly. Jaiswal Ji out of an amount of Rs. 1100 crore, Rs. 778 crore, on behalf of the Government ...(Interruption)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon, Minister, you have announced that mills will start functioning from 15th but whether mills will buy sugarcane at support prices. ...(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, don't disturb him.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I am praising hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please don't praise him in between; Mr. Minister, we want your reply. No questions in between. Please reply addressing the chair.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir I was saying that the amount of Rs. 1100 crore, we have managed, is not a small amount. The crisis in the industries is not only in one State but it is in all States. In Uttar Pradesh we tried our best. There are 101 mills and 81 out of these will start functioning by 15 ultimo. So far the arrears and all other problems are concerned. The hon. Prime Minister and myself have informed the House that I discussed the issue and decided that the Chief Minister of those States where sugar industries are situated would be called for discussing this issue. As an all party meeting is to be held on P.D.S., I think that if this issues is brought up in that meeting that would be more helpful. Certainly the Government is concerned about this problem and the Government did what could have been done and the Government will take proper action in future also.

18.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 13, 2002/Agrahayana 22, 1924 (Saka).

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Tenth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.
