

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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AND

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 21, 2002/Kartika 30, 1924 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.*

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for adjournment motion on the issue that five innocent persons belonging to scheduled castes community have been killed at a police post in Jhajjar. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, I will look into that...

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice for adjournment motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Vilas Paswanji, what do you want to say...

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please let me listen to him, I will tell you about it afterwards...

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, five innocent persons have been killed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sumanji, I have listened to you. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, now you speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (JALORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have done nothing so far in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion, along with me, Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Ramdas Athawale, Sardar Buta Singh and Basu Deb Achariaji have also given notices for

Adjournment Motion I would like to know as to whether people do not have right to live? Five dalits have been killed in Jhajjar. ...*(Interruptions)* They were killed on the ground that they were skinning the alive cows and so far no action has been taken in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* I request you to admit this Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been published in newspapers that police is pressurising them to compromise on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)* If this matter is hushed up in this manner then it will cause resentment among people of Punjab, Rajasthan and U.P. ...*(Interruptions)* Five innocent persons have been killed inside the police station. ...*(Interruptions)* Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has raised objection to it and asked for CBI inquiry in this matter. All prominent leaders have given notices for Adjournment Motion under Rule 193. Kindly give us an opportunity to raise this issue so that we could reveal the truth. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know that this is a very important issue. I have received three notices in this regard. I think that this issue be taken up first of all during the Zero Hour. Discussion is required to be held on this issue and I would definitely grant permission for it. But at the same time I would make a request to all that such issues should not be raised in the House during Question Hour as other Members also raise their questions in the House. We have to take them up also. I know that this is a very important issue but I request all the Members that it should be raised during the Zero Hour after the Question Hour is over. I would allow you to speak then.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Old Incomplete Projects

+

*41. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PMO has asked the Ministry to identify, assess and scrap all those projects which have been granted approval over 10 years ago or more, but have not yet been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or being taken in this regard;

(c) whether many of these projects had been formulated without detailed Project Reports, pre-project activities or a proper tie up of financial resources;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the main reasons for non-starting of these projects;

(f) whether the Government propose to complete over 5000 kms of new lines, gauge conversion and doubling during the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2007); and

(g) if so, the details thereof, project-wise;

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Following projects covering 1331 km of BG lines have been targeted for completion during 2002-2003:

New Lines: 214 km

- (i) Buniadpur-Balurghat of Eklakhi-Balurghat
- (ii) Jaroli-Keonjhar of Daitari-Banspani
- (iii) Kumarghat-Manu of Kumarghat-Agartala
- (iv) Katra-Faizabad
- (v) Duraundha-Maharajganj restoration
- (vi) Bajkul-Kanthi of Tamluk-Digha
- (vii) Fatuha-Islampur
- (viii) Una-Churaru Takrala of Nangal Dam - Talwara

Gauge conversion: 867 km

- (i) Latur - Latur Road of Miraj-Latur
- (ii) Luni-Samdari-Jasai of Luni- Munabao
- (iii) Vadalur-Vriddhachalam of Salem-Cuddalore

- (iv) Mangalore-Puttur of Arasikere-Mangalore
- (v) Dharmabad-Nizamabad, & Jankampet-Bodhai of Mudkhed-Secunderabad
- (vi) Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati
- (vii) Rajkot-Jetalsar-Junagarh of Rajkot-Veraval
- (viii) Surendernagar-Rajaula City-Pipavav
- (ix) Virudunagar-Rajapalayam of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudunagar

Doublings: 250 km

- (i) Chandanpur-Gurup
- (ii) New Alipur-Akra
- (iii) Parsa Bazar - Punpun
- (iv) Siho-Karpurigram
- (v) Colonelganj-Sarju of Gonad-Jarwal Road
- (vi) Calicut-Mangalore (balance 50 km)
- (vii) Bangarpet-Bisanatham of Whitefield-Kuppam
- (viii) Gudur-Renigunta (4 block sections - 40 km)
- (ix) Ballapalle-Pullampet (4 block sections - 30 km)
- (x) Naila-Champa of Akaltara-Champa
- (xi) Champa-Balpur of Champa-Saragbundia
- (xii) Bilaspur-Dagori and Nipania-Bhatapara of Bilaspur-Urkura 3rd line
- (xiii) Gevra Road-Kusumunda of Korba-Gevra Road
- (xiv) Kesinga-Norla Road of Titlagarh-Lanjigarh
- (xv) Salegaon-Nergundi of Rajatgarh-Nergundi

It is planned to add over 5,000 km of BG track by way of New Lines, Gauge Conversions and Doublings during 10th Plan. The identification of projects proposed to be completed during remaining four years of 10th plan period are under finalisation subject to availability of budgetary support.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply to my question has given a list.

Information given regarding gauge conversion and also about new line is also not sufficient. I had asked the hon. Minister whether a news was published in the newspaper that an order was issued from the PMO to identify, assess and scrap the projects lying incomplete for the last ten years. It has been stated in this regard that the said projects were not financially supported. I had asked as to how many projects out of them have been scrapped and what is the present status in this matter.

The scheme formulated by the department was defective, incomplete and not financially supported. It was decided that the gauge of five kilometers of stretch would be converted and new line would be laid, a list to this effect has been provided. I would like the hon. Minister to speak something in this regard in the House. We have been making request for construction of Bandel-Katwa line, but it has not been mentioned in the list. It is a very important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question in brief.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot ask such a lengthy question.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Please tell the House about the old projects.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Hon. Member had asked whether the Prime Minister's office had issued any directions to the Ministry of Railways that the projects which had been accorded approval 10 years ago or more but had not been executed, be assessed and scrapped. I have given reply that no such directions have been issued to the Ministry of Railways by the PMO. Neither any such statement has been given nor does the Ministry of Railways intend to do so. Of course, there are many projects which have been accorded approval ten years ago, or more. Out of them, three projects have not been executed so far and Bildi-Samdari gauge Conversion is one of them. We had made a provision of Rs. 15 crore in the budget of current year. Estimates have been sanctioned and work is also being started. One more project for doubling Kala Pipalphanda railline is pending. Estimates are being prepared in this connection. The Government propose to start it and this doubling project is essential for the Ministry of Railway. There is another Dirdhnoi-Dipa project of North-Eastern region. This project covers fifteen and half k.m. of distance. Several years back land acquisition papers had been submitted by the Ministry of Railways, however, there is some protest at local level and as a result of it the land could not be acquired. There

are only three such projects which were approved ten years back and on which the work has not yet been started. We are starting work on two projects out of it. Sufficient provisions has been made for that in the budget of the year 2002-2003. So, the hon. Member should be confident that we are not going to scrap any such projects.

Further he has asked whether I have submitted the list of the projects. I would like to submit in this regard that I have given the list of those projects that have been targeted to be completed this year. However, so far as the query regarding the Tenth Five Year Plan is concerned, we are finishing those projects that we propose to complete during the remaining four years of the plan period. You will also appreciate that all this will depend on the Tenth Plan, when it is prepared. How many projects can be completed by us will depend on how much budgetary support is provided to Railway in the budget. However, our goal is to construct more than five thousand k.m. of broad gauge line in Tenth Five Year Plan period and we are getting support for this. I am fully confident that we will get expected funds.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the amount of financial support in the budget for Tenth Five Year Plan is being received or not so that the work could be completed. I would like to submit that nothing has been said about the doubling of Bandel-Katwa rail line that falls in my Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We will hold separate discussion on his project as there is no need to devote the time of the House on it. However, he has further asked whether we are getting funds or not. All the hon. Members always desire that more and more projects should be taken up. I also desire that all projects should be completed within a stipulated time and for that I have made demand for the funds. However, it is not practical to expect that whatever funds are sought will be released. But it is certain that the provision made for this year can be termed as satisfactory.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I do not expect much of an answer from the hon. Minister. Therefore, the answers that I have got for my questions are far from satisfactory. However, I would just like to state that the Railways being a very big industry in this country, on which the entire mobility of the country is dependent, would the hon. Minister categorically tell us what are the policies of the Railway Board?

Recently, we have had a massive 'Rajdhani' accident. That happened to be in my parliamentary constituency.

There have been various projects in the last 10 years that have been shelved and new projects have been taken up. What is the earthly reason for these various projects to have been shelved to take up these new projects in 2002-03?

However, my pointed question to the Minister today is this. What is the number of projects in this country costing Rs. 50 crore or more which have not been completed in time? Has the Railways done any analysis of the cost and time overrun and taken remedial measures? Would the Minister be kind enough to give an answer to this august House about this very important topic, that is, the expenditure on the Railways?

Then, I have another Supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the policy of the Railway is mentioned in Rail Budget and the detailed discussion is held on it. So far as the projects are concerned we have adopted the policy that more than five thousand k.m. of broad gauge line will be added to the existing railway network. According to that a target of 1300 k.m. of line has been fixed for the current year and the work in this regard is in progress. Some safety measures have also been suggested. Special safety railway fund has been created for the safety of the railway. As far as the question of projects is concerned, there are no such projects that were taken ten years back and now have been shelved as mentioned by the hon. Member. There are no such projects that were taken up and now have been shelved. The work is in progress on all those projects that have been approved and I have mentioned about three such projects. As far as the number of projects is concerned, it is altogether nearly 225 such projects for which approximately Rs.40 thousand crore will be required. These projects include new lines, gauge conversion, doubling, NTP Projects and railway electrification which are likely to be completed in Tenth Five Year Plan.

Recently on 15 August the Prime Minister has announced about 15 new initiatives wherein some announcements pertain to Railway also for which non budgetary initiatives have been mentioned. Launching of a National Railway Development Project at the investment of Rs.15 thousand crore is under consideration and for which several types of fund adjustment are being made. Action is being taken in this direction. So it is not proper to comment that there is no policy or no expansion work is being done. All actions are being done. As far as the projects of more than Rs. 50 crore are concerned, there are several such projects with railway, however, presently I do not have

figures regarding the number of projects amounting to more than Rs.50 crores. I will furnish this information to him. I have given the details about the entire on-going projects.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Radhakrishnan.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, I would like to ask another Supplementary, please.

MR. SPEAKER: How can it be allowed?

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, I want to ask one question.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry. I cannot permit you. Now, Shri Radhakrishnan.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: It is an important subject. Either you please allow Half-an-Hour Discussion or some other discussion for about an hour.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot give you permission.

[English]

You cannot ask one more Supplementary. That is my only difficulty.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, it is really unfortunate that among the doubling list, there is an on-going project that has not been included in it. There is already a proposal for doubling of Kayamkulam-Ernakulam railway line via Alleppey and Kottayam of which the doubling process has already started from Mulanthurthy. But that is not seen in the list. I do not know how it happened. It is because this process is there, and some work has already started.

So far as the State of Kerala is concerned, this the most vital development. Unless and until, the Railway start the work, the progress or development of the State will be adversely affected.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a specific question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Why has it not been included in the list? That is what I want to ask him.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The project which he mentioned is not targeted to be completed this year.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It was started when Mr. Rajagopal was there.

SHRI A.C. JOS: I want to know whether it was started or not. You have given a promise to Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The project being implemented is 17 kilometers long. As far as I remember a provision of Rs.3.65 crore rupees had been made in the budget and the work on it is going on. There is no question of abandoning the project. However this section is not targeted to be completed this year.

[English]

That is not targeted for completion during this year. These are the names of the projects that are targeted for completion during the current year.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It has already been started. The work is now under progress. Why has it not been included in the list? Why did it not find a place in the list?

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The question I am asking is not meant to put the hon. Minister of Railways in trouble, rather I am asking it to help him. He has time and again reiterated that the project would be completed on receiving funds from the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission. The Ministry of Railways always maintains that the project is not progressing due to lack of funds. Alright, but whether it is not imperative to look towards these issues in totality so that our transport system may function properly. It should also be decided how much should be spent on railways, how much on roads and how much on airways and similarly how much on waterways. The maximum allocation should be made for the railways and waterways. The scheme announced by the Prime Minister is good and we support it. However, if the Railways do not get adequate assistance then we can help neither the passengers nor carry on our freight transportation. Hence railways require more funds. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will put the proposal in the cabinet and take up with the Planning

Commission that Railways should be provided adequate funds to enable timely completion of projects. During the British rule the target for completing one thousand kilometers was fixed but nowadays we try to undertake several projects at one go due to which we fail to complete even a single project in ten years. If you intend to complete the projects in time we will support you.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Tell us as to what help would you provide?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever the hon. Member has said is correct. I am working in that direction. This year though the budgetary support is not to the desired level yet it has somewhat increased. We are seeking more funds during the Tenth Five Year Plan. We have conveyed to the Government that the Plan size of Railways should be of Rs.40,000 crore rupees and the Government should provide budgetary support. Hence it would be clear that there are 15 initiatives of the hon. Prime Minister including the railway component. As far as it deals with the National Railway Development Schemes including the golden quadrilateral and port connectivity mega bridges for which an allocation of 15,000 crore has been made, they can be completed within the specified time limit despite all the bottlenecks. On this strategy we have forwarded our demands and your willingness to support would give us impetus. A meeting of NDC would soon take place and if you desire then we can place the railway's proposals for consideration. All the Chief Ministers are the Members of NDC and your support would be greatly needed in it. Hence, I welcome your support.

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Railway Minister has stated in the reply that the draft proposal of the scheme under the Tenth Five Year Plan for constructing new railway lines, gauge conversion and doubling of the railway track totalling 5000 kilometres is being given the final touches. In this context I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal under this scheme to convert the Delhi-Rajhara Ghat and Raipur to Dhamtari narrow gauge lines of Chattisgarh into broad gauge and connect the later to Gundadori. Further whether the desired co-operation of the State Government to complete this project is being received or not? If not, the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: As I said earlier we would place all the details about the ongoing projects of our country. You have seen that we have paid full attention to maintain the regional balance in this year's budget and have taken into account the population, area and the funds required for the number of railway projects of a particular state, while distributing money. Hence the works would be undertaken

for the all round development of the country keeping in view the need of maintaining regional balance. Whenever these lines would be completed under the Five Year Plans, these principles would be adhered to. However Dalli-Rajhara project would be undertaken with the co-operation of the railway, SAIL and the State Government. Further many issues are involved in it. I went there some days ago and I also discussed it with the State Government. We can complete these projects with the co-operation of these all.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned that the projects which have been going on for the last ten years would be completed first soon. I would like to mention that Vidarbha is a region which has not been treated favourably by various Ministries of the Union Government. The survey of Amravati-Narkhed line was started in 1905 and it is an ongoing project. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the ongoing projects which need to be developed would be completed first or those which have been going on for the last 10-15 years and are not required today, would be taken up first? Amravati-Narkhed projects is a very important project for Vidharbha today. No railway line except Nagpur connects Vidharbha with main Delhi line. Railway line from Bhusaval to Chheja to come from Marathwada and Amravati-Narkhed line to go to Amravati are two very important rail lines and the work is going on there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when this ongoing project is proposed to be completed? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Railway Budget debate like scene has been created during the Question Hour. As far as identifying projects is concerned, every aspect would be taken care of. We do not want to drop any of our sanctioned projects. Their getting sanctioned itself show that all of these are in public interest. Moreover, there is assumption about some of these projects that their internal rate of return is much better i.e. they are considered viable projects. On the other hand here are some projects which can not be considered viable in the present scenario but they are useful from the point of view of providing connectivity to the backward and remote areas. There is a accepted viewpoint in this country from the beginning that only viable projects should be taken up but the Ministry of Railways do not accept it. Both these responsibilities – the viable projects as well as the projects connecting remote areas with railway line can not be ignored and the work is to be carried on taking into account both these things. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, if you pay attention towards it then the policy of continuing with both kind of projects - viable projects and those connecting remote areas to rail line would be continued.

As far Amravati and Narkhed projects are concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you resume your seat.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, the land acquisition work regarding Amravati and Narkhed projects is going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow half an hour discussion on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to the other question and would allow half-an-hour discussion on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow half-an-hour discussion on it.

[English]

Replacement of Old Bridges

+

*42. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Justice H.R. Khanna Report on Railway Safety Review (1999) had identified some 262 railway bridges as 'distressed' needing immediate repairs;

(b) whether more than 40% of the bridges in Indian Railway Network were built during pre-independence period, with many of them being more than 90 years old;

(c) whether any visual inspection/structural tests were carried out on these bridges as called for in the reports of Kunzru Committee (1962), Wanchoo Committee (1968), Sikri Committee (1978) and Khanna Committee (1999);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for not adhering to the recommendations of the expert committees; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to repair/reconstruct these bridges along with the expenditure incurred/likely to be incurred thereon?

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

Statement

(a) There were 262 distressed railway bridges as on 01.04.99 which the Railway Safety Review Committee recommended should be rehabilitated within a time span of 5 years.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. All the bridges including old and distressed bridges are inspected thoroughly once a year at various levels as laid down in Railway Codes and Manuals. For distressed bridges an increased frequency of inspections has been laid down in the Manuals. The steel superstructures of all bridges are subject to detailed technical checks once every five years and once a year for the floor system of early steel girders. The inspection of substructures of bridges is done by close visual inspection and hammer tapping to check for any cracks or hollowness of masonry. No specific recommendations for visual inspections / structural tests for 100 year old bridges / early steel girders or distressed bridges were made in Kunzru Committee (1962), Wanchoo Committee (1968), Sikri Committee (1978). Khanna Committee (1999) had recommended that distressed bridges and bridges over 100 years in age or of early steel should be further inspected at Senior Administrative Grade level with State of Art Non-destructive equipment and project coordinated by RDSO. In pursuance of this recommendation, all the distressed bridges as identified in part (a) of the question were got inspected by the territorial Chief Engineers of the Railways. For other bridges i.e., 100 years old and early steel girders, the existing system as enumerated above was considered satisfactory and these bridges are inspected at higher levels when referred to in view of any distress noticed. The results of Non Destructive Testing equipment mentioned in the recommendation are indicative and require detailed evaluation, testing and trials before detailed guidelines are issued for their large scale use over Indian Railway system. One set of some of the Non-Destructive Testing Equipment has been procured for the Research Design & Standards Organisation (RDSO) and is under detailed evaluation, trials and testing for consideration of adoption on large scale over the Railways.

(f) The steps taken/being taken are enumerated as:

1. All the Cast Iron Pile Bridges have been

sanctioned for rebuilding within the next three to four years.

2. All the distressed bridges are sanctioned for rehabilitation/rebuilding on priority.
3. During the 9th Plan period Rs. 410 Cr. were spent for rebuilding/strengthening of 3400 bridges.
4. Outlays for bridge rehabilitation/rebuilding have been increased substantially. Rs. 1530 Cr. has been earmarked for rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges out of Special Railway Safety Fund in the next 5 to 6 years. In addition, bridges are also sanctioned for rehabilitation/rebuilding every year chargeable to Railways Annual Works Programme.
5. During the year 2002-03, a sum of Rs. 209 Cr (Rs.143 Cr. out of SRSF and Rs.66 Cr. out of DRF) has been allotted for rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In the Statement, the Minister of Railways has stated that everything is all right in regard to ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us have order in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please ask him a specific question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He says everything is all right in regard to the condition of old bridges. The Indian Railways has 1,07,000 bridges. Out of 1,07,000 bridges, about 50 per cent of the bridges were constructed during the British period. Out of the 62,000 kilometres of railway track, 53,000 kilometres of railway track was constructed in the pre-Independence period. He has also stated about the Kunzru Committee, Wanchoo Committee and Sikri Committee, the three Committees which were constituted to inquire into the causes of accidents and to recommend to the Government the remedial measures. He has stated that they have not made any specific recommendation in regard to rehabilitation of old bridges. But I have gone through all these Reports. These Committees have also stated about the condition of the bridges which are of 100 years old. The Railway Reforms Committee, long back in

1982, had stated that an Expert Committee should be constituted with a Director from the Railway Board, another one from the RDSO and the Commissioner of Railway Safety as its Members to conduct an in-depth study of the problem of re-building of old bridges. He has not mentioned about the recommendation of the Railway Reforms Committee. Twenty years back, that Committee recommended re-building of all the old bridges. What has happened to that recommendation?

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Including Aurangabad in Bihar.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will come to that later on because I visited your constituency just after the accident.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please address the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Railway Safety Review Committee headed by Justice Khanna made a specific recommendation that within one year all the bridges that are today declared as distressed, not only distressed bridges but also other bridges over 100 years in age or of early steel girders, should be subjected to a super check by a Task Force in each Railway headed by a specially selected senior administrative grade officer for quick structural assessment and immediate remedial measures. Each Task Force should be equipped with the state-of-the-art Non-Destructive Testing Equipment, which is now available, and this should be completed within one year. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Basu Debji, complete the question please.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action has been taken by the Railways to inspect all the bridges. He had mentioned about the distressed bridges. The Khanna Committee had identified not only 262 distressed bridges but also recommended for a thorough in-depth inspection of all the bridges which are over 100 years old. Has the Ministry of Railways constituted a Task Force with the experts as recommended by the Khanna Committee?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Basu Debji, if you will ask such a lengthy question nobody else will get a chance to ask the question.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would also like to know whether within one year all these bridges have been inspected or not. I would like a specific answer to this question from the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire House wants that I should give short reply to the long question. But I too have some limitations. As far as the question of Railway Reform Committee is concerned, it has made some recommendations regarding the condition of bridge in 1982. A Committee constituted in 1986 for this had started working on that Committee's recommendations in 1988 and that work is still going on. On the basis of assessment of distressed and old bridges or screw pile bridges, early-steel-girder bridges condition, the programme of rehabilitation is going on at some places and rebuilding programme is going on at some other places. On this basis, rehabilitation of many bridges has taken place and many have been rebuilt. ...*(Interruptions)* On the basis of suggestions given by the Khanna Committee, the members of Railway Board have told me that the number of old bridges which are more than 100 years old are more than 50 thousand, which includes important, major and minor bridges. It was said that a task force of officers should be constituted, it should be done within one year by non-destructive method, and for this on the basis of literature some procurement has been done in RDSO. It is being standardized and we have constituted a task force after studying the rules of bridges conducting inspection at other places and the way non-destructive equipments are working and its schedule. At this time, task force is visiting those countries which manufacture non-destructive equipments. Non-destructive equipments are being used whether it is highways or railways. In this way, the work is being done in this direction.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there has been a serious accident near Rafiganj station on the bridge over the river Dhawe, where more than a hundred passengers have been killed. I would like to know whether that bridge was thoroughly inspected by this task force before 9th September.

Most of the passengers who were killed belonged to West Bengal but I am told that the Railway Claims Tribunal has been set up at Patna. Now, the kith and kin of the passengers who died, their widows and children, are being

harassed while getting their compensation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider setting up another Tribunal at Kolkata so that there could be expeditious disposal and payment of claims of the relatives of the deceased.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The answer of part (a) of supplementary asked by him is that the bridge mentioned by him, which faced derailment first, it was in good condition and it was inspected according to the scheduled inspection.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he was a suspended and punished employee. He has got several strictures by Vigilance. How was he brought to head the inquiry committee? I do not understand it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, let there be a discussion on the accident. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, has he enquired into the whole issue? The Railways was totally inadequate in handling the grim situation there. The villagers had given water, money and relief to the patients. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The people of the village had rescued the passengers; not the Railway authorities.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: The Railways was found lacking in every respect. There was no camp set up and the people died in a very gruesome manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Another question has been raised after Basu Deb ji's suggestion. After this a specific reply can be given to question on Rajdhani Express. If you admit the discussion, I will give reply to all the questions raised during the discussion. But it is very difficult to speak about everything in reply to this supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Please give reply to Shri Basu Deb Acharia ji's supplementary question.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Schedule inspection of bridges has been done. They have been found in good condition. The question asked by the hon. Member does not emerge out of original question. He has asked the question about inspection claim. The instructions have been issued already. The site of accident comes under the purview of territorial jurisdiction of Patna Bench of Patna Railway Claim Tribunal.

Many claims have been filed. Instructions have been issued that anybody can file claim of Rajdhani accident in Kolkata Bench of Railway Claim Tribunal. Railway Authority will help them in every possible way in filing claims.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, through you, I would like to put a specific question to the hon. Minister of Railways.

In the statement laid on the Table of the House today, it is stated that steel superstructures of all bridges are subject to detailed technical checks once every five years and once a year for the floor system of early steel girders.

In another statement laid on the Table of this august House on 2nd August, 2001, the hon. Minister of Railways had given the statement that the Khanna Committee had recommended a super check of 'distressed' bridges and bridges over 100 years in age or made of early steel, by a Task Force within one year and rehabilitation of 'distressed' bridges within a time span of five years along with fresh accruals.

There is some contradiction in both the statements. In today's statement it is stated that the steel superstructures of all bridges are subject to detailed technical checks once every five years and once a year for the floor system of early steel girders, and in the answer given on 2nd August, 2001, it is stated that the Khanna Committee had recommended a super check of 'distressed' bridges and bridges over 100 years in age or made of early steel by a Task Force within one year and rehabilitation of 'distressed' bridges within a time span of five years along with fresh accruals. I do not know which answer is correct. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Railways whether the Railway Codes and Manuals have been updated to contain the very important recommendation given by the Khanna Committee.

Here, it is very unfortunate that even the Status Paper on railway bridges does not find any important place. Bridges are as important as track lines or any other part of the railway, which are very closely related to safety of the passengers and goods also. But, somehow or other, bridges do not find any important place. However, in spite of the Khanna Committee recommendations, the Rajdhani Express met with an accident on the bridge. And here the contradiction is there.

So, I would like to get a clarification from the hon. Minister of Railways about this contradiction in the two statements given – one on the 2nd August, 2001 and the other today.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no contradiction in it. Khanna Committee in its recommendations has said that super check of all distressed bridges and 100 years old bridges should be done and a task force should be constituted in the supervision of RDSO, and this should be done in their leadership. The Railway had taken a decision in this regard. All Territorial Chief Engineers had once again checked the distressed bridges. As far as question of 100 year old bridges is concerned, they found that as per the existing method of checking, in one month, first PWI checks it, then Assistant Engineer and after that Chief Engineer checks it. It means they have full work plan. They found it sufficient. But Khanna Committee said that it should be checked by non-destructive equipments after constitution of task force. Non-destructive equipments are being standardised. Now, we have constituted a task force, which is visiting the countries whose firms had given representation that non-destructive equipments are available with them. They should visit site to see its impact. When they will get it, non-destructive equipment would be standardised, it will be done according to it, but even if a task force is constituted will it be able to check 50 thousand bridges.

[English]

It is physically not possible.

[Translation]

But a rule has been laid for the inspection of bridge. This rule has been found sufficient. I said earlier also that after collecting information about non-destructive equipments from all over the world, and their experience, we will do this work. R&DO is engaged in this task. They have gained experience by bringing equipments, they are testing it. They will implement it after standardisation. There is no contradiction in it. It is the present situation.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I asked about the time management. In one place it is one year and at the other it is given as once in five years. Time allocation is very important as far as the bridge accident is concerned. The hon. Minister has not answered that question. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is under discussion that the Ministry of Railways is going to replace and widen the old distressed bridges. I am satisfied with this argument of hon. Minister of Railways that either old distressed bridges should be replaced or some

other alternative for it should be found. Today, the dispute is that which committee should check it and by which way, so that the number of old distressed bridges which need replacement should be known. But as per the present rules of Railway Ministry that till the States having distressed bridges give undertaking to share 50 percent of the cost, as Ministry of Railways have identified 100-50 bridges which need replacement, the Ministry of Railways will not replace it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether they will not amend this old rule so that it should become mandatory for State Governments to share 50 per cent of its cost. Generally, it has been seen that the Chief Minister of State and Minister-in-charge give permission for replacing old bridges in their constituency only and if the bridge is lying in other MP's constituency, they express regret that they are not having funds for it and they cannot contribute for it. Can the Ministry of Railways not amend the rule in this way so that it becomes necessary for State Governments to contribute for distressed bridges, which need replacement or widening?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is about the bridges on railway tracks, but it appears to me that hon. Member wants information on road over bridges. The decision is of Ministry of Railways. As far as the question of road over bridges is concerned, the Ministry of Railways share 50 per cent of cost in the case of bridge portion and level crossing for a double lane bridges but now it has been decided that if a proposal regarding construction of four lane bridge comes from State Government, Road Authority or NH or corporation, earlier its cost was co-shared by Railways, they shall accept to share the cost of that portion of bridge. In any congested area if there is a need for widening, the issue of bearing the expenses by the Railway Ministry is under consideration. But, Railway Ministry cannot compel any State Government. The State Governments should forward proposals. Hon. Member will have to make use of his influence in this regard.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if State Government do not send a proposal and the work is unavoidable then the Ministry of Railways can amend the rules.

MR. SPEAKER: I request that no Member should read newspaper in the House.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that. ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I never ask questions, I have not asked any question since long.

MR. SPEAKER: Names of ten Members are already in the question list, therefore, I can't give you a chance.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to tell that hon. Minister has explained everything in his reply to the question. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister has stated that distressed bridges are identified after inspection at various stages. I would like to know how many distressed bridges have been identified through such process and what action the Government are taking thereon? Simultaneously, I would like to know whether 262 bridges mentioned in Khanna Committee Report are included or not in the list of 3400 bridges, which are stated to have been reconstructed and strengthened.

In addition, I want to say that as the issue of accident involving Rajdhani Express was just raised, perhaps inquiry by the Commissioner, Safety has been completed and as newspapers have reported that inquiry report has been submitted in this regard. If inquiry has not revealed that the bridge was damaged and it was responsible for accident then, whether the Government propose to enact a law to check false propaganda by the media which is tarnishing the image of Ministry of Railways and will take action against people reporting false news. I just want to know it from the Government.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Would the Government frame a law to check media. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Khanna Committee Report identified 262 distressed or dilapidated bridges as on 1 April, 1999. But, as on 1 April, 2002 total number of distressed bridges is 527, which will either be replaced or rehabilitated within two-three years. There is a plan to rehabilitate and rebuild 341 distressed bridges out of a total of 527. As on 30th September 2002 rehabilitation and rebuilding work of 73 bridges has been completed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of report of Commissioner, Railway Safety is concerned, the report has been received. And as per existing rules comments sought thereon, too, have been received and finally the note of Commissioner, Railway Safety has been received in the Ministry of Railways. There is a specific question regarding the reasons mentioned in the report and I have mentioned everything in the report. Therefore, it is not possible to mention everything here. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Some one has been reinstated after termination there. He is twisting the matter and saying that the bridge was damaged. ...*(Interruptions)* I, too, will ask question on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mamata Banerjee, you may

ask the question. You may take your seat. Now, it is Kumari Mamata Banerjee's turn. Prabhunath ji, please sit down, hon. Minister, you also sit down.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, just now Shri Prabhunath Singh has asked—what action the Government are taking to apprehend the media-persons who conspired? Hon. Minister of Railways was replying to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon. Minister is replying to my question and the reply is yet to be completed.

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he has raised a very important question. If the findings are otherwise, then, will the question of who conspired with the media be decided by a new law? *(Interruptions)* The Minister should answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask whatever question you want to ask. But, if you ask question in between, how the House can be run. Therefore, I can give you permission, but cannot allow you to act like this. You have got reply to your question.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I was completing the reply, in between I was interrupted.

MR. SPEAKER: Please complete it soon.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am completing it soon. Sir, security of track is the responsibility of State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunathji, please sit down. Mamataji, you may ask the question.

[English]

Unnecessarily, they are interrupting and they are not allowing me to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please take up question No.45 also along with it.

MR. SPEAKER: It is to be told in the beginning. Now it can't be.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I want to congratulate

the Government for giving money to the Railways as per the recommendations of the Safety Review Commission. As per the recommendations of the Khanna Committee, money is being given to the Railways for construction of bridges, track renewal and for completion of other works.

However, Sir, my basic question relates to the Raiganj accident. I was there from the very beginning at the Howrah Railway Station, and I have seen the callousness of the officials and the employees of the Railways, though I am always in favour of workers. I have seen the negligence on the part of the Railways in helping the victims' families. However, this is not the question that I wanted to ask.

I appreciate the Statement made by the Railway Minister. He said that the Safety Review Commission gave its report, and that report gave a clean chit saying that it was not an accident and it was a matter of sabotage. May I know from the hon. Minister as to why he made a public statement, without going into the details or waiting till the investigation was over, that it was sabotage and not an accident? Secondly, is it not a fact that a vigilance case is pending in the Railways against the man who was part of the Safety Review Commission? The country should know about it because the system is so bad. If you ask me as to what I did when I was the Railway Minister, I wish to say that I gave a strong note, when I was there. The understanding that exists is so bad that if there is a railway accident, the enquiry is made by the officers who resigned from Railways and joined Civil Aviation Ministry. These employees get all the entertainment and they enjoy all the facilities given by the Railway Department. How these people could enquire impartially? They will always try to please the Railways and Railway Minister to save themselves from the vigilance cases. I challenge the Government and the Railway Ministry with this statement that in this case, he has given this type of a report just to save himself from the vigilance cases. So many people died in that accident, and justice was not done to them.

I would like to know whether the Government would handover this case to CBI in the interest of the common people.

MR. SPEAKER: You will have to conclude now, if you want to get answers to your questions.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we support her demand that it should be handed over to the CBI.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would humbly request you to let me give the reply.

MR. SPEAKER: There is very less time.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Though time is very less, it will

be injustice if I do not get an opportunity to give reply to it. I would humbly request you to allow me to complete the reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, please reply to the question.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, actually this question does not relate to the main question. The question was in connection with bridge and accident. However, as you have allowed him and some points have been raised here, I will definitely reply to it. ...*(Interruptions)* He is not interested in getting reply. He is interested in creating suspicion only. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are not interested in knowing the truth, rather they are interested in creating suspicion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should listen to the reply.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a point has been made here that how the Railway Minister claimed that the accident was a case of sabotage without knowing the facts.

Sir, as per the rules, the officer who visits the site of accident, reports the prima facie cause. Prime facie itself means the report at first sight.

[English]

That is not the final cause, that is the prima facie cause.

[Translation]

The senior officer who visits the accident site, communicates the first report. D.R.M. reached Mughal Sarai at 3'o clock. He communicated the report after assessing the situation. On the basis of the observations made by the Railway Officers from the site of accident, I had stated that...

[English]

It seems to be so

[Translation]

It could be a case of sabotage as well. I never said that it is the case of sabotage only. I am saying that after hearing the version of railway officers who visited the site, I said that it could be sabotage. Several T.V. Channels have also telecast the same version. Their video reel can be gone into. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Home Minister in his report denied that it was a sabotage. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How Railway Minister would come to know about Home Minister's statement? Please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker,

Sir, hon. Minister has reinstated the official against whom vigilance inquiry is going on. The investigation made by such an official would definitely confirm the hon. Minister's statement. Therefore, that investigation cannot be impartial. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether you have allowed Shri Raghuvansh Babu to speak. If not, how he is speaking without being permitted?*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever Shri Raghuvansh Babu is speaking, would not form part of the proceedings.

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is interrupting time and again. Can any action not be taken against him?

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing would go into records except what hon. Minister is speaking.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the provisions of Railway Act, 1989, the inquiry conducted after an accident is a statutory inquiry. Commission of Railway Safety has been constituted as per the Railway Act. Appointment of Commissioner and Chief Commissioner of this Commission is not in my hand. Rules in this regard are existing since long. This House is the highest institution in the country. If this House intends to make any changes in the existing rules, it can do so.

It has been mentioned that a particular officer was reinstated against whom vigilance cases were pending. In this regard, I would like to say that it is upto the Commission of Railways Safety to reinstate any Commissioner or Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety. Only the Commission has the authority in this regard. I do not have any role to play in it. A procedure has been laid down for this purpose. It is done by Civil Aviation Ministry and not by Railway Ministry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Crash of MIG Aircraft

*43. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been a spate of accidents involving MIG aircraft the latest being the collision of two naval aircraft on Goan coast;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of aircraft crash during the last three months;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the causes of each accident;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future;

(e) the compensation paid to each victim;

(f) whether the families of the victims have demanded higher compensation;

(g) if so, the Government's stand thereon;

(h) whether the Government have taken any decision to ground the entire MIG Squadron now in operation; and

(i) if not, the steps taken by the Government to modernise MIG fleet?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (i) A total number of seven Category-I (Cat-I) aircraft accidents have taken place in Indian Air Force in the last three months. The two naval aircraft, which collided over Goa, were IL-38 and not MIG aircraft. Out of the seven Cat-I accidents, there were five accidents involving MIG-21, one involving HPT-32 and one Jaguar.

Courts of Inquiry have been setup to investigate the causes of these accidents and are still in progress. The amount of compensation to be paid will be determined by the Courts of Inquiry. Demands for higher compensation by the families, if any, will be known only after the completion of the Courts of Inquiry.

Since the safety of the MIG-21 aircraft has never been in doubt, Government has not taken any decision to ground the fleet of MIG-21.

MIG-21 aircraft are in the process of being modernised. Already one squadron of MIG-21 BIS aircraft has been upgraded. A total of 125 aircraft would be upgraded by 2005.

[English]

Mixture of Ethanol with Petrol

*44. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

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

(a) whether the Government have started trials with 10% ethanol mixed petrol and diesel as vehicular fuel in some of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether mixing of 5% ethanol has been found successful;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which 10% ethanol mix petrol and diesel are likely to be supplied as vehicular fuel;

(f) whether the prices of petrol and diesel are likely to be reduced in the country on this account;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether sugar producing States are likely to be benefited by this mixing;

(i) if so, the details thereof;

(j) the extent to which this step will help conserve Oil reserves;

(k) whether the use of ethanol blended petrol and diesel will reduce the level of pollution; and

(l) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (l): In the year 2001 the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas decided to commission three Pilot Projects, one in the State of Uttar Pradesh and two in the State of Maharashtra, to examine environmental, operational, financial and other related aspects of blending 5% ethanol with petrol (Motor Spirit). Since the results of these projects were encouraging, the Government took a decision to mandatorily supply 5% ethanol blended petrol, with effect from 1.1.2003, in nine States and four contiguous Union Territories. The States are Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territories are Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chandigarh and Pondicherry.

For blending of ethanol to the extent of 10% with petrol, studies carried out by the R&D Centre of Indian Oil Corporation have found it feasible. Accordingly the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been requested to amend the

specification of petrol to allow blending of ethanol upto 10%. The Government have decided that after amendment of the specification, pilot projects on blending of ethanol in petrol to the extent of 10 % will be started at Miraj and Manmad, both in Maharashtra, and at Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh.

The price of blended petrol will be market driven depending on the respective prices of ethanol and petrol in the post Administered Price Mechanism (APM) scenario, i.e., after 1.4.2002.

By blending ethanol with fuel, an alternate demand for surplus molasses will be generated benefiting both the sugarcane farmers and the industry in the sugar producing States.

Blending of ethanol with transportation fuels will result in conservation of hydrocarbons to the extent of quantity of ethanol used for such blending. It would initially facilitate foreign earnings through export of the quantity of hydrocarbons made surplus and at a later stage, would serve to reduce the crude oil imports into the country.

Further, as ethanol is produced from renewable sources of energy, ethanol blended petrol is an environment friendly fuel and depending on the engine conditions, reduction in carbon-monoxide and hydro-carbon emissions by using 5% and 10% ethanol blended petrol is envisaged.

As is happening worldwide, studies are still being carried out for mixing of 5% ethanol with diesel and as such no time frame for supply of ethanol blended diesel can be decided by the Government.

Enquiry into Rail Accident of Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express

*45. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed/injured alongwith with the value of Government property damaged in the accident of Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express in September, 2002;

(b) the compensation/relief given to the victims of the said accident;

(c) whether any inquiry/investigation has been conducted to know the causes of the said accident;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the bridge, where the said accident occurred, was identified as 'distressed' by the Railway Safety Review Committee; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to avert such type of accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) In the derailment of 2301 Up Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express near Rafiganj on Gaya-Mughalsarai section of Mughalsarai Division on 9.9.2002, 107 persons lost their lives, and 165 got injured, including 60 with grievous injuries. The cost of damage to the railway property has been assessed to the tune of Rs. 9,42,18,000.

(b) Compensation Claims for train accidents are decided by the Railway Claims Tribunal. As on 13.11.2002, 72 Claim cases have been filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal, Patna for death and injuries. Compensation shall be arranged soon after the claims cases are decreed by the Tribunal.

An enhanced 'ex-gratia' of Rs. 1 lakh for those dead, Rs. 25000 to the grievously injured and Rs. 5000 to those having simple injuries, was announced Rs 1,07,00,500 has been paid in 217 cases of death and injured by 15.11.2002.

134 of injured persons were admitted to various hospitals/nursing homes and were given best possible treatment as per need. Other injured persons were rendered first aid, as not requiring hospitalisation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Commissioner of Railway Safety/ Eastern Circle conducted the statutory inquiry into this accident. In his Inquiry report he has attributed the accident to "Opening of fish Plates and elastic rail clips of the cess side single rail in Howrah end approach of bridge No. 445 by miscreants." He has classified the accident under the category of "Sabotage".

He has fixed the "primary responsibility" on the 'unknown' persons, who wilfully tampered with the track with the intent of causing harm to the travelling public and damage to the Railway property.

Following steps were taken on the basis of 'immediate recommendations' by the Commissioner of Railway Safety in his Preliminary Report:-

- (i) Speed restriction of 75 kilometres per hour was imposed on Mughalsarai, Dhanbad, Danapur Divisions and Madhupur-Jhajha Section of Asansol Division during night time from 2000 Hrs. to 0500 Hrs. for all trains.

- (ii) Running of a pilot engine, ahead of all Rajdhani Expresses, passing through the aforesaid identified sections during night time viz. 2000 Hrs. to 0500 Hrs.

- (iii) Burring of fish bolts in the vulnerable sections.

- (iv) Random Security patrolling during night time on identified sections was undertaken.

- (v) Stationary watchmen at all important and major bridges/tunnels, during night, were deputed in these sections.

The recommendations made and other issues raised in his final inquiry report are under examination.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Following steps are being taken to prevent probability of similar accidents caused by "Sabotage":-

- (i) Instructions have been issued to reduce the number of fish plated joints, wherever feasible and for burring of two fish bolts, one on each rail, at joints located in the stretches considered vulnerable.

- (ii) Efforts are also being made to develop an anti-theft elastic rail clip and fish bolt fastening.

- (iii) Close liaison is being maintained with State Police Departments, wherever required, for prevention of crime of such types on Railway tracks and bridges.

- (iv) Comprehensive safety drives are conducted covering various aspects of safe passage of trains, involving cross sections of inspectors, supervisors and officers.

Pay Package of Judges in Limbo

*46. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pay Package of Judges in Limbo" appearing in the 'Times of India', dated September 19, 2002;

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

(c) whether Government have accepted the Justice K.J. Shetty National Judiciary Commission recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Central Government has partially implemented the recommendations of the Shetty Commission (FNJPC) in respect of Union Territories vide implementation orders dated 11.10.2001 and 11.3.2002. However, the Supreme Court's judgment of 21st March, 2002, inter-alia, contains directions varying the decision taken by the Government. The Judgment is to be complied with by the Central Government in so far as it relates to the Union Territories and by the State Governments, in so far as it relates to States.

Keeping in view the large financial implications for the State Governments and the requests made by the State Governments in this regard, the Central Government have filed applications seeking an appropriate extension of time from the Supreme Court to enable consultation on this issue with the State Governments and to make necessary submissions before the Supreme Court regarding the difficulties involved in implementation of the Judgment. Clarifications/modifications have also been sought from the Supreme Court regarding its directions in the matter of Assured Career Progression (A.C.P.) Scheme, increase in Judge strength, commutation of pension upto 50%, domestic help allowance to retired judicial officers, sumptuary allowance, medical facilities and the date with effect from which various allowances should be made payable. The case is posted for a hearing before the Supreme Court on 25.11.2002.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes under Solar-Energy Programme

*47. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and other details of the welfare schemes being run under "Solar Energy Programme" by his Ministry and the formula adopted to provide loans, grants

and other financial assistance by the Union Government and the contribution or financial share of each of the state Government therein;

(b) the names of the Welfare schemes being run directly by the Union Government or the Government of Rajasthan or any other voluntary organization under Solar Energy Programme in Rajasthan during the last three years till date; and

(c) the amount provided by the Union Government as loans, grants or financial assistance indicating year-wise, scheme-wise and agency-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a number of schemes under the solar energy programme wherein subsidy and/or soft loan is provided to users of such systems. The details of the norms for financial assistance provided by the Ministry under different schemes are given in the statement enclosed. In all the cases the balance cost of the systems covered under the schemes is to be met by the beneficiaries or the implementing agency.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has been implementing schemes on deployment of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, solar thermal systems and solar power generation in Rajasthan. These schemes are being implemented by the state nodal agency viz. Rajasthan Energy Development Agency (REDA), which is now known as Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd. (RREC). The Government of Rajasthan is also providing funds to the state nodal agency, which are being used to support additional users. Other organizations like Social Work & Research Centre (SWRC), Tilonia and World Renewal Spiritual Trust (WRST), Mount Abu are also involved in implementation of programmes on solar PV systems and solar thermal systems. The details of funds provided by the Ministry to these agencies in Rajasthan during the last three years and till date this year are as given below:

(Rs. In lakhs)					
Name of Scheme	Name of Agency	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (till date)
1	2	3	4	5	6
SPV Programme	REDA/RREC	308.00	141.92	474.22	350.58
	SWRC	7.12	70.29	100.06	58.46

1	2	3	4	5	6
	WRST	-	40.32	42.79	18.31
Solar Thermal Programme	REDA/RREC	-	-	-	-
	SWRC	-	-	-	-
	WRST	3.19	0.70	1.25	-
SPY Market Development Programme (loan from IREDA)	SWRC	35.30	-	109.29	59.55
Solar Power	REDA/RREC	9.75	-	83.67	5.00

Statement*Funding Norms for Solar Energy Programmes during 2002-2003***Solar Photovoltaics**

1.0 Solar Home Systems, Street Lights, Power Plants, Solar Generators, Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) systems and other community applications

S.No.	SPV System	Central Subsidy	
		General Areas	North Eastern States
1.	Solar Home System	50 % of ex-works cost, subject to a maximum of	90% if exworks cost, subject to a maximum of
	Model 1 (18 W module, 1 light)	Rs. 3000/-	Rs. 5,000/-
	Model 2 (37 W module, 2 lights)	Rs. 5,500/-	Rs. 10,000/-
	Model 3 (37 W module, 1 light, 1 fan)	Rs. 5,500/-	Rs. 10,000/-
	Model 4 (74 W module, 2 lights, 1 fan)	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 18,000/-
	Model 5 (74 W module, 4 lights)	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 18,000/-
2.	Street Lighting System	Rs. 11,000/-	Rs. 20,000/-
3.	Power Plants & Other Community Systems	Rs. 1,80,000/ kWp of PV array Capacity	Rs. 3,50,000/kWp of PV array Capacity
4.	Solar generator (150W - 600W)	40% with a maximum of Rs. 40,000	
5.	Building Integrated Photovoltaic Systems (BIPV)	80% of the cost of photovoltaic modules used in BIPV projects	

2.0 Solar PV Water Pumping Systems for Agriculture & related uses

S.No.	Implementation Arrangement	Central Subsidy	Other Support
1	2	3	4
1.	Direct marketing by manufacturers, subsidy routed through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)	Rs.110 per watt of photovoltaic (PV) array used, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs per system	Soft loan @ 2.5% and 5% interest rate to intermediaries and users respectively on 90% of the remaining unsubsidized price, to be repaid in 10 years, with one year moratorium.

1	2	3	4
2.	Direct procurement by States	Rs. 135 per watt of PV array used, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs per system	
3.	Direct procurement by NE States	90% of approved ex-works cost of system	
4.	Community Drinking water supply	Rs. 110 per watt of PV array used, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs per system	

3.0 Grid Connected Solar PV Power Projects

For grid connected PV power plants for voltage support in rural grids, peak load shaving in urban centers and diesel saving in islands/remote locations, subsidy up to 2/3rd of the project cost is provided subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 crores for a 100 KW capacity project. The Ministry also provides up to Rs. 1 lakh for preparing a detailed project feasibility report. In addition an amount up to Rs. 5 lakhs is provided to the state agency for monitoring of the project. The Ministry also supports captive projects by industry for which interest subsidy up to 4% is provided, with floor rate of interest of 10%.

4.0 Soft Loan Scheme on PV systems

The Ministry provides interest subsidy, to IREDA (Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency) and banks to provide soft loans to the users/intermediaries at the rates specified below.

(a) Solar lanterns

S.No.	Feature	Implementation through	
		IREDA	Banks
1.	Loans for solar lanterns	85 % of the lantern cost to be given as loan @ 5% interest in general areas and 3% in NE region.	85% of the lantern cost to be given as loan @ 5% interest in general areas and 3% in NE region.

(b) Other PV Systems

S.N.	Soft Loan through	Interest Rate (%) p.a.	Repayment Period (Years)	Moratorium (Years)	Minimum Beneficiary Contribution (%)
1.	IREDA (for commercial users)	7	5	1	20
2.	IREDA (for non-commercial users)	5	5	1	20
3.	Banks (for individuals & organizations who do not claim depreciation)	5	5	Nil	15

Solar pumps are not covered under this scheme.

Solar Thermal Programme

1.0 Concentrating type Solar cookers

Type of solar cooker	Support to users
Dish solar cooker (Minimum diameter 1.4 m)	50% of total cost, limited to Rs.2500/- per cooker.
Community solar cooker for indoor cooking (Minimum aperture area (7 sq. m.))	50% of eligible capital cost, limited to Rs. 25000/- per cooker
Solar Steam Cooking System	50% of eligible capital cost, as agreed upon by the Ministry

2.0 Demonstration programme in NE and New Technology demonstration

Following are the details of subsidy provided by the Ministry for demonstration projects in NE region, Islands and Jammu & Kashmir:

1. Rs. 6000 per sq. m. of collector area for NE region
2. Rs. 4000 per sq. m for islands and Jammu & Kashmir
3. Under demonstration projects 50% of the system cost is provided as subsidy for trying new technologies in any part of the country

3.0 Soft loan Scheme

Following are details of the scheme:

Borrowers	Eligible applications	Eligible end users	Interest Rate to end users
1	2	3	4
Through IREDA			
Financial intermediaries of IREDA (will get loans from IREDA for on-lending to: 1. Individuals & non-profit organizations @ 2.5%; &	Solar water heating system (any capacity), solar air heating system, solar desalination system, solar swimming pool	1. Individuals, institutions, trusts, charitable organizations etc. (non-profit organisations)	*5% to non-profit organizations & individuals
2. Industry, hotels, and other commercial organizations @ 4.5%)		2. Industry, hotels, hospitals, other business establishments/ Commercial organizations	7% to commercial organizations
End users (non commercial)	Solar water heating system (any capacity), Solar air heating system solar desalination system, solar swimming pool	Instruction, trusts, charitable organizations etc. (non-profit organizations)	5%
End users (commercial)	Solar water heating system (any capacity), solar air heating system, solar desalination system, solar swimming pool	Industry, hotels, hospitals, other business establishments/ commercial organizations	7%

1	2	3	4
Through Banks and FIs (Including housing financing organizations)			
Individuals, institutions, hospitals, nursing homes, small business establishments, housing cooperative societies, developers, etc.	Solar water heating system (up to 5000 litres capacity)	Individuals, institutions, hospitals, nursing homes, small business establishments, housing cooperative societies/ developers etc. Hotels not eligible	*5%
Individuals, institutions, hospitals, nursing homes, small business establishments, agriculture cooperatives etc.	Solar drying units	Individuals, institutions, hospitals, nursing homes, small business establishments, agricultural cooperatives etc.	*5%

* End-users (other than individuals) will have to give an undertaking that no depreciation allowance will be claimed under income tax rules.

The following Banks are operating the interest subsidy scheme on solar water heaters:

Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Punjab & Sind Bank, Syndicate Bank and Punjab National Bank

4.0 Solar Buildings

Financial assistance up to 10% of the cost of construction, subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakhs for buildings to be constructed in Government/semi-Government sector.

Solar Energy Programme Financed by IREDA

In addition to subsidy and soft loan programmes of the Ministry, IREDA also provides loan to solar energy projects as per given norms:

S.No.	Programme/Scheme	Interest Rate (%) p.a.	Repayment Period incl. Moratorium (maximum) (Years)	Moratorium (Maximum) (Years)	Minimum Promoter's Contribution (%)
1.	SPV Manufacturing	13.5	8	2	30
2.	SPV Market Development	13.5	10	1	20
3.	Solar Thermal Systems	13.5	10	1	20

Other Incentives

To support generation and development of non-conventional energy sources including solar energy, a number of incentives such as 80% accelerated depreciation, concessional duty import of raw materials, consumables and components, concessional duty for import of machinery for power projects and excise duty exemption on certain devices/systems have been provided by the Government. The Ministry also provides support for R&D, training and other related activities.

Infiltration

*48. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether infiltration is still going on despite the regular patrolling by the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such infiltration effectively?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Infiltration is an ongoing feature of the proxy war being waged by Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir. The terrain configuration and climatic conditions, make it extremely difficult for the Line of Control to be completely sealed.

Adequate military measures have been taken, which include a multitiered defensive-cum-counter infiltration posture along the Line of Control. This counter infiltration posture is constantly reviewed based on intelligence inputs and is paying good dividends by way of attrition caused to the terrorists.

During the current year, there has been a discernible decline in the number of infiltration attempts, because of the enhanced vigilance, deployment of troops and the diplomatic initiatives taken at various levels.

[English]

Increase in Prices of Petroleum Products

*49. **SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:**

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the prices of petroleum products have been hiked at the regular interval of 15 to 20 days during the last six months;

(b) if so, whether this trend of price hike has put heavy burden on general public;

(c) whether at times, prices have been hiked even after the statement of the Government not to increase the prices; and

(d) if so, the justification behind increasing the prices of petroleum products every fortnight?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the prices of all petroleum products, except for PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, have been decontrolled. In a free-market scenario, the fluctuations in the international oil market are bound to get reflected in the domestic consumer prices of petroleum products.

As per the existing arrangement between the oil marketing companies (OMCs) and domestic refineries, the

former pay to the latter import parity prices for diesel and petrol, revised on fortnightly basis depending upon the price trend in the international oil market. OMCs, in turn, need to revise the domestic consumer prices of these products accordingly. The prices of Indian basket of crudes had increased from US\$ 23.30/barrel to US\$ 27.48/barrel during March 02 to September 02.

Post APM, with a view to facilitate a smooth transition from the APM period to a free market scenario, OMCs did not increase the domestic consumer prices of diesel and petrol during the months of April and May 2002 despite an increase in the international prices of these products. Further, post May 2002, after taking into account the international prices of diesel and petrol, OMCs reduced the domestic consumer prices of these products twice, did not change the prices of four occasions and increased the price of six times.

In a free market scenario, the question of Government issuing a statement about not increasing the prices of petroleum products does not arise.

Jurisdiction of Southern Railways

*50. **SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:**

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for the bifurcation/creation of Railway Zones/ Divisions in the country, particularly in Southern Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Several representations have been received by the Government for bifurcation/creation of Zones and Divisions in the country. The demands particularly in Southern Railways area are regarding creation of new zone in Kerala, with headquarters at Kochi, new zone with headquarters at Bangalore/Hubli, new divisions at Guntur, Salem, Gulbarga, Cannanore, Erode and Mangalore. There are other representations regarding changing the jurisdiction of some divisions particularly Hubli and Guntakal.

(c) As per policy/criteria new zones and divisions

are created on the basis of their workload, accessibility, geographical sprawls and other administrative/operational requirements and not on regional considerations. Various representations received were duly considered by the Government while creating new zones and divisions. Based on the criteria, a new zone, South Western Railway. Hubli has been created, which would become operational w.e.f. 1.4.2003. Also a new division at Guntur will become operational w.e.f. 01.04.2003. It has not been considered feasible to create a zone in Kerala, or division at Salem, Gulbarga or Erode etc.

**Authorisation of Private Agencies for
Reservation of Rail Tickets**

* 51. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have authorised certain private agencies for reservation of rail tickets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the arrangements made by the Railways to inform the public about these authorised agencies;

(d) the criteria adopted by the Government to engage these private agencies; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent unauthorised private agencies from operating in reservation of railway tickets?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. About 765 Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) have been appointed on the Indian Railways under the provisions of 'Authorisation of Rail Travellers' Service Agents Rules, 1985' to purchase tickets from the railway reservation offices on behalf of the intending passengers by standing in queue like a normal passenger.

(c) The information regarding RTSAs is published by most of the Zonal Railways in the Zonal Railway Time Tables.

(d) The RTSAs are appointed in terms of Authorisation of Rail Travellers' Service Agents Rules, 1985 as amended from time to time.

(e) Checks are conducted from time to time by

Railway officials in association with Police to apprehend unauthorised persons indulging in illegal trade of tickets and appropriate action is taken against them under the relevant provisions of law. During peak rush periods, monitoring at important stations is stepped up.

[Translation]

Outstanding Dues of DD/AIR

*52. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) the details of outstanding dues of DD/AIR pending against different persons, parties and firms as on October 31, 2002, persons/parties/firms-wise, year-wise, amount-wise;

(b) the reasons for keeping the amount outstanding by Programme Producers/Companies and the efforts made by the Government to recover the outstanding amount alongwith the outcome thereof;

(c) whether above defaulters have formed any union;

(d) if so, the objective thereof and the impact on the recovery of the outstanding amount;

(e) whether the Government have written off the outstanding dues in some cases; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the outstanding dues against major defaulting agencies in respect of Doordarshan as on 31st October 2002 is Rs. 164.82 crores, details of which are given in the statement-I attached. In respect of AIR, information regarding outstanding dues against defaulting agencies is available up to 15.5.2002, which stands at Rs. 6.69 crores. The details are given in the statement-II attached.

Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan suspends/withdraws accreditation status of companies, if they do not clear their outstanding dues. For recovery of the dues, the following steps are taken:-

(i) Monthly monitoring is done and regular reminders are sent asking agencies to clear their outstanding dues.

- (ii) No fresh programmes/extension of programmes is given to defaulting agencies/producers unless they agree to give advance payment and commit to abide by an agreed payment plan.
- (iii) If the defaulting agencies do not adhere to the payment plan, then the programmes are taken off the air and their accreditation status is cancelled/withdrawn.
- (iv) On cancellation/withdrawal of accreditation status, bank guarantees of agencies are en-cashed.
- (v) To secure Doordarshan's revenue and to cover the credit period, the bank guarantee amounts for running serials running on normal telecast fee has been increased to four times the telecast fee. In the case of high value, minimum guarantee programmes this is equivalent to fee for two episodes.
- (vi) Legal proceedings have also been launched to recover the outstanding in some cases.

AIR accepts commercial spots/sponsorships/sponsored programmes through accredited agencies. The accreditation status of the defaulting agencies is suspended temporarily and bookings accepted on advance payment only, till dues are cleared. If any such agency fails to clear the outstanding dues, its Banks Guarantee is encashed. In cases of dispute in payment, the matter is referred for Arbitration and in some cases; civil suits are also filed to recover the dues.

(c) Prasar Bharati is not aware of any such development.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement-I

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr.No.	Name of Agency	Outstanding dues as on 31.3.2002
1	2	3
1.	Aaliya Productions	60
2.	Advance TV Network	213
3.	Advision Multi Media	17
4.	Anand Advtg.	140

1	2	3
5.	Asian AD Age	12
6.	A & A Films	9
7.	B4U Multimedia	197
8.	Balaji Telefilms	111
9.	Bidhan Advtg.	11
10.	Cinema Vision	35
11.	Concept Advtg.	188
12.	Copy Desk	45
13.	Corrum Comm.	18
14.	Creative Channel	28
15.	Creative Eye	1200
16.	Drishty India	294
17.	Eternal Dreams	20
18.	Fame Comm.	1074
19.	Fame & Fortune	16
20.	Film Craft	90
21.	First Option Telefilms	94
22.	Future Comm.	11
23.	G.N. Communications	25
24.	Global Entertainers	161
25.	Govt. of Delhi	6
26.	Group Advtg. & Cons.	4
27.	Guruji Advertisers	85
28.	HMT	3
29.	HTA	11
30.	Innovision Film & TV	25
31.	I D TV	13
32.	Jaya Advtg.	49

1	2	3
33.	Joslin Comm.	42
34.	Kine Scope	70
35.	KLI	122
36.	Lehar Publicity Ser.	28
37.	Magic Box	11
38.	Magna Vision	108
39.	Market Movers	311
40.	Maya Entertainment	170
41.	MBM	163
42.	Media Asia	122
43.	Multi Channel	1102
44.	Neerja Films	25
45.	Network 7	35
46.	NFDC	4481
47.	Nimbus Comm.	612
48.	Numero Uno	1010
49.	PNC	154
50.	Pas International	46
51.	Pinky Advertising	144
52.	Plus Channel	1012
53.	Prabha Films	75
54.	Prime Time Media	20
55.	Radha Publicity	16
56.	Reasonable Advertising	64
57.	Sagar Enterprises	590
58.	Salvia	6
59.	Samvaad	49
60.	Shree Madhav	1156

1	2	3
61.	Star Gazer	13
62.	Time Megnatics	33
63.	Tracer Advertising	33
64.	Trans Link Television	22
65.	Triton Comm.	50
66.	Universal	73
67.	Uranus	46
68.	Vigyapan	3
69.	W.D. Consumer	8
70.	World Media	132
71.	Worldcomm M/M	58
Total		16,480

Statement-II

*Outstanding Dues against various agencies
in AIR on 15.5.2002*

S.No.	Name of Agency	Amount Outstanding (In Rupees)
1	2	3
1.	Arohi Advertising Agency	35779
2.	AD-AIR Advertising	651244
3.	Anugraha	223213
4.	Art Commercia	357965
5.	Agricult. Deptt. Lucknow	6000
6.	A.V.I. International	1785
7.	Aries Advertising	12809
8.	A to Z Agencies	27462
9.	Advts & Sales Promotions	9741
10.	Advista	94930
11.	Adver	948223

1	2	3
12.	Asstt. Dir Ant. Malaria	21
13	Art Advertising	1286
14.	AD. House	272300
15.	Asstt. Com. Cent. Excise	12512
16.	AIDS Control, Punjab	144068
17.	AIDS Control, Ahmedabad	24190
18.	AIDS Control, Hyderabad	45085
19.	Addl. Dir. Information	50320
20.	Administrator, Jammu	3808
21.	Beautex	382366
22.	B.S.N.L.	2500
23.	Bright	3801
24.	Blaze Advertising	22363
25.	B.Y. Padhye	19527
26.	B.D. Khanna Publicity	89
27.	Bubna Advertising	17213
28.	Buma Advertising	25738
29.	Clarion Advertising	647309
30.	Corporate Voice	642776
31.	Contract Advertising	209028
32.	CMHO, Jaipur	25
33.	Commissionerate Industries	25
34.	Charitra Advertising	4590
35.	Chavra Advertising	1140723
36.	Concept Communications	38298
37.	Commercial Tax Office	517
38.	Civil Supplies	3144
39.	Creative Unit	89786

1	2	3
40.	Commissioner IPR. Deptt.	138551
41.	Current Advertising	1669
42.	Comm. Infor PR	17340
43.	Carat Media Services	40163
44.	Commissioner Small Savings, Chennai	2003
45.	Chandigarh State TB Society	304
46.	Chief Comm.	6120
47.	Comm. Small Savings	19530
48.	D.A.V.P.	8988867
49.	DSERT, Karnataka	24566
50.	Dawn Mod	132196
51.	Dir. Small Savings Jaipur	109332
52.	Dir. Agriculture, Shimla	6710
53.	Dir. Social & Women Welfare	15125
54.	Dir. Small Savings	180471
55.	Directorate of Industries	1428
56.	Dir. Punjab Education	1302
57.	Dir. Information & PR	1446
58.	Deptt. of Census	104126
59.	Everest	22775
60.	Efficient Publicity	106733
61.	Enterprises Advertising	5610
62.	Everest Integrated	4485
63.	Friends Advertisers	308790
64.	Gresham	1615
65.	Guru Nanak Advertising	1738
66.	Grey World Wide India	2943
67.	Gujarat State AIDS Control	193680

1	2	3
68.	Head Start	172862
69.	Hindustan Thomson	2294904
70.	HMT	3521689
71.	Human Development	8415
72.	Indian Oil Corporation	2855890
73.	IFFCO	4781
74.	Image Ads.	121385
75.	Information Deptt. Srinagar	46968
76.	Information & Public Relation, Shimla	26520
77.	Insight Advtg.	64038
78.	Interface Communication	144604
79.	I.E.O. Lucknow	182784
80.	Indian Population Project	11948
81.	JDSMEIO, Kolkata	16830
82.	Jettison Combines	3944
83.	Jingleson, Mumbai	64483
84.	Jaishree Pictures	6926
85.	Jaya Advtsg.	4
86.	Jupitor Advertising	11014
87.	Karnataka AIDS Society	535050
88.	K.H.D.C.	3124
89.	K.S.D.L.	1020
90.	K.P.T.C.L.	389523
91.	KPB Advtsg.	5683
92.	Kerala State Coir Board	1745
93.	Kalyani Recording	14450
94.	KLI Advertising	29878
95.	Karnataka Milk Federation	66953

1	2	3
96.	Karnataka Soaps & Dett.	1054
97.	Karnataka State AIDS Project Society	73600
98.	Karnataka AIDS Prevention	80800
99.	Karnataka Electricity	680
100.	Lintas	3130198
101.	L.R. Swamy	97292
102.	LIC	775200
103.	Livi Publicity	26394
104.	Min. of Health & F.W.	8357461
105.	Min. of Home Affairs	12147
106.	Maa Communications	748700
107.	Mode Advertising	502264
108.	Musirecca	1366776
109.	MC-CANN Erickson	255510
110.	Madison Advtsg.	314372
111.	Market Advtsg.	3213
112.	Madhyam	13388
113.	Media Waves	1477726
114.	Madras Fertilizers	3004
115.	M.C. Media	36720
116.	Mantralaya Mahan Ads.	235649
117.	Mass Marketing Service	144908
118.	Montage Advertising	285431
119.	Milk Fed Verka	128
120.	M.P. Tour Dvpt. Corpn.	4973
121.	Mahila & Bal Vikas	3910
122.	Noisy Recording Centre	80738
123.	National Advtsg. Agency	21505

1	2	3
124.	Nutan Advertising	44753
125.	Om Advertising	19283
126.	One Up Ads.	187237
127.	Profad Chennai	575391
128.	Pen-A-Trait	5032
129.	Plus Advertising	53413
130.	Perfect Publicity	1190
131.	Public Relation, MP	3998
132.	Public Relation, Jaipur	44
133.	Pragati Radio	117263
134.	Percept Advts.	8863
135.	Publicity Parlour	1235156
136.	Punjab State Co-opve.	12623
137.	Punjab State Lotteries	13770
138.	Parivar Kalyan, Lucknow	149940
139.	Pradhushan Souraksha	7140
140.	Rank Advts.	3700
141.	Rediffusion	1951892
142.	Roshan Advts.	38675
143.	R.K. Swamy	67835
144.	Rajya Krishi Udpatan	37570
145.	Rakshetriya Advts.	43207
146.	Radasree	39977
147.	Radio Enterprises	13473
148.	Rayer Communications	978813
149.	RTVC	681863
150.	Raviraj	94847
151.	Raviraj Publicity	16830

1	2	3
152.	Renukay Advts.	3105446
153.	Rajasthan Motors	3213
154.	RSN Ads.	3375
155.	Rural Education Society	1275
156.	Reg. Dir. Women & Culture	3910
157.	Reg. Dir. Small Savings	5724
158.	Reg. Primary Education	10710
159.	Reg. General Birth & Death	853893
160.	SASI Advertising	280479
161.	Sri Raghvendra	1444117
162.	Suptt. of Police, Karnataka	4984
163.	Suchandra AD. Media	277674
164.	Shilpi Advertising	112637
165.	Swaralbhi	10709
166.	State Leprosy Kolkata	3780
167.	SIFPSA Kanpur	337079
168.	Sree Advts.	493407
169.	Super Ads.	84320
170.	Shankar Advts.	10668
171.	Small Savings, Hyderabad	65960
172.	Sista Saatchi & Saatchi	2027464
173.	Soubhagya Advts.	21420
174.	Standard Publicity	50
175.	Swar Sudha Advts.	42500
176.	Subhash Radio	1373
177.	Situation Advts. & Mktg.	1551031
178.	Sri Smasthanvali	800
179.	Sravani Infertility Clinic	8060

1	2	3
180.	Sridhar Agencies	2231
181.	Twin Advertisers	343438
182.	DELCOM	46078
183.	Telecraft	318485
184.	Tamil Nadu State Co-opve.	45833
185.	Triton Communication	2125553
186.	TN Handloom Weavers	12750
187.	The Reg. General of India	1239327
188.	U.P. Power Corporation	26011
189.	Usha Advertising	16902
190.	U.P. Rajya AIDS Niyanthran	47040
191.	U.P. Mahila Kalyan	7769
192.	Vikas Delhi	4080
193.	V.K. Nagvani	2773
194.	Vigyapan Enterprises	5312
195.	Vedham Advtsg.	1100
196.	Vishwa Vijay	3442
197.	V.R.G. Agencies	119104
198.	Yash Advtsg.	33906
199.	Youth India	62220
Total		66904923

[English]

Sale Price of Petrol and Diesel

53. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

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

(a) the actual sale price of Petrol and Diesel in terms of rupees in India and USA for the last two years and current year 2002;

(b) the reasons for abnormally high price of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products in India in comparison to USA and other Asian countries which are located at more than five times distance from major Oil producing country (Arabian country); and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring the prices of petroleum products at par with the price prevailing in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) A comparison of retail selling prices of petrol and diesel in Delhi and New York during the years 2000-01, 2000-02 and the current year is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The selling prices of petroleum products, besides the crude oil cost inter-alia depend upon the rates of taxes and duties in a country and as such the consumer prices are not comparable amongst different countries.

Statement

Comparison of Retail Selling Prices of Petrol and Diesel in Delhi and New York from 2000-01 onwards at selected dates.

(Rs./Litre)

Dates	MS		HSD	
	Delhi	New York	Delhi	New York
1.7.2000	26.07	20.31	14.04	17.55
1.10.2000	28.44	19.42	16.55	19.37
1.1.2001	28.75	18.77	16.55	18.63
1.4.2001	28.75	18.46	17.06	17.66
1.7.2001	28.75	19.99	17.06	17.63
1.10.2001	28.75	18.15	17.06	17.07
1.1.2002	28.93	14.43	17.17	15.01
1.4.2002	26.54	17.92	16.59	16.64
1.7.2002	29.18	18.61	18.23	16.60
1.10.2002	29.91	19.51	18.91	18.62

Note:

Retail Price in New York converted to Rs./Litre based on average RBI reference exchange rate for the financial year.

Rail Safety Report Gathering Dust

* 54. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the press report in the Times of India dated October 3, 2002 under the heading "Rail safety report gathering dust";

(b) if so, whether the second volume of the Justice Khanna Railway Safety Review Committee report submitted in February 2001 providing a long-term perspective on safe rail travel has not been accepted by the Railways;

(c) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(d) the time by which recommendations of this report will be implemented;

(e) whether the Government have taken any action on the Commissioner of Railway Safety inquiry reports so to make its reports transparent; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) 83 recommendations made in Part-II of the Report of Railway Safety Review Committee-98 (Khanna Committee) have been accepted fully or partially by the Ministry of Railways. 36 recommendations made in the report are under scrutiny and 9 recommendations have not been accepted.

(d) The accepted recommendations are being implemented progressively, depending upon the availability of resources and success of trials, in some cases.

(e) and (f) The accident inquiries conducted by the Commissioners of Railway Safety and the inquiry reports are confidential and not to be produced or cited in a Court of Law. Recommendation in regard to the publication of a particular accident inquiry report of the Commission of Railway Safety is made by Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety. As per the extant rules, the final decision, regarding publication, or otherwise, of a report lies with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, which have administrative control over the Commission of Railway Safety.

Procurement of Advance Jet Trainers

*55. SHRI A. NARENDRA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made regarding procurement of Advance Jet Trainers (AJT);

(b) the estimated cost of each AJT; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the finalisation of AJTs deal in view of frequent crashes of MIG-21?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Various options for acquisition of an Advance Jet Trainer are under examination by the Government. No contract for the AJT has been finalized. It would not be possible to lay down a time limit for such a major procurement project. However, the Government is keen on early finalisation of the issue.

Royalty on Oil and Gas

*56. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA:

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

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

(a) the number of times royalty on crude oil and natural gas revised during the last three years ending March 31, 2002;

(b) the amount of royalty paid to various States on crude oil and Natural Gas during the last three years ending March 31, 2002, year-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to pay royalty to States for off-shore production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Royalty on natural gas is payable @ 10% of wellhead value obtained by the lessee. Royalty payable on crude oil has, however, been revised, from Rs. 578 per Metric Tonne to Rs. 850 per Metric Tonne, on a provisional basis thrice during April, 1999 to March,

2002, pending finalisation of the rates. During the last three years ending 31st March, 2002, the royalty on crude oil and natural gas paid to various States, year-wise, was as follows:

Year	Amount in Rs. Crore
1999-2000	885
2000-01	1013
2001-02	1124

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Functions of DAVP Committee

*57. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether Government have incorporated certain changes in the 'Advertisement Policy';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the criteria adopted and the salient features for drawing up a panel in the Directorate of Advertising Visual Publicity (DAVP);

(d) the mechanism available to test check the criteria;

(e) the composition of the Committee and the background of the members proposed to be included in the panel; and

(f) the norms fixed for convening a meeting of the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (f) Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with the Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP) was revised to bring about greater transparency, to simplify the producer for empanelment and to ensure that genuine newspapers get empanelled. The salient features of the Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and

Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with the DAVP are given in the statement enclosed.

The empanelment form alongwith Media particulars and specimen copies of the newspapers submitted by the publisher for empanelment are processed and scrutinised in DAVP. All observations and discrepancies, if any, are listed and placed before the Panel Advisory Committee.

The Panel Advisory Committee (PAC) headed by Director General/Director DAVP includes Addl. Principal Information Officer in the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Press Registrar, RNI and Deputy Secretary/Under Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting dealing with Print Media and one representative each from the big, medium and smaller newspapers. Meeting of the PAC are convened depending upon the workload viz number of applications to be considered.

Statement

Salient Features of the Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), Effective from 1.5.2002

The primary objective of the Government in advertising is to secure the widest possible coverage of the intended content or message through various newspapers and journals of current affairs which are published daily, weekly, fortnightly or monthly. In releasing advertisements to newspapers/journals DAVP does not take into account the political affiliation or editorial policies of newspapers/journals.

Government advertisements are not intended to be financial assistance to newspapers/journals. DAVP will empanel only such newspapers/journals as are required for issuing advertisements of the Government of India. Care is taken to empanel newspapers/journals having readership from different sections of the society in different parts of the country.

Panel Advisory Committee

There is a Panel Advisory Committee (PAC) for considering applications of newspapers/journals for being empanelled for receiving Government advertisements. This Committee is headed by Director General, DAVP/Director, DAVP and it includes Addl. Principal Information Officer in the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Press Registrar, RNI and Deputy Secretary/Under Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting dealing with Print Media. The Committee will also have one representative each from the Association of big, medium and small newspapers.

Criteria for Empanelment

All newspapers/journals seeking empanelment for the first time should have been uninterruptedly and regularly under publication for a period of not less than 12 months and should comply with the provisions of the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867. Fresh application for empanelment may be made any time during the year. However each case will be considered once in a year only.

For renewal of rate contract, the newspapers are to submit applications in prescribed format by 31st May of the year to DAVP.

The details of the paper like size, language, periodicity, print area and details of printing press etc. as asked for in empanelment form may be given. Further it must be substantiated that the paper is being published at a reasonable standard. Reasonable standard, inter alia, means that:

- (a) The print matter and photographs should be legible, neat, clear and without smudges, overwriting, and tampering.
- (b) There should be no repetition of news items or articles from other issues.
- (c) There should be no reproduction of news items or articles from other newspaper/journals without credit line.
- (d) Masthead on its front page should carry the title of the newspaper, place, date and day of publication; it should also carry Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) Registration Number, volume & issue number and price of newspaper/journal;
- (e) The newspaper should carry imprint line as required under PRB Act, and
- (f) Inner pages must carry page number, title of the paper and date of publication.

A daily newspaper should furnish issues for preceding four months and weeklies & fortnightly must furnish issues of preceding six months and monthlies should furnish latest 12 months issues.

Regularity:

The applicant should have published the newspaper on at least 25 days in each month during preceding 12 months. Weeklies should have published 46 issues during

the preceding year, fortnightly 24 issues and monthlies 10 issues during the preceding year to be considered being brought out regularly.

The applicant should also furnish a copy of the Certificate of Registration issued by the RNI in the name of the publisher.

Newspapers/journals having established circulation of more than 75,000 copies per publishing day, as certified by Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) can seek empanelment of their fresh edition from a new place without having any regular publication for preceding 12 months, but in such cases empanelment of fresh edition will be only in the lowest slab of circulation. New Editions of small and medium newspapers will also be empanelled similarly.

A newspaper/journal should have a minimum paid circulation of not less than 2000 copies for being considered eligible for empanelment. However, newspapers/journals in Sanskrit, newspapers/journals published in backward, border or remote areas or in tribal languages or those published in J&K need to have substantiated minimum paid circulation of only 500 copies per publishing day.

A newspaper/journal should have the following minimum print area:

Periodicity	Print area not less than
Dailies	1520 Std. Col. Cms.
Weeklies, Fortnightlies	700 Std. Col. Cms.
Monthlies	960 Std. Col. Cms.

Exceptions may, however, be made by PAC in the case of newspapers/journals belonging to the above mentioned category in Sanskrit etc.

The applicant newspaper/ journal should furnish authenticated figures of circulation of ABC, RNI or Chartered Accountant. However, Chartered Accountant Certificate will be accepted only up to 25,000 copies per publishing day for up to one year only. DAVP will take average circulation for the preceding one year as certified by ABC, RNI failing which CA (whichever is less).

RNI circulation check will be valid for three years unless paper is suspended or declared unestablished by RNI. During this period paper seeking renewal of empanelment in the same slab need not furnish any fresh authentication of circulation. Rate renewal cases showing increase in circulation warranting higher slab of rate will need to furnish ABC/RNI circulation check certification. DG/

Director, DAVP reserves the right to have figures of circulation checked through its representatives or through RNI where he/she may so decide.

In rate renewal/ empanelment cases, where a three year contract is offered, publishers should submit to DAVP on or before 31st May each year an Affidavit to the effect that they have submitted Annual Return to RNI. In the affidavit the latest figures as certified by ABC/RNI/CA will also be indicated.

A newspaper if declared unestablished by RNI will be suspended from DAVP empanelment and recovery will be effected. Resumption will be considered only on receipt of the RNI certifying circulation.

A newspaper/journal once declared unestablished by RNI will be considered established only from the year RNI declares it established. The circulation certified by RNI/ ABC if found lower than the claimed circulation will be taken into consideration for recovery.

Advertising Rate:

The rate structure for payment against advertisements released by DAVP will be worked out on the basis of laid down principles. DAVP will work out advertisement rate as per the Government of India rate structure formula devised by the Rate Structure Committee. The rates will be related to circulation of a newspaper and will apply uniformly to all newspapers. The newspaper will enter into rate contract with DAVP accepting the DAVP rates and other terms and conditions as laid down from time to time to ensure publication of DAVP advertisements as and when issued to a newspaper.

Renewal of Rate Contract:

Application for renewal must be submitted to DAVP, complete in all respects, by the due date, which would be the last day of May of the calendar year in which the empanelment expires failing which DAVP may not consider the newspaper for renewal of rate for the concerned year. DAVP will convey its decision on renewal by 30th September of the relevant year. DAVP will place the rate renewal application proforma on its Web site <http://nic.in/davp> and newspapers may download the proforma from internet to apply for renewal of rate contract of their newspaper. Alternately, newspapers may collect the application proforma from DAVP headquarters or from PIB offices in the country on their own, well in time. DAVP will make available the application proforma for rate renewal/ fresh applications to associations of big, medium and small

newspapers as recognised by the Press Council of India. Rate renewal contract will be awarded to newspapers for three years if circulation for previous year is supported by RNI or ABC. However, if any newspaper claims increase in circulation with latest RNI or ABC certificate, upward revision may be considered. The revision of rate (upward/downward) will be considered yearly.

[English]

Decline in Output of ONGC

*58. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

(a) whether the output of ONGC has been declining each year and its officers have been demanding profit bonus from the management;

(b) if so, the extent to which the output in the ONGC has declined during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government with regard to the demand of officers for payment of profit bonus; and

(d) the amount involved in the event of Government's agreeing to their demand?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is engaged in the production of crude oil and natural gas as also Value Added Products (VAP) like, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) and Naptha. The details of ONGC's production of the above items during the last three years are as under:

Year	Oil* (MMT)	Gas (BCM)	VAP ('000MT)
1999-2000	24.648	23.252	3694
2000-2001	25.057	24.020	3732
2001-2002	24.708	24.042	3621
2002-2003** (Apr-Sept).	12.940	12.014	-

* Including condensate

** Provisional

MMT - million metric tonne.

BCM - billion cubic metre.

M.T - metric tonnes

There was a marginal decline in the crude oil production during 2001-02 as compared to the previous year, mainly due to extended shut down of Mumbai High-North (MHN) Complex in the Western Offshore. Production of oil and gas has gone up by 7.63% and 0.64% respectively, during April-September 2002 over corresponding period of the last year.

On 17.07.2001, the Association of Scientific and Technical Officers (ASTO), ONGC represented to the ONGC management about profit bonus/performance related payments. After discussions, the issue was amicably resolved on 30.9.2002 between the ASTO and ONGC management through a Memorandum of Understanding. The total financial outgo on account of performance related payments is Rs. 146 crores (approx.).

Occupation of Strategic Post by Pak Troops

* 59. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pak troops had occupied some strategic posts on the Indian side of the Line of Control in Kashmir in July, 2002;

(b) if so, the circumstances under which Pakistani troops intruded;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the loss of life and property suffered by the Army as well as Pakistani side?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Pakistan troops had not occupied any strategic post on the Indian side of Line of Control during July 2002. However, in the last week of July 2002, there was a minor Pakistan intrusion, approximately 800 meters on our side of Line of Control in the area of Point 3260, a relatively low feature having little tactical significance. The intrusion was evicted by appropriate action of ground troops and Air Force on 2nd August, 2002.

Point 3260 is not considered tactically important and viable for physical occupation by our own troops. Being in close proximity of the Line of Control and the area not being physically occupied, Pakistan troops had intruded into this

area. However, since the area is regularly patrolled by our own troops, they observed presence of some Pakistan troops in the area of Point 3260 on 26th July 2002, and suitable action was taken by the Indian troops to evict the intrusion and to restore the sanctity of the Line of Control. As such, no inquiry was ordered into the incident

No loss of life was suffered by Indian troops during conduct of this operation. Casualties to Pakistan troops are not known.

Indo-US Naval War Games

* 60. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-US Naval exercises were held off Kerala sea (Arabian Sea) in September 2002;

(b) if so, the number of ships and personnel who participated in these exercises alongwith the duration of these exercises;

(c) whether any joint exercise of Armed Forces is proposed to be held in near future;

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

(e) the benefits to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Indo-US Naval Exercises were held in the month of September, 2002 in which ships and a large number of personnel from both sides took part.

Joint Exercises are held by the Armed Forces, from time to time, depending upon the need and mutual convenience.

Joint Exercises with the navies of other countries are meant to increase understanding of each others' operating procedures. Exercising with the navies of technologically advanced countries, like the USA and France, gives our Navy an opportunity to learn about advancements in the field of maritime warfare which is of a major operational benefit. In addition, these exercises enhance India's image internationally as a major maritime power.

[Translation]

Investment in Power Projects in Maharashtra

461. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any investment in power projects in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof project-wise and amount of investment of the last two years; and

(c) the share of the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Tarapur Atomic Power Plant Unit 3&4 with a cost of Rs. 6421 crore (1996 price level) is scheduled for commissioning during January, 2007 and April, 2006 respectively. An amount of Rs.2363 crore has been spent till 31.3.2002 on this project.

[English]

European Train Control System

462. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Ministry is considering "European Train Control System" for locomotive system;

(b) whether similar type of system being developed by Konkan Railway and other Railways in India;

(c) whether there is huge difference between European and Indigenous system;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the benefit to be accrued;

(e) whether Government propose to consider indigenous proposal;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and whether Government will support the Indian proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) A pilot project of European Train Control System (ETCS) was sanctioned in 1999-2000 on Central Railway at a cost of about Rs.50 crores. The first tender this work was discharged owing to high cost and non-compliance. Subsequently it has been decided to keep this project on hold in view of high cost.

(b) Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd have developed an Anti Collision Device (ACD) to prevent collisions at high speed. The system, in its present version, however, is not similar to European Train Control System. No other Railway in India is developing any similar system.

(c) Yes, Sir,

(d) The major differences between the two systems and benefits to be accrued are given below:

ETCS	ACD
<p>ETCS-2 system is an automatic train protection system with mobile train radio. The system works on the principle of target distance and target speed. Movement authority, speed restrictions and other information are transmitted to locomotive using radio. Passive balises are used for determining train locations. Movement authority is calculated by Radio Block Centre (RBC) based on the information about the status of track conditions, level crossing gates and of interlocking system at the stations. A visual display is provided in the locomotive and it is continuously updated about the available distance and the optimum speed at which a driver may proceed.</p> <p>System envisages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automatic Train Protection and Speed Control Approach warning at level crossings communication Temporary speed restriction enforcement <p>ETCS provides cab signalling facilitating smooth train operation during adverse visibility conditions.</p>	<p>Anti-Collision Device on the other hand are microprocessor based communication devices, fitted on locomotive, brake vans and located in stations & level crossings. These give distinct identification to the locomotives and brake vans and using the global positioning system and angular deviation count principle, detect "collision like" situation and initiate application of brakes in the locomotives in a range of 3 kms. The ACDs also help in detecting train parting and initiate warning signals at level crossings.</p> <p>System envisages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention of collisions at high speed in station area. Detects collision like situation in gates.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Not applicable in view of (e).

(g) Extended field trials of the indigenous Anti-Collision Device are already in progress on Jalandhar-Amritsar section of Northern Railway. The Government will support the indigenous ACD system for adoption on Indian Railways based on successful completion of extended field trials and subject to availability of fund.

Transfer of Service Matter Cases from High Court to Permanent Lok Adalats

463. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has advised the Union Government to transfer all the cases relating to service matters pending in all the 21 High Courts to the Permanent Lok Adalats; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Hiking Cable Charges

464. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the effective measures are proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the Doordarshan subscribers from the arbitrations of cable operators;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints to this effect against the cable operators of big cities, towns and rural areas; and

(c) if so, the reasons due to which Government have failed to keep a control on them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Cable Networks Regulation Act, 1995 provides for

Authorised Officers, which include, District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Commissioner of Police, within their local limits of jurisdiction and other officers notified by Central Government or State Governments to take action against Cable Operators for violations of the provisions of the Act. It is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to obtain compliance of the provisions of the Act, with regard to compulsory transmission of the notified Doordarshan Channels. Although instances of non-compliance have come to notice, Doordarshan is carrying out an awareness campaign to make people aware of their rights. The government had also taken up the matter with State Governments to ensure that the notified officers ensure compliance by Cable Operators in this regard. Doordarshan has informed that they are meeting Cable Operators at regular intervals to monitor the Doordarshan channels being carried by the Cable Operators.

[English]

Speed Restrictions of Trains at Bridges/Over Bridges Over Rivers

465. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are speed restrictions of trains while approaching the bridges/over-bridges over rivers;

(b) if so, whether the restrictions were followed during the train passage on bridge over river Dhawe where Rajdhani Express accident occurred;

(c) whether the speedometer of the locomotive had been sealed;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to follow the speed restrictions of trains while approaching bridges' over bridges over rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No speed restriction is imposed on approach of bridges over rivers or on bridge proper unless the physical condition of the bridge or track so warrants on safety considerations.

(b) No speed restriction was in force on Dhawe bridge where Rajdhani accident occurred on 9.0.02. Therefore, the question of observing speed restriction does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The speed recording cartridge was duly sealed and handed over to the Commissioner of Railway Safety, by the Eastern Railway on 10.9.2002.

(e) In case a temporary speed restriction is imposed, whether on bridge, bridge approach or otherwise, there is a laid down system of issue of Caution Orders to train drivers and guards for all such restrictions, before they undertake the trip on the section. In addition, caution indicator boards are also provided at respective locations. Running of trains, engine-man-ship of driver and observance of speed restriction, is monitored regularly at various levels for compliance.

Procurement of Gas by NTPC

466. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC have expressed its reservations with regard to the supply of gas to the Petronet LNG because of the high cost;

(b) if so, whether the NTPC invited global tenders for transportation and regassification of the LNG required for their gas based power plants;

(c) if so, the manner in which the rates offered, by the PLL are higher than the quotations received by the NTPC;

(d) whether the PLL agreed to review the rates for the supply of LNG to NTPC at the competitive rates offered by the international suppliers; and

(e) if not, the decisions taken by the NTPC about the procurement of gas to meet its requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have invited bids for sourcing of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)/ Natural Gas and/ or services towards regassification of Liquefied Natural Gas and transportation of gas to National Thermal Power Corporation power plants on International Competitive Bidding (ICB) basis. As part of the two stage bidding process, NTPC has already invited global tender for Request for Qualification (RFQ). M/s. Petronet LNG Ltd. too has taken the Request for Qualification documents issued by National Thermal Power Corporation.

Private Sector Participation in Defence Sector

467. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invited private sector participation in Defence projects;

(b) if so, the norms prescribed therefor; and

(c) the response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Defence Industry Sector was opened in May 2001 for participation by Indian Private Sector upto 100% equity, with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), component of it being permissible upto 26%, both being subject to licensing permission. This includes all types of defence equipment. Detailed guidelines were issued by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) after consultation with the Ministry of Defence and Industry Associations, for consideration of applications for grant of license in January 2002.

(c) Till date, 10 applications have been received through DIPP for manufacture of various types of defence equipment, out of which recommendation on 6 applications have been conveyed to DIPP.

[Translation]

Non-Completion of Power Projects in Jharkhand

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

(a) whether the power plants in Jharkhand are lagging behind their stipulated time schedule;

(b) the details of cost increased due to this undue delay, plant-wise;

(c) whether the Government have held any officer responsible for this undue delay; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) As on date no power project is under execution in the State of Jharkhand. Tenughat Thermal Power Project Stage II (3x210 MW) to be executed by Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (TVNL) was sanctioned by Planning Commission in February, 1989 at an estimated cost of Rs.669.10 crore for implementation during 7th Five Year Plan. However, the project could not be taken up for want of resources so far.

As the project implementation had been delayed considerably and Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) was accorded in May, 1987, fresh Detailed Project Report (DPR)

was asked for, which was submitted to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) by TVNL in August/September, 2002. CEA however, intimated TVNL in October, 2002 that in view of non-tying up/furnishing of certain inputs/ clearances, DPR cannot be processed. TVNL have been requested to submit revised Detailed Project Report after tying up of all the inputs/clearances.

However, TVNL in the meantime have intimated that in view of recent circular of Government of India, the Generating Companies where tariff is fixed by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) or State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) and the estimated cost of the project is below Rs. 2,500 crore, techno-economic clearance of CEA is not required. Ministry of Energy, Government of Jharkhand have, therefore, decided to get the project executed on turnkey basis from Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL). BHEL have already submitted their proposal to TVNL, Ranchi which is under scrutiny by TVNL authorities/their consultant.

Industrial Sickness in CPSUS

469. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial sickness in Central Public Sector Undertakings is increasing every year;

(b) if so, the number of undertakings found sick and loss incurring as on October 31, 2002, PSU-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for improvement in their working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The number of industrial sick Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) has gone up from 67 as on 31.3.2000 to 68 as on 30.6.2002. Based upon the available information out of these 68 CPSUs, 7 had earned profit and 60 incurred losses as on 31.3.2001. One CPSU namely Swadeshi Mining and Manufacturing Co. Ltd. was included in the list of CPSUs only in the last Public Enterprises Survey 2000-01, but the information on profit/loss of this enterprise is yet to be compiled. The list of 68 sick CPSUs alongwith profit/loss (-) as on 31.3.2001 is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Enterprise specific steps are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments of CPSUs for improving their working. Some of the common steps taken in this regard include periodical review of performance

by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department, referring sick CPSUs to the BIFR for formulation of revival/ rehabilitation plan, business and financial restructuring, formation of joint ventures, infusion of fresh funds, improved marketing strategies, cost control measures, manpower rationalization, purchase preference for goods and services, etc.

Statement

CPSUs Referred to BIFR till 30.6.2002 alongwith their net profit/loss (-) as on 31.3.01

(Rs. in Crores)

Net Profit/Loss (-)

S.No.	Name of the Company	2000-01
1	2	3
1.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	-7.02
2.	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	-15.41
3.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	-9.29
4.	Bharat Cooking Coal Ltd.	-1276.70
5.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	-54.74
6.	Bharat Immunological & Biologicals Corp. Ltd. *	0.87
7.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	-37.69
8.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.	-43.87
9.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	-5.59
10.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	-53.36
11.	Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.	-4.69
12.	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.**	-8.67
13.	Birds, Jute & Exports Ltd.	-4.47
14.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.*	1.74
15.	British India Corporation Ltd.	-37.41
16.	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	-45.22
17.	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	-13.98
18.	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	-230.76

1	2	3	1	2	3
19.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	-792.90	46.	NTC (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan) Ltd.	-58.48
20.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.	-59.49	47.	NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.	-141.45
21.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	-917.19	48.	NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.	-100.78
22.	Elgin Mills Company Ltd.	-61.56	49.	NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.	-207.67
23.	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	-948.84	50.	NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.	-188.24
24.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	-189.26	51.	NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.	-135.68
25.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	-4.98	52.	NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd.	-129.72
26.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	-71.41	53.	North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corp. **	-1.20
27.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	-1956.58	54.	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.	-0.97
28.	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited	-2.08	55.	Praga Tools Ltd.	-34.96
29.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Ltd.	-328.16	56.	Projects & Development India Ltd.	-32.66
30.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	-2.19	57.	Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd.	-108.30
31.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.	-19.44	58.	RBL Ltd.	-4.96
32.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceutical Ltd.	-245.39	59.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	-8.15
33.	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	-187.31	60.	Scooters India Limited* **	5.10
34.	Instrumentation Ltd.	-34.52	61.	Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceutical Ltd.	-9.78
35.	Jessop & Co. Ltd.	-48.77	62.	Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.	-6.09
36.	Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	-2.98	63.	Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	0.00
37.	Maharashtra Elektros melt Ltd.	-17.84	64.	Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.	-31.43
38.	Manipur State Drugs & Pharmaceutical Ltd.	-1.67	65.	Triveni Structurals Ltd.	-45.92
39.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.	-230.72	66.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	-66.43
40.	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.	-15.26	67.	U.P. Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.*	0.03
41.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.	-0.34	68.	Vignyan Industries Ltd.*	0.16
42.	National Instruments Ltd.*	0.09			
43.	National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd.	-320.74			
44.	NEPA Ltd.*	4.86			
45.	NTC (A. Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala & Mahe) Ltd.	-92.55			
				Total	-9701.06

* Earned profit

** Declared 'No longer sick' by the BIFR

[English]

Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro-Chemicals

470. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro-Chemicals Ltd. (BRPL) a subsidiary unit of Indian Oil Corporation Limited has not helped in solving the problems faced by the refinery;

(b) if so, whether the Government have been considering to merge the BRPL with the IOCL to save the refinery from closure; and

(c) if so, the decision taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) After the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism, the profitability of all the refineries of Indian Oil Corporation Limited located in the North Eastern region, including Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, have been adversely affected. However, following IOC acquiring a majority stake in BRPL, a number of benefits have accrued to BRPL. These include:-

(i) Product evacuation of BRPL by IOC

(ii) Sharing of technical expertise with BRPL for improvement of profitability

(b) As on date, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

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

Operation of Cycle Corporation at Asansol

471. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal proposes the operation of Cycle Corporation of India at Asansol under joint or private sector;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has responded to the proposal of Government of West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the procedure for handing

over the Cycle Corporation of India is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Government of West Bengal had forwarded a request from a private company for taking over one of the units of the Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) viz. the Asansol Unit. Government of India have informed Government of West Bengal that the BIFR on 10.07.2000 had passed orders for winding up of CCIL under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, and that the matter is now before the High Court of Kolkata for the process of winding up. At this late stage take over of part of the company cannot be considered.

Meetings of GM with Chief Secretaries and Director General

472. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the laid down procedure the GMs required to hold meetings with the Chief Secretaries and Director General of Police of the respective States in order to plan joint action in case of reported antisocial activities in a particular region; and

(b) if so, the number of such meetings convened during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise details?

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

(b) Does not arise. However, attention of Chief Secretaries has been drawn by Railway Board for holding co-ordination meetings with GMs at their level. Moreover, at Railway Board's level, co-ordination meeting with the Chief Secretaries and Police Chiefs of some State Governments have been held.

[Translation]

Power Generation in Gujarat

473. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of power generated in Gujarat as on date;

(b) the total demand of power in this State;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fulfil the demand of power; and

- (d) the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The total power (thermal + Hydro + Nuclear) generated in Gujarat during October, 2002 was 4593 Million Units (MU).

(b) Energy requirement in the State during October, 2002 was 5740 MUs and the peak demand 8641 MW.

(c) and (d) The following steps have been taken to improve generation and augment availability of power in the State:

- (i) Gujarat has been allocated 24.5% from unallocated quota of Central Sector Generating Stations in Western Region and 59 MW from unallocated quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region.
- (ii) Gujarat is availing 50 MW from Goa and 100 MW from Chhattisgarh through Power Trading Corporation Limited under bilateral agreements.
- (iii) Renovation, Modernisation and uprating of Ukai Hydro Electric Project (4x75 MW) has been completed during the IXth Five Year Plan which has given a benefit of 75 MW.
- (iv) Central Electricity Authority have identified thermal units for taking up Renovation & Modernisation (R&M)/Life Extension (LE) works during 10th Plan and are at various stages of implementation.
- (v) R&M scheme of Wanakbori TPS approved during the year 2000-01 is under implementation.
- (vi) A capacity addition of about 2381 MW has been targeted in the State during 10th Plan period.

[English]

Compensation to Farmers in Border Areas

474. SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether few activist organisations have drawn the attention of the Government to a large number of cattle killing by landmines, destruction of crops or displacement of rural labourers from mine areas which is causing a lot of hardship to the residents of the border districts;

(b) whether the Government have not allowed any compensation to the affected villagers in the border areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the damage caused due to land mining;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of remedial steps being taken by the Government to compensate the farmers especially in the wake of prevailing drought conditions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) Compensation to farmers in border areas is being paid through the State Governments. The State Governments of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan have carried out surveys along with the Army authorities and assessed the damage that has occurred to crops during defensive preparation and movements of the Armed Forces in the border areas. Based on the recommendations, ex-gratia compensation is being released to the State Governments for relief to the people/farmers in the affected areas. Total amount paid/being paid to the State Governments for compensation for occupation of land and building by the Army during the period of mobilization comes to approximately Rs. 300 crore.

Exchange of Operational Intelligence with US

475. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have mutually proposed a path breaking exchange of personnel for serving as part of each other's Air Force staff;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any delegation of U.S. Air Force had visited India to seek cooperation in exchange of operational intelligence; and

(e) if so, the details regarding the decision taken if any, in this regard?

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

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

(d) No, Sir.

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

Talcher-Bimalagarh Rail line

476. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names, estimates and length of the new lines of various zones cleared by Planning Commission and C.C.E.A. to be executed during each of last three years ending March 31, 2002 and also during the first year of the Tenth Plan Period;

(b) whether Talcher-Bimalagarh Rail line has been cleared at all stages; and

(c) the current status of this project and details of the latest survey report with assessed rate of return?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The survey for the line was conducted in 2000-2001. As per the survey report, cost of construction of this 154 km long line has been assessed as Rs.606.60 crore with a rate of return of 10.18%. The survey report is under examination in consultation with the Zonal Railway.

Statement

The details of projects appraised and cleared by Planning Commission and Government during the last three years and the current year are as under:

Railway	Project	Year of inclusion in budget	Anticipated cost	Approx. Length Km	Month of approval by planning Commission/ Government
1	2	3	4	5	6
Central	Agra-Etawah via Fatehabad	1999-2000	109	110	Feb., 1999
	Puntamba-Shirdi	1997-98	32	17	Oct., 1999
Eastern	Bridge over river Ganga at Monghyr	1997-98	600	14	Sept., 2002
	Tarkeshwar-Bishnupur with extension upto Kumarkundu	2000-01	131	64	Feb., 2000
	Deogarh-Sultanganj with extension upto Bhitiah Road	2000-01	312	130	Feb., 2000
	Bridge over river Ganga at Patna	1997-98	600	19	Oct., 2001
ECR	Koderma-Taliya	2001-02 (Supplementary)	308	68	Nov., 2001
Northern	Kolayat-Philodi	2002-03	171	111	Jan., 2002
	Etawah-Mainpuri	1997-98	120	60	Sept., 2001
	Abohar-Fazilka	1997-98	72	25	Sept., 2001

1	2	3	4	5	6
NER	Dauranda-Maharajanj	1997-98	3.57	6	June, 2001
NF Rly	New Mayanaguri-Jogigopa	2000-01	733	245	Feb., 2000
SR	Kotayam-Erumali	1997-98	200	43	March, 2002
SCR	Kotapalli-Narsapur	2000-01	329	58	Feb., 2000
WR	Ramaganjmandi-Bhopal	2000-01	425	262	Feb., 2000
	Gandhinagar-Adrej Moti-Kalol	2000-01	52	20	Feb., 2000
	Ajmer-Pushkar	2000-01	67	26	Feb., 2000

[Translation]

Integrated Rural Energy Programme

477. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the IREP programme is being implemented in Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government have conducted the study of the progress made in regard to the Integrated Rural Energy Programme;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the desired results of this programme have been achieved; and

(e) 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) is under implementation in 18 Blocks in Jammu & Kashmir where the programme is being implemented by the Department of Science & Technology. IREP is under implementation in 30 Blocks in West Bengal where the programme is being implemented by the Science and Technology Department. The implementation of IREP in these, and other States, is being 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

under the State outlay for promoting various rural energy devices, extension and other related activities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(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, 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; higher levels of support should be provided by the State Governments; and monitoring of the programme should be strengthened.

(d) As brought out in the above study, IREP has achieved success in some aspects, but the implementation aspect needs to be strengthened.

(e) The success has been in terms of setting up infrastructure for rural energy planning and implementation, and promotion of renewable energy devices in IREP blocks. However, implementation of the programme needs to be strengthened in J&K and West Bengal, among other States, for which increased flow of resources is required from the State Governments.

Gauge Conversion between Sheopur-Gwalior

478. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey for gauge conversion between Gwalior and Sheopur Kalan in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon; 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 DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) A survey for gauge conversion of Gwalior to Sheopur Kalan with extension to Kota was conducted in 1996. As per the survey report, the cost of this 283.96 km long project has been assessed as Rs.383.92 crore with a negative rate of return. In view of grossly unremunerative nature of the project and acute constraint of resources, it has not been found feasible to consider the proposal.

[English]

Discussion with British Defence Secretary

479. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Secretary of State for Defence had met him recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir, a meeting had taken place in July, 2002 with Mr. Geoffrey Hoon, UK Secretary of State for Defence.

(b) and (c) During this visit, issues relating to defence cooperation between India and the UK were discussed. Regional, and international security issues, including the scourge of international terrorism and Pakistan sponsored cross-border terrorism, were also taken up for discussion. It will not be in the national interest to give the complete details of these discussions.

Upgradation of IAF Maintenance Base

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to upgrade maintenance base of Indian Air Force at Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to shift use of transport helicopter to Nagpur; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) At present only infrastructure development is being planned, which includes accommodation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Companies dealing with LPG in Gujarat

481. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies dealing with LPG connections and distribution in Gujarat;

(b) the number of distributors / dealers appointed by each company;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to increase the LPG connections in that State; and

(d) if so, the target set for 2002-2003?

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) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and IBP Co. Limited are marketing LPG in the State of Gujarat.

(b) As on 1.10.2002, OMCs were operating 496 LPG distributorships in Gujarat.

(c) and (d) The LPG connections are available on demand in all the States of the country including Gujarat and hence no specific target has been set for the period 2002-03.

Demand and Production of Crude Oil

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

(a) whether there is a huge gap between demand and indigenous production of crude oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether demand in respect of crude is increasing year after year and the production has been stagnant to 31.33 MMT from the year 1996-97 to 2000-2001;

(d) whether the steps taken by the Government to increase the crude oil production in the country has not been able to minimise the dependence of crude oil on foreign source;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken or being 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) to (c) The indigenous crude oil production as against the demand thereof in terms of refinery throughput in the country during 1996-97 to 2000-01 is given below:-

Year	Production	Demand (In terms of refinery crude throughput)
	(Million Metric Tonne (MMT))	
1996-97	32.901	62.870
1997-98	33.855	65.166
1998-99	32.704	68.538
1999-2000	31.927	85.964
2000-01	32.426	103.444

(d) and (e) The dependence on crude oil from foreign sources could not be reduced due to:-

- indigenous crude production remaining more or less stable; and
- increase in consumption of petroleum products.

(f) Several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production, which include the following:

- to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.
- to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first and second rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 47 blocks. Offer of 27 exploration blocks under NELP-III was also announced in March 2002 and a total of 45 bids for 23 Blocks has been received by the bid closing date i.e. 28.8.2002.
- to explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.
- to develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.
- to acquire acreages abroad.

Ex-Servicemen Projects

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

(a) the number of Ex-servicemen Rehabilitation Projects running in West Bengal;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Government under said projects for the rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen during each of the last three years, till date, project-wise;

(c) whether existing financial assistance provided for said projects is insufficient; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the financial assistance under the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) There are no specific projects for rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen in any State including West Bengal. However, several schemes have been introduced with this objective. These schemes include reservation in Government jobs, grant of loan facilities for setting up of self-employment ventures, training programmes to improve their

employability after retirement or release from Service, employment opportunities through ex-Servicemen Security Agencies, ex-Servicemen Coal Transportation Companies, etc.

There is no specific budget allocation for the rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen and no financial assistance is provided to State Governments for this purpose.

[Translation]

Details of Gangmen Crushed to Death by Raigarh Passenger Train

484. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gangmen crushed to death by Raigarh passenger train near Vishakhapatnam railway station on November, 2002;

(b) whether any probe has been conducted into this matter, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against guilty employees;

(d) whether any compensation has been paid or proposed to be paid to the family of victim;

(e) whether there is any proposal to accommodate a family member of the victim in the Railway on compensate ground; and

(f) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Gauge Conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia Rail line

485. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land required for the gauge conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia has been acquired by the Government;

(b) if so, the area of land acquired so far from the government and private parties, separately;

(c) if not, the impediment in land acquisition along with the steps being taken to remove these impediments;

(d) the target fixed for completion of the said gauge conversion work; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Sir, out of the total requirement of about 600 hectares of land, 41.683 hectares of private land and 0.68 hectare of government land have so far been taken over from the State Government.

(c) Land acquisition is in progress.

(d) No target date has yet been fixed for the entire project. Gondia-Balaghat (42 Km) is likely to be completed during 2002-03.

(e) The work is already in progress.

[English]

Gwalior-Barauni Express

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

(a) whether the Gwalior-Barauni Express crashed into the stationary Amritsar train in Bihar on November 5, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the cause of the accidents and casualties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) On 05.11.2002 at 8.05 hrs. when 5210 Dn Amritsar-Barauni Jansewa Express got detained Kopa Samhota and Teknewas stations on Gorakhpur-Chhapra section of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway. 5224 Dn Gwalior-Barauni Mail passed Kopa Samhota station at 8.10 hrs. and dashed in rear of 5210 Dn Express. In this accident, one passenger got killed and 5 grievously injured and 5 sustained minor injuries. This accident is being inquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North East Circle whose inquiry Report is awaited.

Construction of Power Transmission Lines under Water

487. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that transmission lines being constructed in the middle of rivers are altering the river currents and creating life-threatening hazards to people who use rivers for their livelihood;

(b) if so, whether any technology is available to construct power transmission lines under the water at the same cost;

(c) if so, the reasons for damaging the free flow of rivers by over-river construction of transmission towers by various Government agencies;

(d) whether any guidelines have been laid down for this purpose; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Every effort is made that transmission towers are not constructed in the river bed but are placed on the firm banks of the river falling in the route of the transmission lines. However, in a few cases, where the width of the river is more than 1000 meter, mid-stream towers are provided on pile or well foundation at every 1000 meter interval as against the large number of piers (generally at every 50 meter interval) over well foundations for road and railway bridges. These tower foundations, which are comparatively small structures, do not alter the river currents or the free flow of water in a river and do not pose hazards to people who use rivers for their livelihood. Though technologies are available for underwater cable, these are costly, when compared to overhead transmission. Thus, normally overhead transmission lines are constructed for transmission of power in India.

Publication of Newspapers/Magazines from Orissa

488. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the

Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of weekly, fortnightly, monthly and daily newspapers/magazines published from Orissa, language-wise;

(b) the method of verifying the circulated number of copies of these magazines by the Government and the number of circulated copies of the major dailies; and

(c) the amount paid by the Government for advertisement to these dailies during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Details of registered daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers/magazines in various languages published from Orissa are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) The Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) verifies circulation claims of newspapers by scrutiny of the prescribed documents which are submitted by the publisher. Verification of original records at the premises of the publication when requested by the publisher is also done. RNI carries out spot-checks at the place of publication/printing of newspaper and on scrutiny of the documents/record/spot verification, the circulation claimed by the publisher is declared fully established, lower established or unestablished, as the case may be. Details of major newspapers published from Orissa with their claimed circulation for the year 2001 are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) During the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; the amount of advertisements issued by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) to the newspapers/periodicals published from Orissa was Rs. 1.29 crores, Rs. 1.12 crores and Rs. 1.35 crores, respectively.

Statement-I

Language-wise and Periodicity-wise details of Newspapers/Magazines published from Orissa, registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), during year 2001.

Language	Dailies	Weeklies	Fortnightlies	Monthlies	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
English	11	14	7	24	56
Hindi	13	4	1	2	20

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bengali	0	0	0	0	0
Assamese	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarati	0	0	0	0	0
Konkani	0	0	0	0	0
Mainpuri	0	0	0	0	0
Marathi	0	0	0	0	0
Nepali	0	0	0	0	0
Oriya	82	160	90	270	602
Punjabi	0	0	0	0	0
Sanskrit	0	0	0	1	1
Sindhi	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil	0	0	0	0	0
Telgu	0	0	0	0	0
Urdu	1	1	0	1	3
Bilingual	4	13	5	24	46
Multilingual	0	1	0	5	6
Others	0	0	0	1	1
Total	111	193	103	328	735

Statement-II

Major Newspapers published from Orissa with their claimed circulation for the year 2001

Big Newspapers	Language	Place of Publication	Claimed Circulation
1	2	3	4
Anupam Bharat	Oriya	Ganjam	102722
Dharitri	Oriya	Bhubaneshwar	154296
Kholadwar	Oriya	Bhubaneshwar	92969
Matrubhasa	Oriya	Cuttack	121378
Orissa Times	Bilingual	Bhubaneshwar	92439
Pragtivadi	Oriya	Bhubaneshwar	120808

1	2	3	4
Prajatantra	Oriya	Cuttack	121714
Samaj	Oriya	Cuttack	143614
Samaya	Oriya	Bhubaneswar	127524
Sambad	Oriya	Bhubaneswar	98873
Sambad Kalika	Oriya	Bhubaneswar	87501
Utkal Mail	Hindi	Sundargarh	78059
Utkal Mail	Oriya	Rourkela	85478
Kalinga Mail	Oriya	Bhubaneswar	84950
Bartaman Samachar	Oriya	Bhubaneswar	114245

Medium Newspapers:

Name	Language	Place of Publication	Claimed Circulation
Ajikal	Oriya	Bhubaneswar	74844
Bharat Darshan	Oriya	Rourkela	60567
Dakara	Oriya	Sambalpur	33130
Dhwani Pratidhwani	Oriya	Balasore	70898
Janamukha	Oriya	Sambalpur	56400
Sambad	Oriya	Ganjam	25203
Sambad	Oriya	Balasore	25538
The Kalantar	Oriya	Balasore	29328
Utkal Mail	Oriya	Cuttack	47186
Utkal Mail	Hindi	Bhubaneswar	53029
The New Indian Express	English	Bhubaneswar	36504
Nyayabati	Oriya	Cuttack	37730
Indian Era	English	Bhubaneswar	28562

[Translation]

**Electricity Supply by Central Pool
to Maharashtra**

489. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister
of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government have
asked for supply of more electricity from the central pool;

(b) if so, the quantum of electricity demanded in
mega watts along with the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Government of Maharashtra vide letter dated 16.10.2002 has requested to make available 100%, Central Sector Power allocation as against 70% 'on-line' share capacity from Central Sector Stations in the Western Region.

(c) Allocation to States/UTs from central sector generating Stations in a region is based on gross capacity of the plant. However, during actual operation, 'on-line' entitlement from Central Sector Stations, depends on auxiliary power consumption inherent to generation plants, actual availability/generation level etc. Based on the actual generation during the period April-October, 2002, the actual drawal by Maharashtra from Central Sector Stations was 9022 Million Units against its entitlement of 9021 MUs (i.e. 100% of entitlement). During the same period, the Plant Load Factor (PLF) of NTPC coal based stations and Atomic Power Stations in the Central Sector in the Western Region was in the range of 84.3% to 93.6%, which compares well with All India PLF of 70.2% and Maharashtra State Electricity Board thermal plants PLF of 67.9%.

[English]

Completion of Project by BRO

490. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects completed by the Border Road Organisation during last three years;

(b) whether some projects are under construction at present;

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(d) the target fixed for the completion of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The details of road projects executed by Border Road Organisation during last three years in terms of length are as under:-

1999-2000 - 1574 Km.

2000-2001 - 1421 Km.

2001-2002 - 1271 Km.

(b) and (c) Presently, 301 roads of strategic importance measuring 13399 Kms. and 67 agency roads measuring 7480 Kms. are under construction. The work on these roads

is in progress and is being executed as per approved works plan and allocation of funds.

(d) Completion of each individual road depends upon flow of funds and the priority accorded to it by Army or sponsoring agency. However, most of the strategic roads of Army are planned for completion by 2007.

[Translation]

Railway Services between India and Nepal

491. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have agreed to start railway services between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which rail connectivity is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Finalisation of a Rail Services Agreement to introduce freight train services between India and Nepal is under process.

Power Crisis in M.P.

492. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Governments have requested to the Union Government for setting up of new power plants in these States in order to tide over the power crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present demand and availability position of power in these two States; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure adequate availability of power in these two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Following power projects are planned for commissioning during 10th Plan in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh:

Madhya Pradesh:**Central Sector**

Vindhyachal (Thermal) 1000 MW(500 MW targeted for 10th Plan)

Indira Sagar (Hydro), Joint Venture 1000 MW

Omkareshwar (Hydro), Joint Venture 520 MW

Total 2520 MW

State Sector

Bansagar Tons (Hydro) 55 MW (35 MW Commissioned)

Marikheda (Hydro) 40 MW

Birsingpur Extn.(Thermal) 500 MW

Sardar Sarovar (Hydro) 1450 MW (M.P.'s share 769.5 MW)

Total 2045 MW

Private Sector

Maheshwar (Hydro) 400 MW

Bina (Thermal) 578 MW

Total 978 MW

Grand Total 5543 MW

Chhattisgarh**Central Sector**

Sipat-I (NTPC) (Thermal) 1320 MW

Sipat (NTPC) (Thermal) 660MW

Total 1980 MW

State Sector

Korba East Extn.(Thermal) 420 MW

Total 420 MW

Grand Total 2400 MW

The present power supply position of Chhattisgarh is satisfactory. During the month of October, 2002, the energy and peak shortages for Madhya Pradesh were 13.8% and 23.5% respectively.

Central Government has allocated 50 MW power in

October, 2002 from unallocated quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region to Madhya Pradesh. An additional allocation of 90 MW has also been made temporarily in November, 2002 from Central Sector Generating Stations of NTPC in Western Region to Madhya Pradesh.

Robbery in Lokmanya Express

493. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Lokmanya Express ko Loota, yatriyon ki pitai" appearing on front page of Patna edition of "Hindustan" dated 28 August, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such incidents taken place in various States during the last three months and the steps taken for safety of the passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

LNG Project at Kochi

494. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has urged Union Government to expedite completion of L.N.G. Project at Kochi;

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

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Petronet LNG Limited are setting up 2.5 MMTA capacity LNG terminal at Kochi at Kerala. Most of the pre-project activities, statutory approvals/clearances

except environment clearance have been obtained, pre-qualification of Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) bidders for lumpsum turnkey contract completed. The time-frame for completion of Kochi project would depend on market tie-up for the regasified LNG.

[Translation]

**New Line between Byawara to
Beena via Seeronj**

495. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government to connect Byawara of district Rajgarh upto Beena via Seeronj of district Vidisha through rail route; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) A survey for new BG line from Biyawara Rajgarh-Sironj-Bina was conducted in 1999. As per the survey report, cost of construction of this 147 km long line has been assessed as Rs.224.75 crores with a negative rate of return. In view of grossly unremunerative nature of the project and acute constraint of resources, it has not been found feasible to consider the project.

Tariff Rate of Electricity Supplied by NTPC

496. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the tariff rates of electricity being supplied by the NTPC and various State Governments for domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural purpose. State-wise and unit-wise;

(b) the rates of power tariff at which NTPC has been supplying power to various States along with the quantum of power supplied by the NTPC to these States. State-wise; and

(c) the details of demand and supply of power in the country as on October, 2002. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The rates of tariff charged by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) varies from project to project depending on the location, size and cost of the project. Station-wise cost of energy during the year 2001-02 from NTPC projects are given in the statement-I enclosed. Actual energy drawn from NTPC Power Stations by the various utilities is given in the statement-II enclosed. The average tariff charged by the various State utilities from domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural consumers is given in the statement-III enclosed.

(c) State-wise details of demand and supply of power in the country as on October, 2002 is given in the statement-IV enclosed.

Statement-I

Station-wise cost of energy from NTPC Projects during the year 2001-02 is as under:

Regions	Power Stations	Installed Capacity (MW)	Rate (P/kWh)
1	2	3	4
Northern Region	Singrauli STPS	2000	94.54
	Riband STPS	1000	127.29
	NCTPP Dadri	840	213.45
	Dadri GPS	817	193.86
	FG Unchahar TPS	840	171.89
	Auraiya GPS	652	164.12
	Anta GPS	413	135.99

1	2	3	4
	Tanda TPS	440	90.34
	Faridabad GPS	430	163.75
Western Region	Korba STPS	2100	73.39
	Vindhyachal STPS	2260	113.32
	Kawas GPS	645	319.64
	Gandhar GPS	648	222.09
Southern Region	Ramagundam STPS	2100	122.34
	Kayamkulam CCPS	350	382.17
Eastern Region	Farakka STPS	1600	168.81
	Kahalgaoon STPS	840	204.10
	Talcher STPS	1000	143.78
	Talcher TPS	460	139.04

Statement-II

1	2	3
	Powergrid	0.0
	Railways	317.5
	Total	46811.1
Western Region	MPSEB	10378.3
	MSEB	12128.7
	GEB	10164.2
	Goa	1216.1
	D.N.H	1273.0
	D&D	790.6
	NR	204.9
	CSEB	1021.2
	Total	37177.0
Southern Region	APTRANSCO	4135.9
	KPTCL	3255.5
	TNEB	4281.4

Actual Energy Drawn from NTPC Power Stations (MUs)
(As per Regional Energy Accounts)

Region	Energy Drawn by	2001-02
1	2	3
Northern Region	UPPCL	16551.8
	RVPN	7103.6
	DPSCCL	9257.6
	PSEB	4726.6
	HVPN	4526.3
	HPSEB	1091.4
	J & K	2437.1
	U.T.C	301.5
	BSEB	19.2
	MPSEB	60.5
	WR	418.0

1	2	3	1	2	3
	KSEB	3224.4		ASEB	717.6
	Goa	576.2		MPSEB	1977.8
	Pondicherry	611.2		Pondicherry	79.8
	GRIDCO	2.5		JSEB	423.2
	Total	16087.1		TNEB	821.8
Eastern Region	WBSEB	1769.0		GEB	348.9
	BSEB	5248.3		NR (UPPCL)	991.4
	GRIDCO	3004.0		KPTCL	1419.9
	DVC	1188.1		Total	19708.2
	SIKKIM	34.6		Total NTPC	119783.4
	APTRANSCO	1683.8			

Statement-III*Consumer Category-wise Average Tariff, 2001-02 (Annual Plan)*

(Paise per Kwh)

States	Domestic	Commercial	Agriculture/ Irrigation	Industrial
1	2	3	4	5
1. Andhra Pradesh	174.00	426.00	15.00	439.45
2. Assam	186.76	468.66	272.41	429.68
3. Bihar	109.50	276.60	13.37	362.26
4. Delhi (DVB)	149.86	415.81	50.00	424.80
5. Gujarat	243.00	448.00	39.00	439.57
6. Haryana	259.33	411.73	37.02	428.00
7. Himachal Pradesh	104.00	261.00	50.00	265.00
8. Jammu & Kashmir	85.00	160.00	220.00	135.00
9. Karnataka	198.00	572.12	30.51	409.93
10. Kerala	81.02	436.40	67.21	225.18
11. Madhya Pradesh	159.58	430.64	7.20	437.77

	1	2	3	4	5
12.	Maharashtra	248.02	456.39	82.28	419.93
13.	Meghalaya	135.53	192.23	51.72	208.26
14.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	175.72	369.74	107.73	322.98
15.	Punjab	211.46	368.56	0.00	300.26
16.	Rajasthan (Transco.)	190.87	429.76	46.26	392.88
17.	Tamil Nadu	169.26	401.70	1.31	379.60
18.	UP (Power Corp.)	185.17	431.50	107.83	464.44
19.	West Bengal	148.88	237.28	57.87	320.01
	Average: SEBs	184.16	406.65	35.38	368.37

II EDs

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
2.	Goa	134.41	390.48	112.84	379.76
3.	Manipur	181.90	250.00	171.00	198.50
4.	Mizoram	129.00	199.00	0.00	245.00
5.	Nagaland	160.00	280.00	0.00	225.00
6.	Pondicherry	94.95	235.82	7.51	205.54
7.	Sikkim	97.00	152.00	0.00	135.00
8.	Tripura	92.00	120.00	68.00	118.00
	Average of EDs	119.09	254.45	41.69	266.74
	All India Average	183.13	404.21	35.40	366.50

Statement-IV*Actual Power Supply Position*

(All figures in MU net)

State/ System/ Region	October, 2002				April-October, 2002			
	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/ (MU)	Deficit (-) (%)	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/ (MU)	Deficit (%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	85	85	0	0.0	728	728	0	0.0
Delhi	1,555	1,546	-9	-0.6	12,683	12,491	-192	-1.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana	1,719	1,679	-40	-2.3	12,264	12,107	-157	-1.3
Himachal Pradesh	282	282	0	0.0	1,995	1,939	-56	-2.8
Jammu & Kashmir	598	506	-92	-15.4	4,089	3,520	-569	-13.9
Punjab	2,419	2,221	-198	-8.2	20,219	18,920	-1,299	-6.4
Rajasthan	2,272	2,258	-14	-0.6	15,050	14,894	-156	-1.0
Uttar Pradesh	3,940	3,156	-784	-19.9	26,848	21,371	-5,477	-20.4
Uttaranchal	320	310	10	3.1	2,199	2,150	-49	-2.2
Northern Region	13,190	12,043	-1,147	-8.7	96,075	88,120	-7,955	-8.3
Chhattisgarh	945	909	-36	-3.8	5,676	5,475	-201	-3.5
Gujarat	5,740	5,143	-597	-10.4	34,115	30,193	-3,922	-11.5
Madhya Pradesh	2,699	2,326	-373	-13.8	16,547	14,397	-2,150	-13.0
Maharashtra	7,862	6,807	-1,055	-13.4	48,890	42,559	-6,331	-12.9
Goa	161	161	0	0.0	1,075	1,075	0	0.0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Western Region	17,407	15,346	-2,061	-11.8	106,303	93,699	-12,604	-11.9
Andhra Pradesh	3,930	3,726	-204	-5.2	28,400	25,576	-2,824	-9.9
Karnataka	2,463	2,254	-209	-8.5	18,378	16,167	-2,211	-12.0
Kerala	1,087	998	-89	-8.2	8,172	7,457	-715	-8.7
Tamil Nadu	3,802	3,528	-274	-7.2	27,095	24,566	-2,529	-9.3
Pondicherry	100	100	0	0.0	669	669	0	0.0
Southern Region	11,382	10,606	-776	-6.8	82,714	74,435	-8,279	-10.0
Bihar	858	819	-39	-4.5	5,281	5,018	-263	-5.0
DVC	704	701	-3	-0.4	4,832	4,753	-79	-1.6
Jharkhand	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Orissa	1,093	1,081	-12	-1.1	7,897	7,690	-207	-2.6
West Bengal	1,743	1,743	0	0.0	12,689	12,452	-237	-1.9
Sikkim	10	10	0	0.0	53	53	0	0.0
Eastern Region	4,398	4,344	-54	-1.2	30,699	29,913	-786	-2.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Arunachal Pradesh	16	16	0	0.0	94	93	-1	-1.1
Assam	290	275	-15	-5.2	2,031	1,933	-98	-4.8
Manipur	42	42	0	0.0	267	263	-4	-1.5
Meghalaya	91	91	0	0.0	536	534	-2	-0.4
Mizoram	24	24	0	0.0	167	165	-2	-1.2
Nagaland	25	25	0	0.0	160	159	-1	-0.6
Tripura	64	62	-2	-3.1	417	384	-33	-7.9
North-Eastern Region	552	535	-17	-3.1	3,672	3,531	-141	-3.8
All India	46,929	42,874	-4,055	-8.6	319,463	289,898	-29,765	-9.3

Actual Peak Demand Vs Peak Met

(Figure in MW net)

State/ System/ Region	October 2002				April-October 2002			
	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Peak Surplus/ Shortage (-) (MW)	(%)	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Peak Surplus/ Shortage (-) (MW)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	160	160	0	0.0	206	206	0	0.0
Delhi	2,853	2,812	-41	-1.4	3,347	3,101	-246	-7.3
Haryana	3,043	3,013	-30	-1.0	3,411	3,325	-86	-2.5
Himachal Pradesh	551	551	0	0.0	565	565	0	0.0
Jammu & Kashmir	1,158	891	-267	-23.1	1,169	940	-229	-19.6
Punjab	4,364	3,924	-440	-10.1	5,849	5,455	-394	-6.7
Rajasthan	3,716	3,716	0	0.0	3,716	3,716	0	0.0
Uttar Pradesh	6,665	5,577	-1,088	-16.3	6,685	5,626	-1,059	-15.8
Uttaranchal	700	640	-60	-8.6	771	681	-90	-11.7
Northern Region	22,186	19,855	-2,331	-10.5	24,092	21,889	-2,203	-9.1
Chhattisgarh	1,548	1,492	-56	-3.6	1,548	1,492	-56	-3.6
Gujarat	8,641	7,336	-1,305	-15.1	8,641	7,336	-1,305	-15.1
Madhya Pradesh	5,437	4,157	-1,280	-23.5	5,437	4,157	-1,280	-23.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Maharashtra	13,371	10,881	-2,490	-18.6	13,371	10,881	-2,490	-18.6
Goa	271	271	0	0.0	296	296	0	0.0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Western Region	27,773	22,775	-4,998	-18.0	27,773	22,775	-4,998	-18.0
Andhra Pradesh	8,240	6,858	-1,382	-16.8	8,491	6,858	-1,633	-19.2
Karnataka	5,002	4,456	-546	-10.9	5,289	4,456	-833	-15.7
Kerala	2,419	2,030	-389	-16.1	2,623	2,126	-497	-18.9
Tamil Nadu	6,977	6,000	-977	-14.0	7,236	6,120	-1,116	-15.4
Pondicherry	150	150	0	0.0	150	150	0	0.0
Southern Region	22,419	18,860	-3,559	-15.9	22,419	18,892	-3,527	-15.7
Bihar	1,305	1,206	-99	-7.6	1,389	1,325	-64	-4.6
DVC	1,152	1,081	-71	-6.2	1,207	1,146	-61	-5.1
Jharkhand	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Orissa	1,948	1,792	-156	-8.0	2,125	1,988	-137	-6.4
West Bengal	3,548	3,340	-208	-5.9	3,752	3,418	-334	-8.9
Sikkim	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Eastern Region	8,046	7,489	-577	-7.2	8,076	7,676	-400	-5.0
Arunachal Pradesh	42	42	0	0.0	45	44	-1	-2.2
Assam	589	589	0	0.0	650	589	-61	-9.4
Manipur	95	95	0	0.0	101	100	-1	-1.0
Meghalaya	172	171	-1	-0.6	172	171	-1	-0.6
Mizoram	68	68	0	0.0	74	73	-1	-1.4
Nagaland	60	58	-2	-3.3	61	61	0	0.0
Tripura	159	156	-3	-1.9	182	156	-26	-14.3
North-Eastern Region	1,068	1,068	0	0.0	1,161	1,068	-93	-8.0
All India	81,492	70,027	-11,465	-14.1	81,492	70,027	-11,465	-14.1

*[English]***Rakes for Transportation of Animal Fodder**

497. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the South Central Railway to provide more rakes for transportation of animal fodder to drought affected areas in the State, free of cost; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Transportation of fodder to notified drought affected districts, free of charge, has been permitted upto 31.12.2002. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has also been advised on 21.10.2002, but no demand has been placed with the Railways.

*[Translation]***Special Incentives to States**

498. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give special incentives to the States promoting fast track courts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The Government has not yet formulated the scheme to give special incentives to the States promoting fast track courts.

ISI Agents in Indian Army

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

(a) whether ISI of Pakistan has gathered secret and important informations about India by deploying their spies as soldiers and at other important posts in the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to identify such spies; and

(c) the number of such spies identified and punished since the year 1999 till date?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Hydel Power Projects

500. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given stress on need for completion of hydel projects within a period of four years and the Ministry has given assurance for all possible help;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether any instructions have been issued in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) With the object of reducing the time and cost over-run of hydro projects so far as they relate to inadequate investigation and non-availability of proper infrastructure in terms of access roads and land, the Government has introduced a three stage clearance process for development of new hydro electric projects in the Central Sector. The progress of important projects in the Central, State and Private Sectors is also reviewed by the Government from time to time to cut delays in their implementation and remedial measures taken for their timely completion. As each hydro project is unique in its own way keeping in view the site conditions, the hydrological data and the extent of civil engineering, it may not be possible to fix a uniform time frame for implementation of different hydro-electric projects. However, efforts are being made by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation Ltd. that execution of hydro electric projects is achieved in less than five years from the date of investment approval.

Export of Indian Films

501. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

(a) the number of Indian Films exported alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to promote the export of films;

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

(d) whether China is a growing market for India films; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) According to information received from Indian Film Exporters Association, the number of Indian films exported over the last three years and the foreign exchange earned from the export of films during the last three years is as follows:

Year	No. of films exported	Foreign exchange earned from films (in Rs.)
1999-2000	190	250 crores
2000-2001	207	450 crores
2001-2002	210	900 crores*

(*includes figures for animation exports)

(b) and (c) In order to promote the export of Indian films, several initiatives have been taken up by the Government.

(i) The Government conferred 'industry' status on the films sector with the broad objective of facilitating its all round development.

(ii) During the years 2001 and 2002, an Indian Pavilion was set up in the Cannes Film market to attract attention and interest in Indian Cinema in which a large number of Indian film companies participated.

(iii) During June 2001, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting led a 35-member delegation from the Indian Entertainment Industry to USA and Japan to show case internationally the achievements and potential of the Indian Entertainment Industry and to explore fresh avenues for business development.

(iv) A large delegation of Indian Film Exporters led

by the National Film Development Corporation Ltd. participated in the film market in Hong Kong, which took place in June 2002.

(v) A package of 30 Indian films called 'Indian Summer' was shown as part of the prestigious Locarno International Film Festival held in Switzerland in August 2002.

(vi) This year along with the International Film Festival of India a Film Bazaar was set up by the Government to provide a platform for interaction between Indian film industry and international buyers and sellers.

(vii) A special Plan scheme has been included in the 10th Plan. the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been allocated a budget of Rs. 5 crores to participate in film markets in India and abroad.

(viii) The Directorate of Film Festivals through the Cultural Exchange Programmes and participation in various film festivals plays an important role in increasing the visibility of Indian films abroad. The increased visibility translates into greater demand for Indian films and promotes export earnings.

(d) and (e) China is a potential market for Indian films. The premier of the film Lagaan is to be held shortly in China and this is to be accompanied by an exhibition of Indian film posters, which traces the history of Indian cinema from the silent era to the present time. There was also Chinese representation at the recently held Film Bazaar in New Delhi, where an interest in showing Indian films on China's TV was evinced.

Facilities to Senior Citizens, Sports Persons and Handicapped Persons

502. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take an effective step to provide more railway facilities to senior citizens, sports persons, handicapped persons and freedom fighters etc.;

(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) Facilities like concession in fares for senior citizens sports persons and handicapped persons, and complementary card passes to freedom fighters, are already available and it is not proposed to enlarge their scope due to financial constraints. Facilities like wheel chairs, lower berths, etc. are also available for concerned category of persons. Provision of additional facilities is a continuous process, which depends upon the feasibility and resources.

[English]

Setting up of 650 MW Naphtha based Power Project

503. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to issue instructions to NTPC for implementation of 650 MW Naphtha based Hyderabad Metro CAPP;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The proposal regarding Hyderabad Metro Combined Cycle Power Project (CCPP), 650 MW near Shankarapalli in Andhra Pradesh was envisaged with naphtha as fuel. However, due to high cost of naphtha and the resultant tariff, the project proposal was not pursued.

Procurement of Sleeper

504. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 5693 dated May 2, 2002 regarding Procurement of Sleepers and to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has prepared Action Taken Note on various paragraphs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways had drawn up a programme to phase out completely the wooden sleepers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the quantity of wooden sleepers are still spread below the railway tracks and time by which these are likely to be replaced with concrete sleepers;

(f) whether Khanna Committee on safety had recommended the manual checking of fish plates but the same has not yet been acted upon; and

(g) if so, the details of the steps taken to check the accidents due to removal of fish plates and rails and to strengthen the inspection of railway tracks?

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

(b) The details are enclosed as statement.

(c) No, Sir. Though Indian Railways has completely eliminated wooden sleepers from Main line track and is in the process of eliminating from standard layouts, yet it will continue to use them on girder bridges and non standard layouts due to technical considerations. Thus wooden sleepers can not be eliminated completely from the track.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Presently no wooden sleepers exist on the main line track. Turnouts laid with wooden sleepers are being replaced with PSC turnouts at the approx. rate of 3000 sets per year. For other locations like non standard turnouts and girder bridges, it is not possible to use concrete sleepers due to technical reasons. Railways all over the world still use wooden sleepers at such special locations.

(f) No, Sir. No such recommendations had been made by Khanna Committee. Hence question for implementation does not arise.

(g) As per extant instructions of Ministry of Home, action to prevent sabotage to track and bridges, is required to be taken by State Governments. Railways only lodge FIR in such cases. Security patrolling in specified stretches, for a limited duration, is also introduced if specially requested by the State Government. However, as a precautionary measure, instructions have been issued to reduce the number of fish plated joints, wherever feasible and for burring of two fish bolts, one on each rail, at joints located in the stretches considered vulnerable. Efforts are also being made to develop an anti-theft elastic rail clip and fish bolt fastening. The frequency and level of inspection of Engineering Officials is already specified and compliance is monitored.

Statement**Action Taken Note**

I (a)	Ministry/Department	Ministry of Railways (Railways Board)
(b)	Subject/title of the review/Paragraph	Extra expenditure due to delay in replacement of Wooden Sleeper turnouts and on procurement of Concrete Sleeper Turnouts.
(c)	Paragraph No.	4.3.2
(d)	Report No. and Year	9 of 2002 (Railways)
II.	Date of receipt of the Draft	
(a)	Paragraph/Review in the Ministry	01-06-2001
(b)	Date of Ministry's reply to P.P.	28-03-2002
III	Gist of Paragraph/Review	Extra expenditure on procurement of wooden sleeper turnouts due to delay in taking steps to replace them by Concrete Turnout sleepers which are more cost effective than Wooden Sleeper Turnouts.
IV. (a)	Do the Ministry agree with the facts and figures included in the Paragraph?	Not in some areas.
(b)	If not, please indicate the areas of disagreement and also attach documents in support	<p>Indian Railways had been using wooden sleeper turnouts for decades. Subsequently for non track circuited areas, Steel Trough (ST) Sleepers layouts were developed and found successful, but for track circuited area, no alternative to wooden layout was available till about 1988. In 1989, RDSO developed a layout with PSC Sleepers, which was found satisfactory after field trials of first 20 sets. The study conducted by RDSO also revealed that the concrete layout was not only technically superior but the life cycle cost was also found lower as compared to wooden layout. Therefore, a principle decision was taken to switch over to concrete sleeper layouts from wooden sleeper layouts.</p> <p>At that time, there were around 65,400 sets of wooden sleeper turnouts in track. The design of concrete sleeper layouts was though finalized, but infrastructure for manufacturing PSC turnout sets; infrastructure for handling transportation and laying these bulky turnout sleepers in track; and plant, machinery and equipment for maintenance of track laid with these layouts was totally non-existent. Development of such infrastructure was a time consuming process, which required creation of adequate manufacturing facilities, procurement of</p>

necessary machines and equipments for handling transportation and maintenance of these turnout sleepers in track and training of staff for acquiring necessary expertise in dealing with concrete sleeper layouts in laying, handling and maintenance.

Necessary action to develop the infrastructure required for the PSC turnout sleepers was taken by the Railway Administration without any delay within the framework of existing rules and regulations. Till such time, these facilities were developed, use of wooden sleepers was unavoidable to keep the track in safe conditions for movement of passengers and freight.

V. (a) Main Audit Conclusion

1. Deficiency in the existing system including system of internal control
 2. Failure to follow the system including system of internal control
 3. Failure of individuals
 4. Amount of loss/short assessment/short levy
- (b) Do the Ministry agree with the Audit conclusion? If not, please indicate specific areas of disagreement and also attach copies of relevant documents, where necessary

Nil

Nil

Nil

44.04 Crores

Replacement of wooden sleeper turnouts with PSC Sleeper turnouts is not a switch on switch off action. As explained in para IV (b) above, Railway had been using wooden sleepers for decades. A suitable alternative was developed and found suitable in PSC sleepers but development of infrastructure for manufacturing, handling and transportation; maintenance; training of manpower for adopting the PSC Sleeper layouts was time consuming process. The necessary infrastructure was developed within the framework of rules and regulations by the Railway Administration without any delay. Till such time, the necessary infrastructure was developed, use of wooden sleepers was unavoidable. The loss calculated by Audit is therefore hypothetical.

VI. Remedial actions taken

- (i) Improvement in system and procedures including internal controls
- (ii) Recovery of overpayment pointed out by Audit
- (iii) Recovery of under assessment, short levy or other dues
- (iv) Write off of amount of losses/wasteful expenditure/irrevocable amount

N.A.

N.A.

N.A.

N.A.

- | | | |
|------|--|----------|
| (v) | Modifications in the scheme, including financing pattern | : : N.A. |
| (vi) | Review of similar case/complete scheme/project in the light of findings of sample check by Audit | N.A. |

This was referred to Audit who, vide their U.O.I. No. 181-RAII/7-388/98 dated 01-10-2002, have desired that following may be appended at the end of Action Taken Note:-

"Audit Observation":

(1) In view of the policy of Indian forest conservation, the need for replacing the wooden sleeper turnouts with concrete sleeper turnouts would have arisen sooner or later. Ministry of Railways may kindly state in the ATN whether this aspect was also considered while formulating the above mentioned policy/plan. If not, the reasons why this inevitable exercise was not done may please be explained.

(2) Audit para and the connected record therewith points out that concrete sleeper turnouts were superior to wooden sleeper turnouts in regard to higher life span, lower maintenance cost, etc. Ministry of Railways may kindly elaborate in the ATN as to:

- i) Why the matter of development of source for PSC sleeper turnouts was left to Zonal Railway when the benefits/savings were anticipated from the use of PSC sleeper turnouts? The quantity ordered by individual Railways was too small to evoke a good response.
- ii) Why a centrally driven initiative was not taken to develop the source for PSC sleeper turnouts in view of clear advantages of PSC turnout sleepers?
- iii) Why the expertise of RDSO was not utilised to resolve the teething problems faced by PSC sleeper turnouts manufacturers as Zonal Railway level?

(3) Railway's record reveal that 75 percent of the assessed capacity of PSC sleeper manufacturers was being utilised by Railways, Ministry of Railways may please indicate whether this unutilised capacity could have been diverted towards manufacture of PSC sleeper turnouts.

If yes, whether any efforts were made by them to negotiate with PSC sleeper manufacturers to divert 25 percent (unutilised) of the assessed capacity towards the manufacture of PSC sleeper turnouts.

(4) Audit para reveals that Ministry of Railways issued limited tender in August 1993 for procurement of concrete sleeper turnouts. Ministry of Railways may kindly elaborate as to how issuing of limited tenders instead of open tenders (in view of shortage) was a correct decision.

Ministry of Railway's comment on the above Audit observations:

(1) In view of the policy of the Indian Forest Conservation, Indian Railways had taken a timely action to reduce its dependence on wooden sleepers. As a result of which the requirement of wooden sleepers on Indian Railways reduced from 3.5 lakh cum in 1960 to 54000 cum in 1993-94. The present day level requirement of wooden sleepers for use on girder bridges and non-standard lay-outs for which no alternative to wooden sleepers has been developed as yet by any of the world Railways, is only 20000 cum per annum. This is the absolute minimum requirement and Hon'ble Supreme Court has permitted IR to import this quantity of wooden sleepers. Thus, the Railways took timely action in line with the policy of Indian Forest Conservation but the main thrust in the beginning was on replacing Main Line sleepers by concrete sleepers which constituted a major chunk of wooden sleepers and when the use of concrete sleepers for Main Line Sleepers had stabilized, Railways undertook development of special sleepers like Turnouts, Switch Expansion Joints (SEJs), Derailing Switches, etc.

(2) (i) and (ii) There is no denying the fact that **PSC sleeper Turnout** is superior to wooden sleeper Turnout in regard to the higher life span, lower maintenance cost and better stability. Considering these benefits of concrete sleeper Turnouts, Railways took action to replace all the wooden sleeper Turnouts by concrete sleeper Turnouts in a planned manner. But as the evolution of technology is gradual, it took some time to develop and introduce the concrete sleeper Turnouts in a big way. The main reasons for low progress in introduction of concrete sleepers for Turnouts has been; absence of mass production technology for Turnout sleepers and lack of handling, transport and relaying facilities, because the Turnout sleepers are very heavy and extra long as compared to the Main Line sleepers. Till such time mechanical equipments for handling and laying were developed, laying of turnout sleepers was started manually which was a very cumbersome and time consuming job. This is the main reason that initially Zonal Railways were asked to procure Turnout sleepers in small quantities on experimental basis. Later on, when the manufacture of concrete sleepers for Turnouts got stabilized and design also get standardized by RDSO, Railway Board lost no time in inviting centralized tender for procurement of Turnout sleepers on mass scale. Railway Board finalized 2 tenders as early as 1990 and 1993 for 10000 sets of PSC Turnout sleepers and placed orders on 7 firms across the country.

2(iii) RDSO being a torch-bearer in the development of concrete sleepers for Main Line as early as Turnouts, developed the initial design of Turnout sleepers. Thereafter, RDSO studied and analysed the teething problems that were being faced by the manufacturers and standardized the design.

3. Manufacture of PSC sleepers for Turnouts is completely a different activity altogether than manufacture of Main Line sleepers. Firms manufacturing Main Line sleepers cannot undertake manufacture of Turnout sleepers by utilizing its spare capacity. For manufacture of Turnout sleepers, the firm has to develop a different set of facilities like moulds, benches and handling facilities and also a separate laying yard and separate approval of RDSO. In case of Turnout sleepers, all the 96 sleepers are manufactured to different drawing requiring manufacture of different sets of moulds for individual sleepers unlike main line sleepers where one set of moulds can suffice. Due to this reason, the existing manufacturers could not be asked to undertake manufacture of Turnout sleepers without creating additional facilities.

4. In the year 1993, limited tenders were invited for manufacture of Turnout sleepers because the requirement of Turnout sleepers on Indian Railways was limited due to constraint of handling and laying equipment as explained above. Even the present day requirement of Turnout sleepers is only about 3000 sets per annum. It was also preferred to invite limited tender only from established suppliers who had gained experience in manufacture of line sleepers. This is because establishing a sleeper manufacturing unit has a long gestation period and a new comer would take more time than the experienced firms to set up a new plant and the Railways did not want to lose any time on account of long gestation period to set up a new plant. This was also one of the reasons to invite limited tenders.

Further Audit observations on Ministry of Railways' comments as above.

The Railway Board assessed (1991) 65,400 sets of wooden sleeper turnouts required to be replaced by concrete sleeper turnouts in a phased manner in the next 14 years i.e. by 2005, but only 12148 sets could be procured till January 2001. It is clearly evident that due to the slow progress, Railways were far behind the target as set out in 1991 and, this necessitated procurement of wooden sleeper turnouts at higher rates."

Sd/-

(K. Subramanian)

Director Finance (BC)

M/o Railways' case No. 2002-BC-AP-4.3.2/00-01.

[Translation]

Ban on Pakistan TV

505. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to take steps at different levels including banning of Pakistan T.V. to counter the propaganda spread by Government of Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether an expert group of High Officials constituted for this purpose has submitted its report to the Government; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to ban PTV, at present. Under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act 1995, a Committee has been constituted to look into violations of the Programme Code, prescribed under the said Act and Rules framed there-under. Necessary action is taken on the recommendations of the Committee, from time to time. It is continuous endeavour of the Government to counter propaganda made by Pak TV through suitable programme on DD/AIR. Under a Special Package, extension and upgradation of Doordarshan's infrastructure, to increase DD's coverage in the border areas, has also been undertaken.

Facilities to Coast Guard

506. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide more facilities to Coast Guard;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have a proposal to acquire additional number of ships/motor boats and aircraft for Coast Guard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the fund earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) The augmentation of facilities in Coast Guard is an on-going process. A proposal to set up 10 new Boat Stations in a phased manner is being processed. The places tentatively selected are:-

West Coast - Vadinar (Gujarat), Jafarabad or Pipavav (Gujarat), Ratnagiri (Maharashtra), Bhatkal or Malpe (Karnataka), Beypore (Kerala) and Kavaratti in Lakshadweep.

East Coast - Kakinda (Andhra Pradesh), Gopalpur (Orissa) and Pondicherry.

Andaman & Nicobar - Kamorta.

Modernisation and development of Coast Guard is dictated primarily by the threat perceptions as also the emerging technologies. There are proposals to acquire ships/aircrafts for the Coast Guard during 2002-03 for which a sum of Rs. 271.40 crores has been earmarked. The proposals, after examination would be accorded approval, if considered appropriate. It may not be possible to indicate the details of these proposals as some of them may not be considered appropriate for according approval after examination.

[English]

Diversion of Money from Railway Safety Fund

507. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway has diverted some money from Special Railway Safety Fund for other purposes, including development of newly created railway zones;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount collected by the Railways through safety surcharge during the last three years;

(d) the amount of money utilised for passenger safety so far out of the Special Railway Safety Fund;

(e) the names of the rail routes and bridges renewed after the creation of Special Railway Safety Fund, zone-wise and State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the proper utilisation of Special Railway Safety Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The works to be undertaken from the Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) have been identified by a Select Committee set up by the Railway Ministry. There are explicit instructions to the Railways to spend the money available under SRSF on the identified works of safety only

and no diversion/reappropriation is permissible from the works charged to SRSF, not even for creation of new zones.

(c) The "Safety Surcharge" on passengers has been levied with effect from 1st October, 2001. The 'Safety Surcharge' collected during the year 2001-2002 (1-10-2001 to 31-03-2002) was Rs.304.86 crore and in the year 2002-03 (1-04-2002 to August, 2002), Rs.249.96 crore have been collected.

(d) The Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) was set up and operated with effect from 1st October 2001. The actual expenditure (net) out of SRSF, during the year 2001-2002 was Rs.1434.28 crore against an allocation of Rs.1400 crore in the revised estimate for that year. In the year 2002-03 (Budget Estimate) a net amount of Rs.2210 crore has been provided under SRSF. The total money available under SRSF will be spent on the identified works only to ensure safety of train operations, which will be in the interest of both passengers and freight.

(e) The works under Track Renewal, Signalling, Bridge Works, Machinery & Plant Rolling Stock as well as other safety enhancement works identified by the Select Committee for funding through SRSF, which are still in progress, have been listed in the Budget document titled Works, Machinery & Rolling Stock Programme for 2002-03, Part-III or the "Green Book". Since the Railway Budget is prepared Railway zone-wise and not state-wise, these lists are available Railway zone-wise.

(f) To ensure proper utilisation of the Fund, an extensive mechanism for monitoring progress of the works under SRSF has been put in place. The works to be funded through the SRSF have been listed in the 'Green Book'. The monitoring scheme as approved by the Government envisages periodic monitoring at different levels, viz.

- (i) At divisional level - monthly
- (ii) By General Managers of Zonal Railways - every two months
- (iii) By the Railway Board - every six months
- (iv) At the inter-ministerial level - once a year.

Import of Sub-standard Spares

508. SHRI KAMAL NATH:

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during August-September, 2002, two Mig-21 aircraft crashed at Ambala and Jodhpur;

(b) if so, whether both these Migs were recently cleared to fly after weeks of grounding following a spate of crash;

(c) whether this has confirmed the remarks made by Russia that India was purchasing sub-standard spares and equipments from Commonwealth Independent States as reported in the Times of India dated August 28, 2002;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps being considered by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The statement made by Director General, Rosboronexport, a Government owned company of Russia is factually incorrect. MiG-21 aircraft are being overhauled under license at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). All spares manufactured at HAL and those bought from abroad are subjected to stringent quality control tests before being installed on the aircraft. The spares supplied to Indian Air Force are also certified by Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance.

[Translation]

LPG Connections

509. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG connections released all over the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the waiting lists for LPG connections have been cleared;

(c) if not, the time by which the said waiting lists are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the target fixed for releasing LPG connections during the year 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 ?

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 Marketing Companies (OMCs) have released about 2.54 crores new LPG connections during the last three years in the country.

(b) to (d) At present, there is no waiting list registered with the LPG distributors of OMCs. LPG connections are available on demand throughout the country and hence no specific target has been laid down for the year 2002-2003 and 2003-2004.

Handing Over of Ancillary Functions of Courts to Private Parties

510. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Courts in the country have decided to entrust certain ancillary functions of courts to private parties to ensure speed, efficiency and maintenance of equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas considered for handing over to private parties;

(d) whether this experiment has already been commenced in any court; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the experiment?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (e) Bombay High Court, as part of the Pilot Project of Computerisation and Networking of city courts in Mumbai, which is funded by the Department of Justice, Government of India, is contemplating to enlist the participation of private vendors in certain ancillary functions connected with courts. These functions are:

- Providing certified copies
- Issue of services & processes
- Making court related information available to litigant public and lawyers on video display units and internet/e-kiosks/interactive voice response system (I.V.R.S.)
- Processing of complaints, petitions etc. being filed in the court.

The vendors will install their own hardware, software and other equipment. They will be responsible for

maintenance of their equipment, and will be paid by the court on the basis of the actual volume of work done or services performed. Participation of private vendors is expected to bring about speed and efficiency in the delivery of services & ensure proper maintenance of equipment. Tenders have been called for the participation of private vendors.

Profit Earned by Oil Companies

511. Dr. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether there is increase in the amount of dividend of the Government owned petroleum companies in the country during the first six months for the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the amount of profit made by such companies during the above period;

(c) the total turnover of these companies during the above period; and

(d) the excess profit earned by these companies during the first half of the current year in comparison to the first half of the last year?

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) Dividend for the first six months of 2002-2003 has not been finalised by the oil PSUs.

(b) to (d) Information is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

(In Rs. Crore)

Name of Oil PSUs	Profit after tax during		Increase in Profit compared to last year 2002	Turnover during April-September '02
	April-Sept.	April-Sept. 2001		
1	2	3	4	5
GAIL	543.60	716.69	173.09	5736.87
BPCL	404.76	569.62	164.86	22309.85
EIL	44.15	23.76	-20.39	153.24

1	2	3	4	5
IOCL	1019.43	3138.68	2119.25	56663.06
HPCL	302.26	572.62	270.36	24091.00
OIL	266.95	381.88	114.93	1286.23
ONGC	3143.00	4258.00	1115.00	15004.00
Total	5724.15	9661.25	3937.10	125244.25

Note: Information given in column 3 is as per unaudited accounts.

Free Passes to Personal Assistants of MPs

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

(a) whether any proposal to issue free railway passes for Personal Assistants (P.As.) of Members of Parliament to travel in 2nd Class Sleepers or three-tier AC is under consideration of the Government;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rail travel facilities to Members of Parliament, their spouses and companions are provided in terms of provisions in the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954. This Act is administered by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. There is no provision in the Act to provide rail travel facilities to Personal Assistants to Members of Parliament.

[English]

Power Generating Companies in the country

513. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies generating power in the country both in Private sector and the Public sector;

(b) the details of cost of production of power by each of these units, unit-wise; and

(c) the rate per unit of power sold by these companies, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Tariffs for Central Sector Generating Companies are determined by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) (Government of India for Nuclear Power Corporation etc.) and for State Sector Generating Companies by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (by State Governments/ State Electricity Boards where State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have not been constituted) taking into account various elements of costs and permitted returns. The tariffs of the Central Public Sector Undertakings regarding power stations are given in the statement enclosed.

Information is being collected with respect to the State and Private Sector Units and a statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Cost of Energy Sale/Tariff by CPSUs to States

Sl.No.	Power Stations	Cost of Energy for 2001-02 Rate (P/kWh)
1	2	3

National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.

1.	Singrauli STPS	94.54
2.	Rihand STPS	127.29
3.	Korba STPS	73.39
4.	Vindhyachal STPS	113.32
5.	Ramagundam STPS	122.34
6.	Farakka STPS	168.81
7.	Kahalgau STPS	204.10
8.	Talcher STPS	143.78
9.	Talcher TPS	139.04
10.	FG Unchahar TPS	171.89
11.	NCTPP Dadri	213.45
12.	Tanda TPS	90.34
13.	Anta GPS	135.99
14.	Auraiya GPS	164.12

1	2	3
15.	Dadri GPS	193.86
16.	Kawas GPS	319.64
17.	Gandhar GPS	222.09
18.	Kayamkulam CCPS	382.17
19.	Faridabad GPS	163.75
National Hydro Electric Power Corporation		
20.	Baira Siul HEP	64.54
21.	Loktak HEP	93.13
22.	Salal HEP	62.65
23.	Tanakpur HEP	112.17
24.	Chamera-IHEP	182.61
25.	Uri HEP	259.23
26.	Rangit HEP	*211.00
Nuclear Power Corporation		
27.	Madras Atomic Power Station	198.00
28.	Tarapur Atomic Power Station	92.00
29.	Kakrapara Atomic Power Station	278.00
30.	Narora Atomic Power Station	234.00
NEEPCO*		
31.	Kopili HEP	69.80
32.	Kopili HEP - Stage-I	69.80
33.	Dayang HEP	Under finalization
34.	Ranganadi HEP	165.51
35.	Assam Gas	225.00
36.	Agartala Gas	190.00

* Provisional

Exploration of Oil Blocks in Rajasthan

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

(a) the details of oil blocks identified in Rajasthan for carrying out exploration activities, especially in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore districts of Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government have set any time frame for completion of exploration activities; 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) Since 1991 upto 2002 when the third round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) was announced, the Government has offered 12 exploration blocks in the state of Rajasthan and out of which contracts for 5 blocks have been signed. Out of these 5 blocks, 3 blocks are in Jaisalmer, Barmer and Jalore districts.

(b) and (c) As per the terms of contract, the exploration work programme for these 5 blocks is generally for a duration of seven years divided into three phases.

[Translation]

Production of Cement Companies

515. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and locations of cement companies in the country alongwith the total production thereof, everyday;

(b) whether the cement companies in India are producing the cement by dry process or wet process;

(c) if so, the details thereof, company-wise;

(d) the names of units of cement companies where Electro Static Precipitator (E.S.P.) are installed alongwith the capacity of these precipitators and the time since when they have been installed;

(e) the names of units where the said precipitators are not installed; and

(f) the details of cement produced by all these companies in the country during the last three years, year-wise, unit-wise, month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR.

VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Backlog of SC/ST Vacancies

516. DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of the SC/ST vacancies in the Railways;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch a special drive to fill up the backlog of these vacancies in Railways particularly from North East region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) As per the commitment given in Railway budget 1999-2000, the backlog vacancies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes existing as on 30.6.2000 on Indian Railways, were assessed as under:-

Group C		Group D		Total
SC	ST	SC	ST	
1334	1139	1078	1965	5516

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The backlog of SCs/STs has been proposed to be wiped out by launching a Special Recruitment Drive (SRD) with effect from 30.6.2000. So far, 2637 backlog vacancies have been filled up as on 30.9.2002, the break up of which is as under:

Group C		Group D		Total
SC	ST	SC	ST	
1000	586	507	544	2637

The Special Recruitment Drive is still going on. The rest of the backlog vacancies of SCs/STs, identified for the drive as mentioned below, are at various stages of recruitment:-

Group C		Group D		Total
SC	ST	SC	ST	
334	553	571	1421	2879

Out of the total backlog vacancies of SCs/STs assessed, the detailed information of N.F.Rly. which covers the entire North East Region is as under:-

	Group C		Group D		Total
	SC	ST	SC	ST	
Backlog assessed as on 30.6.2000	11	20	261	489	781
Backlog wiped out as on 30.9.2002	02	Nil	35	31	68
The balance which are at various stages of recruitment	09	20	226	458	713

LNG Terminal for NTPC Plant at Kayamkulam

517. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Power had taken any decision regarding the setting up its own LNG Terminal for NTPC Plant at Kayamkulam;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps for expansion plan of NTPC plant at Kayamkulam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) NTPC have resorted to International Competitive Bidding for sourcing of Liquefied Natural Gas/Natural Gas/regassified Liquefied Natural Gas for its various existing/expansion gas projects including Kayamkulam. The setting up of an LNG terminal and expansion of Kayamkulam is subject to availability of LNG at reasonable firm price/terms and commitment from beneficiaries to purchase power from the station.

Retrenchment of Workers in TPP in Orissa

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the

large scale retrenchment of workers from some thermal power plants in Orissa and particularly from IB Thermal Power Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to provide them alternative employment?

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

[Translation]

Acquisition of land in HP

519. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total land acquired at Averi area in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh for setting up of an army cantonment there; and

(b) the progress made in this work after the acquisition of land?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) 1259 Bighas 16 Biswas of land has been acquired in village Averi, District Kulu for the purpose of locating Army Units. The families who were residing on the acquired land have since been shifted. Now it has been found that 261 Bighas 16 Biswas of State Government land is lying within the acquired land which needs to be transferred/mutated in the name of Ministry of Defence. "No objection" for the same has been asked for by the Army authorities which is awaited from the State Government.

[English]

Setting up of Thermal Power Projects by 10th Plan

520. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether setting up of Thermal Power Projects at North Eastern States has been approved by the 10th Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of per capita availability of power in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details of thermal power projects proposed to be set up in North-Eastern Region during the 10th Plan is as under:

Name of Project	Capacity (MW)
Central Sector	
Tripura Gas (NEEPCO)	500
State Sector	
Assam	
Lakwa W.H. (T)	38
Mizoram	
Bairabi HFO (T)	22.92
Meghalaya	
Byrinhat (T)	24
Mendipathar (T)	24
Tripura	
Baramura GT (T)	21

(c) Details of State-wise per capita availability of electricity during the year 1999-2000 is given below:

(KWH)	
Name of the State / U.Ts	Per Capita availability
1	2
Chandigarh	1172.72
Delhi	1247.52
Haryana	789.95
Himachal Pradesh	469.12
Jammu & Kashmir	497.76
Punjab	1116.68
Rajasthan	451.83
Uttar Pradesh	230.14
Gujarat	979.85
Madhya Pradesh	436.31
Maharashtra	760.77

1	2
Goa	692.58
Andhra Pradesh	583.30
Karnataka	512.20
Kerala	377.55
Tamil Nadu	592.27
Bihar	84.17
Orissa	311.95
West Bengal	232.88
Arunachal Pradesh	102.28
Assam	111.98
Manipur	181.20
Meghalaya	227.41
Nagaland	125.18
Tripura	131.38
Mizoram	238.19
Total All India	449.46

Gas Based Power Projects

521. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the method being adopted in the sanction/setting up of gas based Power Plants in the country;

(b) whether the sanction is made wholly on the basis of recommendations of the State Governments' or at the discretion of Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Gas is allocated to proposed power plants by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, which takes into account the views of the State Government concerned and the Ministry of Power and the recommendations in this regard by the Gas Linkage Committee set up for the purpose.

Reduction in Prices of Petroleum by Private Companies

522. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private petroleum oil companies had reduced the prevailing rate of petroleum and diesel by 18 paise;

(b) if so, whether the Government would ensure reduction in prices of petrol and diesel simultaneously;

(c) if so, whether recently the petrol and diesel prices have risen significantly; 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) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the pricing of petrol and diesel has been decontrolled. The oil companies are now fixing the selling prices of these products after taking into account the international oil prices. The prices of these products have been revised by the oil companies eight times post 1st April 2002. The last revision effected with effect from 16th November 2002 reduced the retail selling prices of petrol and diesel by 69 paise per litre and 68 paise per litre respectively in Delhi.

Photo Identity Cards to Voters in New Delhi/Delhi

523. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of voters in Delhi and particularly in New Delhi have not been issued photo identity cards;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to notify the voters in Delhi for getting their photo identity cards;

(c) whether any venue has been selected in New Delhi for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The coverage of Electors' Photo Identity Cards' (EPIC) distribution in Delhi and New Delhi is 66.81%, that is, as many as 54,62,382 out of 81,76,002 electors have been provided with EPICs as on 31st October, 2002. Since the commencement of the current campaign on 11th February, 2002 and uptill 31st October, 2002, as many as 17,22,597 EPICs have been distributed in the NCT of Delhi. The procedure followed in the National Capital Territory of Delhi comprises of three

phases. In the first phase, the electors who had earlier not been issued EPICs, are invited through the letters by the vendors to the Designated Photographic Locations (DPL), indicating time and venue for preparation and issuance of EPICs. In some of the Assembly Constituencies, on completion of the first phase, the second phase has been started. In the second phase, the DPLs are open for all electors for preparation of fresh EPICs, duplicate EPICs, or any modification in the existing EPIC. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer gives publicity in the leading newspapers. The electors have to come to the DPL at their own convenience. The work is done by the vendors. After second phase is over, the third phase of EPIC programme has been launched in 16 Assembly Constituencies in which the programme of preparation and issue of EPICs is taken over by the election staff as a routine work.

(c) and (d) Yes. There are 75 venues or DPLs in all the 70 Assembly Constituencies, which have already been publicized through leading newspapers.

Voting Rights to Indian Living Abroad

524. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need for providing voting rights to the Indians living abroad; and

(b) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Owing to practical and administrative difficulties the proposal for grant of voting rights to non-resident Indians (that is those who are not ordinarily resident in India) has not been found feasible.

[Translation]

Accident Relief Work

525. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether increasing rail accidents, carelessness in relief operations and tendency to give false information to people has been on the rise in Railway administration;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that railways have been failing on this front despite an availability of an effective system for safety and protection;

(c) if so, whether the officers are failing in discharging their duty with responsibility due to deficiency somewhere in vigilance; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bring about improvement in railways and to deal strictly with the delinquent and erring officers?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise

CNG Facilities at Petrol Pumps in Delhi

526. DR. BALI RAM Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the petrol pump owners in Delhi have urged the Government to provide CNG facility, at their petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not providing CNG facility at all the petrol pumps; and

(d) the time by which CNG facilities is likely to be provided at all petrol pumps in Delhi?

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 provision of CNG facility at the Retail Outlets of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in Delhi depends upon factors like availability of adequate space for meeting the safety standard and for maneuvering of vehicles for refuelling as well as the commercial viability. Keeping in view these factors, it is not possible to provide CNG facilities at all the Retail Outlets of the OMCs in Delhi. However, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) has identified 50 Retail Outlets in consultation with OMCs for providing CNG facilities in a phased manner in Delhi.

[English]

Stability in Prices of Petroleum Products

527. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to bring stability in petroleum prices to check volatility in oil prices seen in recent past;

(b) whether India's indigenous production of petroleum products has increased or decreased during the last year; and

(c) if so, steps being taken to increase production of petroleum products 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) With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the fluctuation in the international oil market are bound to get reflected in the domestic consumer prices of petroleum products. With a view to partially contain the impact of volatility in the international oil market, the excise duty rates on petrol and diesel were reduced by the Government by 2% each effective 4th June 2002.

(b) and (c) During the last year 2001-02, country's refining capacity increased from 112.54 million tonnes per annum to 116.07 million tonnes per annum, thereby increasing the domestic production of petroleum products. With a view to meet the incremental demand of petroleum products, the oil companies are implementing projects to further increase the refining capacity.

[Translation]

Boycott of the Lok Adalats

528. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lawyers' association and advocates of Supreme Court, High Courts and different Courts in the country have appealed to boycott the Lok Adalats;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Lok Adalats held in Gujarat, Delhi and other States of the country from 1st January, 2002 till date;

(d) the number of cases filed and disposed off; and

(e) the reaction of Government, people and press thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The Bar Council of India has informed that it has appealed to the lawyers in

the country through State Bar Councils to boycott Lok Adalats under the Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2002. The reason for the appeal to the lawyers is that the provisions of the said Amendment Act, 2002, according to the Bar Council of India, are "anti-litigant and anti-lawyer".

(c) to (e) The National Legal Services Authority has informed that since 1st January, 2002, 19,557 Lok Adalats have been held across the country in which about 8,49,861 cases have been disposed of. In so far as Gujarat is concerned, during the same period, 164 Lok Adalats have been held in which about 21,543 cases have been disposed of. In so far as Delhi is concerned, during the same period 377 Lok Adalats have been held in which 4,315 cases have been disposed of. The Authority is not maintaining figures with respect to the number of cases filed.

Production of Patriotic Films

529. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been sharp decline in production of patriotic films during last some years; .

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of patriotic films produced and telecasted in the country especially in Maharashtra during each of the last three years, till date, Doordarshan-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to promote the production of such patriotic films and curb the production of action films;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Production of film is in the private sector as such no statistics are available with this Ministry regarding the number of patriotic films produced in the country. According to information available with Central Board of Film Certification, there is no classification of films certified as patriotic films, but films certified as historical during the last five years is given below:

1997 - 3; 1998 - nil; 1999 - 3; 2000 - 1; 2001 - 5; 2002 - 4 (upto date).

(c) to (f) The Films Division (FD) and the National Film Development Corporation Ltd., (NFDC) under the Ministry

of Information and Broadcasting are producing patriotic films along with other genres of films.

During the last three years NFDC has produced/ co-produced one patriotic film and one is under production. No film has however been telecast in Maharashtra. Lack of good Scripts is given as the reason for this low rate of production of patriotic films by the Corporation. Films Division has over the last three years produced 20 documentary films and 3 news magazines on patriotic themes. A list of films telecast during the last three years on Doordarshan is given in the statement enclosed.

Doordarshan only telecasts feature films sourced from outside and does not produce films itself.

Statement

List of Patriotic Films Produced by Films Division Telecast in Doordarshan Kendras

S.No.	Name of the Film	Channels Telecast On	Date of Telecast
1.	A Man of Silence Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel	DD World	31.10.2001
2.	Netaji	i) National Network, Delhi ii) DD World	14.9.2000 21.10.2001
3.	Shahadat	National Network, Delhi	14.9.2000

[English]

Dutch Assisted Renewable Energy Projects

530. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have endorsed for setting up of six Dutch renewable energy projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be take off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Details of six renewable energy

project proposals from India are given in the enclosed statement have been short listed under the Certified Emission Reduction Unit Programme Tender (CERUPT) floated by the Government of Netherlands.

Projects under the CERUPT Tender will take off after final approval by the Dutch authorities.

Statement

Details of Projects Short-listed under CERUPT Tender

Project	Name of Promoters	State
1. 7.5 MW Biomass Power	Ind-Barath Energy Ltd.	Maharashtra
2. 3x7.5 MW Biomass Power	Kalpa Taru Energy Venture Pvt. Ltd.	Rajasthan
3. 15 MW Wind-Biomass Power	Vestas RRB India Ltd.	Tamil Nadu
4. 14.45 MW Wind Power	Vestas RRB India Ltd.	Tamil Nadu
5. 15 MW Wind Power	Suzlon Energy Ltd.	Tamil Nadu
6. 15 MW Wind Power	Enercon (India) Ltd.	Karnataka

Civil and Military Liaison Conference

531. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a civil and military liaison conference was held at AOC Centre, Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions made therein; and

(c) the Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) According to the reports received from Army Headquarters, a Civil Military Liaison Conference, 2002 was held at Hyderabad on 17th October, 2002 under the aegis of Head Quarters Andhra Sub Area wherein it was suggested that interaction between the Army and civil authorities be conducted more often.

Landmine Accidents

532. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army personnel and civilians died of landmines in various parts of the country;

(b) the factors responsible for such accidents; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Number of Army Personnel killed due to landmines in various parts of the country for the period from 1st January 2001 to 13th November 2002 is as under:-

Officers	Junior Commissioned Officers	Other Ranks	Total
2	7	60	69

Casualty figures for the latter part of 2002 may vary on reconfirmation by Army Headquarters.

Details of civilian casualties are being collected.

(b) The reasons for these accidents are human error, defective mines and fuzes, stray cattle entering the minefields and adverse/extreme vagaries of terrain and climate.

(c) Precautionary steps taken to obviate such mine accidents include stringent quality control of mines and fuzes, destruction and replacement of stocks of older vintage and providing better on-the-job training to troops employed in mine laying activities.

Disaster Management System

533. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has constituted a high-level five-member committee to review the disaster management system;

(b) if so, whether the Chairman of the Railway Board has set up two multi-disciplinary inspection teams to carry out intensive inspection of accident-prone sections on the entire railway work and suggest corrective measures at the level of the General Managers;

(c) if so, whether the Committee have submitted its reports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to be submitted its report?

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

(b) Two multi-disciplinary Safety Teams comprising Officers of Railway Board have recently been constituted to undertake inspections of various Zonal Railways.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The teams have already conducted inspections of Lucknow Division of Northern Railway and Jhansi Division of Central Railway. The teams covered many items related to general maintenance of track, Bridges, Stations, Yards, Running Room, Accident Relief Trains/ Accident Relief Medical Equipments, Crew Booking Lobby, Level Crossings etc. Corrective action is being taken.

(e) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

Use of Franchise in Gujarat

534. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) the number of voters going to use their franchise in Gujarat Assembly elections;

(b) whether a large number of voters are missing from the electoral rolls prepared for the present Assc.mbly elections; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Exploration of Coal Bed Methane Gas

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

(a) whether the Government have signed agreement with certain private and public sector companies for the exploration and production of coal bed methane gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas allotted to each company for exploration and production of coal bed methane gas in the country; and

(d) the time by which these companies are likely to start working on the 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) In the first offer of blocks under Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM-I), on 26.07.2002, the Government has signed Production Sharing Contracts with Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Private Companies for five blocks in the country for exploration and production of CBM. The details in this regard are as follow:

Sl.No.	Block Name	Coalfield	State	Company
1.	RG (East)-CBM-2001/1	Raniganj	West Bengal	Essar Oil Ltd.
2.	BK-CBM-2001/1	Bokaro	Jharkhand	ONGC-IOC*
3.	NK-CBM-2001/1	North Karanpura	Jharkhand	ONGC-IOC*
4.	SP (East)-CBM-2001/1	Sohagpur	Madhya Pradesh	Reliance Industries Limited
5.	SP(West)-CBM-2001/1	Sohagpur	Madhya Pradesh	Reliance Industries Limited

* ONGC - Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

IOC - Indian Oil Corporation Limited

(d) The Exploration work in Eastern and Western Sohagpur Blocks has not been started. In the remaining blocks i.e. Bokaro, North Karanpura and Eastern Raniganj, the work can be started by the awardee companies after the issue of Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) by the respective State Governments.

[Translation] .

Fresh Agreement in Vishnuprayaga and Srinagar Hydro-Electric Project

536. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the fresh agreements are likely to be made in respect of Vishnuprayaga and Srinagar hydro-electric projects of Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the demand of 12 percent free of cost electricity of Uttar Pradesh has become main hindrance in the implementation of this project;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government to remove this standstill; and

(e) the details thereof?

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

(b) The Vishnuprayag and Srinagar Hydro electric schemes were awarded for implementation in the private sector by the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB). Subsequently, consequent to bifurcation of the State of Uttar Pradesh and formation of the new State of Uttaranchal, these schemes now fall in the new State of Uttaranchal though the power to be generated would be supplied to Uttar Pradesh. It is in this context that some of the agreements viz., the Implementation Agreement, Power Purchase Agreement and Escrow Agreement already entered into between the project developers and the UPSEB, may have to be suitably amended.

(c) to (e) The issue regarding demand of the Government of Uttaranchal for 12% free power from these two hydro electric generation schemes was discussed in a review meeting taken by the Secretary (power) on 24th June, 2002 with representatives, inter-alia, from the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. During the meeting, it was informed by the representatives of Uttar Pradesh that the State Government of Uttar Pradesh is prepared to give 12% free power to Uttaranchal in regard

to the Vishnuprayag project, if the transmission network for evacuation of this electricity is allowed to be constructed by Uttar Pradesh. Government of Uttaranchal have subsequently agreed to this proposition. It was also informed by the representative of Government of Uttar Pradesh during the said meeting that they propose to take similar action for the Srinagar project also. The Government of Uttaranchal have recently informed that this (12% free power) is no longer a hindrance in the implementation of these two projects.

[English]

Vacant Posts of Judges in High Courts

537. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether neither the Law Commission's recommendations nor the repeated reminders of successive Chief Justices of the apex court have any effect on the executive to raise the strength of judges in the judiciary; and

(b) if so, the main reasons for delay in implementing the recommendations of the Law Commission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) At present, there are 13.08 judges per million population in the country. The Law Commission in its 120th Report on "Manpower Planning in Judiciary: A Blue Print" - July, 1987, had recommended a judge strength of 50 judges per million population. The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 21.03.2002 in the case of All India Judges Association & Ors. Vs Union of India & Ors. has observed, "The increase in the Judge strength to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented with the filling up of the posts in a phased manner to be determined and directed by the Union Ministry of Law, but this process should be completed and the increased vacancies and posts filled within a period of five years from today".

The above proposal involves large financial implications. It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to increase the judge strength of the subordinate courts.

The Judge strength in Supreme Court as per the constitution is 26. The Judge strength in the High Courts, which is reviewed once in three years, is 647.

Keeping in view the large financial implications for the

State Governments and the requests made by the State Governments in this regard, the Central Government have filed applications seeking an appropriate extension of time from the Supreme Court to enable consultation on this issue with the State Governments and to make necessary submissions before the Supreme Court regarding the difficulties involved in implementation of the Judgement.

[Translation]

Entrance of NTPC in Distribution Sector

538. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of companies are functioning in power distribution sector in the country;

(b) whether preparation is being made to bring NTPC in power distribution sector;

(c) whether the foreign companies are also coming forward in the power distribution sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Electricity is a concurrent subject and distribution is the responsibility of the State Government. As per information available, 18 companies are engaged in the distribution of power in the public sector and 11 in the private sector. Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has decided to enter into the distribution sector for which a wholly owned subsidiary named NTPC Electric Supply Company Limited has been formed.

(c) and (d) Though a number of foreign companies are evincing interest in the distribution sector, no concrete proposal has been received.

Statement

I. Public Distribution Companies

Andhra Pradesh

1. Central Power Distribution Company
2. Eastern Power Distribution Company Ltd.
3. Northern Power Distribution Company Ltd.
4. Southern Power Distribution Company Ltd.

Haryana

5. Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd.
6. Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd.

Rajasthan

7. Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.
8. Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.
9. Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.

Uttar Pradesh

10. Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd.
11. KESCO

Uttaranchal

12. Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd.

Karnataka

13. BESCOM
14. MESCOM
15. HESCOM
16. GESCOM

West Bengal

17. Durgapur Projects Ltd.
18. Disergarh Power Supply Company Ltd.

II. Private Distribution Companies**Gujarat**

1. Ahmedabad Electricity Company Ltd.
2. Surat Electricity Company Ltd.

Maharashtra

3. Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Co. Ltd.

West Bengal

4. Calcutta Electric Supply Company Ltd.

Uttar Pradesh

5. Greater NOIDA Power Company

Orissa

6. NESCO
7. WESCO
8. SOUTHCO

Delhi

9. North Delhi Power Company Ltd.
10. BSES Yamuna Power Ltd.
11. BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd.

*[English]***Revenue Earned by Prasar Bharati**

539. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the yearly running cost of Prasar Bharati as well as its revenue earnings;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the revenue earning of Prasar Bharati;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make DD sports to become free channel;

(d) if so, the logic behind it; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the telecast of all DD channels through Cable Operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that the running cost of Prasar Bharati and revenue earned by it during 2001-02 is Rs. 1050.83 crores and Rs. 711.88 crores respectively.

(b) Prasar Bharati has initiated a number of steps, within the mandate of Public Service Broadcast to increase its revenue generation. The strategy, inter-alia, adopted by Prasar Bharati in this regard is:

(i) to optimally utilize its infrastructure facilities;

(ii) to improve its marketing mechanism;

(iii) to make sustained efforts to obtain funds from various Government departments for making in-house programmes.

(c) The matter is sub-judice.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, 1995 stipulates that all cable operators in the Country must carry three DD Channels, as notified by Prasar Bharati, on the Prime Band. It is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to obtain compliance with regard to compulsory transmission of the notified DD Channels. DD is also carrying out an awareness campaign to make people aware of their rights. DD has informed that they are meeting Cable Operators at regular intervals to monitor the Doordarshan Channels being carried by the Cable Operators. The Government has also taken up the matter with the State Governments.

Offer of New Blocks for Exploration under NELP

540. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to offer 23 new blocks of hydrocarbon reserves for exploration under NELP;

(b) if so, the details of the blocks to be offered for exploration;

(c) whether these blocks were earlier surveyed by the ONGC for exploration but left the idea of exploration; 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) and (b) With a view to attract larger investments and to accelerate the exploration efforts to add new reserves, the Government has formulated the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) under which bids for exploration of oil and gas are invited following an open global bidding system. In the third offer of blocks under NELP, 27 blocks including 11 onland, 7 offshore and 9 deepwater blocks have been offered. By the bid closing date of 28.8.2002, 23 blocks consisting of 8 onland blocks, 6 shallow water offshore and 9 deepwater blocks have attracted bids. The exploration activities including identification and offer of blocks through NELP is a continuous and ongoing process.

(c) and (d) Some of the blocks which have attracted bids under the third offer of NELP have been identified and included for offer on the basis of pre-exploratory-surveys made by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL).

Issue of Bonds to Oil Companies

541. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to issue bonds to the Indian Oil Companies as compensation for the loss that they incurred for holding the price line of diesel and petrol;

(b) if so, the circumstances under which the Government contemplating such a decision;

(c) whether the Government propose to have any direct/indirect control over the increasing prices of petrol and diesel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons of giving undue favours to national oil companies at the cost of common citizen?

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) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the pricing of petrol and diesel has been decontrolled. The oil companies are now fixing the selling prices of these products after taking into account the international oil prices. However, with a view to facilitate a smooth transition from the APM regime to a free market scenario, the public sector oil companies did not increase the selling prices of petrol and diesel during the months of April and May 2002 despite an increase in the international oil prices. The methodology for compensating the oil companies due to the under recoveries suffered by them on this account has not been finalized till yet.

Steps to Implement Safety and Quality Services to Public

542. DR. RAJESHWARI VUKKALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) has demanded to improve safety and quality services to the travelling public;

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

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

[English]

(b) The National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) held the 23rd National Convention at Visakhapatnam from 19th to 21st August, 2002, wherein, inter-alia, they traced out various factors like inadequate infrastructural facilities, poor quality of equipment and materials, poor maintenance and unsatisfactory working conditions of staff belonging to safety categories etc. and suggested corrective steps, needed to remove these shortcomings, so that there is an improvement in safety and quality of services to the travelling public.

(c) Safety of passengers travelling on Indian Railways has been receiving closest possible attention of the Government. With a view to ensure safety of the passengers, Indian Railways have undertaken a special programme of rehabilitation and rebuilding of bridges out of the Special Railway Safety Fund. Towards further ensuring adequate safety measures, ultrasonic testing of critical components like axles is being done by Railways at regular intervals during maintenance. As regards quality of services, the 150th year of Railway Services has been dedicated to the Rail travellers and declared as Passenger Amenities Year. Sixteen inter-city train services called as Jan Shatabdi Express Trains are programmed for introduction with specially designed second class chair car accommodation. In addition, introduction of new trains and increase in frequency of existing services are also planned for the benefit of Railway passengers.

[Translation]

Functioning of FM News Channel Patna

543. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all formalities with regard to starting of FM News Channel from Patna Radio Station have been completed;

(b) if not, the reason therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said Channel is likely to be functional?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) AIR has informed that there is no proposal to start FM News Channel from Patna, at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting Up of 500 MW Thermal Power Project in Karnataka

544. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the Government of Karnataka to set up 500 MW Thermal Power Station in the State;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to set up 500 MW Thermal Power Station in other States also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL), a Government of Karnataka Enterprise, has proposed to set up a coal based 1000 MW (2x500 MW) Thermal Power Project in two stages at District Bellary, Karnataka. Ministry of Power have recommended to Ministry of Coal in February, 2002 the allotment of coal blocks preferably at Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) for its captive use.

(c) and (d) The details of Thermal Power Projects of 500 MW capacity planned are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Project/State	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)

1.	Rihand Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) Stage-II/ Uttar Pradesh	2x500
2.	Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Project Stage-III/ Andhra Pradesh	1x500
3.	Talcher Super Thermal Power Project (TPP) Stage-II/ Orissa	4x500
4.	Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station-III/ Madhya Pradesh	2x500

1	2	3
North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO)		
5.	Monarchak Combined Cycle Power Project (CCPP)/ Tripura	500
Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)		
6.	Chandrapur Thermal Power Station units 7&8/ Jharkhand	2x250
7.	Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Station (DVC/BSES Joint Venture)	4x250
8.	Meja Thermal Power Station Units-5&6	2x250
Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC)		
9.	Neyveli Thermal Power Station-II Extn. / Tamil Nadu	2x250
State Sector Projects		
10.	Tau Devi Lal (Panipat) Thermal Power Station units-7&8/ Haryana	2x250
11.	Guru Hargovind Thermal Power Station-II/ Punjab	2x250
12.	Yamunanagar Thermal Power Station / Haryana	2x250
13.	Anpara 'C' Thermal Power Station / Uttar Pradesh	2x250
14.	Birsingpur Thermal Power Station Extn. / Madhya Pradesh	1x500
Total:		10,500

Import of Petroleum Products

545. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of imports of petroleum and other products each item-wise (landed prices) as against cost of production of products manufactured in the country for the last three years;

(b) the sale price of these products in the country inclusive of all taxes;

(c) the overheads of handling all these products, imported and indigenous indicating the losses and profits each year;

(d) whether the Government propose to review its import policies on LPG both for domestic and industrial use and encourage instead use of non-conventional sources of energy; 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 (c) The cost of imports of crude oil and petroleum products varies from consignment to consignment. The details of import bill for crude oil and major petroleum products during the last three years is given statement-I enclosed. Since all the products are produced together in a refinery, the production cost of individual product is not identifiable separately. The elements which get added to the refinery gate price of a product before the final sale inter-alia include freight, marketing cost, duties, taxes, dealers' /distributors' commission etc.

The retail selling prices of petrol, diesel, domestic LPG and PDS kerosene at Delhi on the dates of major price revisions during the last three years are given in the statement-II enclosed.

The oil marketing companies have made profits during each of the last three years. The profit after tax made by the Indian Oil Corporation during the period 1999-2000 to 2001-02 has been as follows:

(Rs. In crore)			
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Profit After tax	2443	2720	2885

(d) and (e) The country is presently deficit in LPG and is importing this product. As regards encouraging the use of non-conventional sources of energy, the Government is implementing wide ranging programmes to harness non-conventional resources such as solar, wind, small hydro and bio-mass for meeting the energy requirements of the people of the country.

Statement-I

Statement showing Import Bill for Crude Oil & Major Petroleum Products During Last 3 years.

	Unit	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (Prov.)
Crude Oil				
-Quantity	TMT	57805	74097	78706
-Value	Rs./Crore	40028	65932	60397
-Rate	RS/MT	6925	8898	7674
LPG				
-Quantity	TMT	1587	853	659
-Value	Rs/Crore	1801	1332	810
-Rate	Rs/MT	11343	15615	12291
SKO				
-Quantity	TMT	6312	1918	391
-Value	Rs./Crore	5543	2386	388
-Rate	Rs./MT	8782	12440	9923
HSD				
-Quantity	TMT	5006	0	0
-Value	Rs./Crore	3713	0	0
-Rate	Rs./MT	7417	0	0

Statement-II

Major Revisions in Retail Selling Price at Delhi

(Rs./Liters/CYL)

	MS	HSD	LPG	SKO
1	2	3	4	5
As on 01-01-1999 w.e.f.	23.94	9.87	136.00	2.56
9.1.99		8.89		
1.2.99			152.00	
28.2.99	23.80	9.94	146.00	

1	2	3	4	5
20.4.99		10.37		
6.10.99		13.91		
15.1.00 [†]	25.94	14.04		
23.3.2000			196.55	5.55
03.04.2000*	26.07			
30.9.2000	28.44	16.55	232.25	8.35
03.11.2000**	28.75			
22.11.2000			222.25	7.35
03.03.01 [^]		17.06		
12.01.02	27.54	17.09		
01.03.02	26.54	16.59	259.95	8.92
17.3.02			240.45	
4.6.02	28.94	17.99		
16.6.02	29.18	18.23		
16.8.02	29.00	18.05		
1.9.02	29.20	18.34		
16.9.02	29.66	18.68		
1.10.02	29.91	18.91		
17.10.02	30.24	19.23		
16.11.02	29.57	18.57		

From 1st April '02 onwards, MS and HSD prices are fixed by oil marketing companies.

[†] Sales tax revision.

* MS with 0.05% sulphur introduced.

** MS with 0.05% sulphur and 1% benzene introduced.

[^] HSD with 0.05% sulphur introduced in NCR.

Reservation of Seats for Travel in Express Trains

546. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether seating accommodation for railway travels in express and other trains, except in AC Chair Cars and executive classes in Shatabdi and other trains, are not

reserved while sleeping berths and other berths are reserved for passengers, in different classes;

(b) if so, the reasons for not reserving seats as distinct from berths in different trains, for convenience of passengers;

(c) whether the question of reservation of seating

accommodation for different classes of railway passengers has been considered; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The type of reserved accommodation provided in a train depends on the duration of journey involved. In the day-journey trains, sitting reserved accommodation is provided in second class (2S) and Chair Car (CC) coaches. In Mail/Express trains, which are long distance trains involving night journey, mostly sleeping accommodation is provided to meet the requirement of the passengers. Since, provision of reserved sitting accommodation in long distance Mail/Express trains involving night journey causes inconvenience to the passengers, it is normally not provided in these trains.

Demand of CNG in Mumbai

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

(a) whether the Government have taken any action to make available enough CNG in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Mahanagar Gas Ltd. is not able to provide enough CNG to stations;

(d) whether taxi or auto-rickshaw drivers have to wait in a queue;

(e) if so, the steps taken to meet the situation;

(f) whether High Court has given deadline for the same; and

(g) 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) Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) a Joint Venture Company of Gas Authority of India Limited, British Gas and Government of Maharashtra has been incorporated to supply CNG in Mumbai. Presently, MGL has compression capacity of 3,18,000 Kg/day and have 37 outlets and 144 dispensing points. MGL is meeting the CNG requirement of about 53,000 vehicles. The average sale of CNG is about 2,25,000 Kg/day. In order to meet the increasing demand of CNG in Mumbai, MGL has planned to increase the

compression capacity to 6,00,000 Kg/day, CNG stations to 63 and dispensing points to 270 by June, 2003.

There has been some waiting time for vehicles during peak hours, which mainly is on account of space constraints and some time due to reduction of pressure of gas. With the increase in compression capacity and number of CNG stations, the waiting time would be reduced.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. High Court of Mumbai have set the deadline for phasing out/ conversion of the vehicles to clean fuel i.e., CNG/LPG from March 2002 to January 2004 for different vehicles depending on the age and type of the vehicle.

[Translation]

Amount Incurred on Advertisements

548. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount spent on advertisements published in newspapers in Indian languages and also in English newspapers during the last two years;

(b) the reasons for a considerable difference in the amount spent in this regard;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for the upliftment of medium and small newspapers; and

(d) the reasons for adopting discriminatory attitude while giving advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The details of amount spent by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) on advertisements, language-wise, during years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are given in the enclosed statement I and II, respectively.

(b) English, Hindi and other regional languages newspapers are selected for issue of Government advertisements as per suggestions made by the client departments. As the rates for newspapers on DAVP panel are fixed on the basis of their circulations; rates of English and Hindi newspapers are higher on account of their higher circulation.

(c) and (d) As per the advertising policy, Government advertisements are not intended to be financial assistance to newspapers. While launching advertisement campaigns for display advertisements on socio-economic themes, small and medium newspapers are given preference. Efforts are

being made to ensure that at least 9 advertisements are issued in a year to small and medium newspapers.

Statement-I

Language-wise total share of advertisements given to various newspapers and periodicals in terms amount during the year 2000-2001

Sl.No.	Language	Amount in Rs.
1.	English	349104175
2.	Hindi	207136419
3.	Urdu	19547760
4.	Punjabi	11191343
5.	Marathi	29311752
6.	Gujarati	25721667
7.	Sindhi	824761
8.	Assamese	2285241
9.	Bengali	33131796
10.	Oriya	9635101
11.	Tamil	13661079
12.	Telugu	7224846
13.	Malayalam	17259402
14.	Kannada	11960353
15.	Sanskrit	7105
16.	Nepali	242710
17.	Mizo	495656
18.	Khasi	55888
19.	Konkani	5178
20.	Manipuri	3066
Total		738805298

Statement-II

Language-wise total share of advertisements given to various newspapers and periodicals in terms amount during the year 2001-2002

Sl.No.	Language	Amount in Rs.
1	2	3
1.	English	448597844

1	2	3
2.	Hindi	238936376
3.	Urdu	17852923
4.	Punjabi	11628998
5.	Marathi	31994013
6.	Gujarati	28774349
7.	Sindhi	880288
8.	Assamese	2998489
9.	Bengali	36312899
10.	Oriya	11813068
11.	Tamil	14304425
12.	Telugu	8292852
13.	Malayalam	22515101
14.	Kannada	10390164
15.	Sanskrit	11529
16.	Nepali	201601
17.	Mizo	529314
18.	Khasi	29351
19.	Konkani	3451
20.	Manipuri	189341
Total		886256376

[English]

Recommendations for Electoral Reforms

549. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made to the Government suggesting Electoral Reforms by various committees appointed by them and made in other fora including the Election Commission and the Apex Court, waiting implementation; and

(b) the time by which the Government propose to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY)(a) and (b) The Government has recently introduced several Bills seeking to give effect to recommendations of a number of Committees and Commissions. These include the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2001 and the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2002 covering the following areas, namely, facility of proxy voting to the armed forces personnel, (recommended by Election Commission of India) open ballot system in respect of elections to Rajya Sabha (Recommended by Ethics Committee of Parliament) and providing means of Funding of elections to the political parties (recommended by Dinesh Goswami Committee, Indrajit Gupta Committee, Law Commission of India, Election Commission of India and the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution) respectively. The Government also intends to introduce the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which seeks to implement the consensus arrived at in the all Parties meetings held on 8-7-2002 and 2-8-2002 on certain aspects of criminalisation of politics. The latter would take into account some of the concerns expressed in the directions given by the Supreme Court to the Election Commission of India on 2-5-2002 in Civil Appeal No.7178 of 2001. The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002, is also proposed to be introduced in the current session, seeks to rationalize sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (as recommended by the Election Commission of India, the National Commission for Women, etc.).

The process of reform of electoral laws is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties which is a time consuming process and therefore no time frame can be suggested in this regard.

[Translation]

Conversion of Barbil Railway Station Into Terminal

550. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to convert Barbil railway station of Jharkhand into rail terminal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Construction of Rail-Overbridge at Lakhimpur

551. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to construct a rail-overbridge to connect Lakhimpur town with Airport;
- (b) if so, the details and cost of the project;
- (c) whether survey for the same has already been completed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. No proposal has been received from the State Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Automatic Signaling between Virar and Dahanu Road Station

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

- (a) whether the work of automatic signalling is completed between Virar and Dahanu Road station;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government are going to extend Mumbai sub-urban service upto Dahanu Road; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be extended?

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

(b) Work has been completed during the month of April, 2002.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This is sanctioned ongoing project, and is being progressed as per the availability of resources, on year to year basis.

New line between Jollarpetti to Hosur

553. SHRI V. VETRISLVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand for new railway line between Jollarpetti to Hosur via Krishnagiri is pending with the Union Government for a long period;

(b) if so, whether the Members of Parliament of those areas have raised the demand from time to time during the last one decade;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey about said line during 2000;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are considering to take up this line during the current Five Year Plan period; and

(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) Based on demands, 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 the proposal and heavy throwforward of the ongoing projects, it has not been found feasible to consider the proposal.

Training Courses to Employees

554. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 66977 staff spread over nine Zonal Railways only 41901 attended the training courses during the period 1996-97 to 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the reasons for not attending the training courses by all;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the purpose for arranging these training courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The

information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Supreme Court Direction to High Courts

555. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court of India has directed High Courts to give preference to criminal cases while disposing of the cases;

(b) if so, whether the direction has been implemented by High Courts;

(c) number of such cases pending before the High Courts in the country as on 31.3.2002; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) As per available information, a statement is enclosed.

(d) It is within the exclusive domain of the High Courts. However, both Government and judiciary are concerned with pendency of cases in courts including pendency of cases in High Courts. The High Courts have been requested to implement the recommendations of the Malimath Committee to streamline procedure which will, inter-alia, expedite disposal of pending cases. Many of these recommendations have since been implemented by the various High Courts.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the High Court	Pendency of Criminal cases	As on
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	149587	31/3/02
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10863	31/3/02
3.	Bombay	27936	30/9/02
4.	Calcutta	36433	31/3/02
5.	Delhi	17718	31/12/2001
6.	Gauhati	5629	31/12/2001

1	2	3	4
7.	Gujarat	19526	31/12/2001
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4037	31/3/2002
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1740	31/3/2002
10.	Karnataka	7417	31/3/2002
11.	Kerala	17107	31/3/2002
12.	Madhya Pradesh	46121	31/3/2002
13.	Madras	33258	31/12/2001
14.	Orissa	10598	31/3/2002
15.	Patna	17297	31/3/2002
16.	Punjab & Haryana	44487	31/3/2002
17.	Rajasthan	27718	31/12/2001
18.	Sikkim	20	31/3/2002
19.	Uttaranchal	5201	31/8/2002
20.	Jharkhand	Not Available	
21.	Chhattisgarh	Not Available	
Total		482693	

[Translation]

Power Generation in M.P.

556. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating for setting up of Thermal Power and hydro Power plants in Madhya Pradesh with its own resources;

(b) if so, the locations thereof,

(c) whether the Government propose to evolve some system for supplying power from the States like Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh etc. as per the requirement of Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) the other measures taken/proposed to be taken to improve power generation in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The

following power projects (Thermal & Hydro) are planned for commissioning in Central Sector and the Joint Sector during 10th Plan in the State of Madhya Pradesh:

- | | | |
|-------|--|---|
| (i) | Vindhyachal (Thermal),
Central Sector | 1000 MW (500 MW
targeted for 10th
Plan) |
| (ii) | Indira Sagar (Hydro),
Joint Venture | 1000 MW |
| (iii) | Omkareshwar (Hydro),
Joint Venture | 520 MW |

The Joint Venture projects are implemented by National Hydro Electric Corporation Limited and the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Madhya Pradesh has been allocated 339 MW from unallocated quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region. Another 50 MW has been allocated from unallocated quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region through Northern Regional Grid in October, 2002. In addition, Chhattisgarh's share of 90 MW in Central Sector Stations has been temporarily allocated to Madhya Pradesh.

Both Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are in Western Region and MP can avail power from Chhattisgarh under bilateral power purchase agreement. Power Trading Corporation have also offered for sale of power under bilateral arrangements.

400 KV Raipur - Rourkela Double circuit transmission line between Eastern and Western Region is under completion which will enable transfer of upto 1000 MW of power from Eastern Region to the Western Region. After commissioning of this line, MP can avail additional assistance from Eastern and North-Eastern regions.

In addition, efforts are also being made to improve the availability of power by adopting measures like demand side management, reduction in T & D losses, energy conservation, renovation & modernization and life extension of old and inefficient plants, enhancement in inter-regional exchange of power from surplus regions/States to deficit regions/states, early commissioning of ongoing projects etc.

[English]

Investment by ONGC in Refineries

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

(a) the investments made by ONGC into various refinery projects;

(b) whether ONGC plans to acquire refineries to use its oil;

(c) if so, details of plans to buy or build new refineries in the country;

(d) whether any financial study been done on this project; and

(e) if so, the details of findings on the economic viability of buying or building refineries and their profitability?

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 & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has invested Rs. 29 crores approximately in putting up a mini refinery at Tatipaka, Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (e) ONGC have submitted to the Government a proposal for acquiring 37.38% equity in Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL). The proposal of ONGC is under examination and no final decision has been taken by the Government as yet.

Petrol Pumps of IOCL in A.P.

558. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of new petrol pumps of Indian Oil Corporation Limited operating in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the district-wise location of such pumps made operational during 2002, till date;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the number of petrol pumps in the near future in Andhra Pradesh; 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) The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) commissioned 91 new retail outlets at various locations in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

The IOC commissioned 8 retail outlets, one each in the Districts Hyderabad, Warangal, Khammam, Ananthapur, East Godavari, Guntur, Chittoor and Nalgonda during April - October, 2002.

It is difficult to indicate the number of retail outlet dealerships that will be commissioned during the current financial year, i.e., 2002-2003 as it depends on the procurement of land, availability of suitable sites, NOCs, etc.

[Translation]

Profit Making PSUs

559. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of profit accrued from top 50 Public Sector Enterprises in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether better results have been achieved or are likely to be achieved by making them free from the Government's control; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The profit accrued from top 50 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as a percentage of total profit of profit making CPSEs for the years 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01, the latest periods for which information is available, are as under:

Year	(Rs. In crore)		
	Total profit of Profit making CPSEs	Profit of top 50 CPSE	Percentage
1998-99	22508	22026	97.86
1999-00	24633	24065	97.69
2000-01	28492	28046	98.43

(b) and (c) As long as Government holds majority shares, Parliamentary and ministerial control would remain in some measure. However, Government have taken steps to give greater autonomy to CPSEs in taking commercial decisions in the following manner:

- (i) Granting enhanced financial autonomy to CPSUs under Navratna/Miniratna category for investment decisions
- (ii) Signing MOUs with PSEs.
- (iii) Cancellation of a number of DPE guidelines

Racket of Touts

560. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item published in the Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagran' dated September 30, 2002 captioned, "Railway par havi dalal" wherein it has been reported that racket of touts are active in the railway service not only on reservation counters but are also at parcel booking and delivery centres;

(b) whether these touts are so dominant even at ordinary ticket counters a common man is unable to buy tickets queuing up for several hours and is compelled by buy tickets despite from these touts at higher rates for fear of losing his train;

(c) whether owing to this problem the share of railways in the goods transportation is declining day by day despite the transportation rates of goods and parcel being lesser in compare to the transportation by trucks;

(d) if so, whether his Government propose to formulate any strategy of taking comprehensive action instead of conducting symbolic raids; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Apart from regular and surprise checks at various locations, Railways are taking continuous steps for technological upgradation as well as improving the capacity to bridge the gap between demand and supply by augmenting existing trains, introducing new trains and running of specials during rush periods. Ticket purchasing is being made easier by extending computerised reservation facility on a continuous basis besides introduction of reservation on the internet. An Unreserved Ticketing System has been implemented in Delhi area whereby unreserved tickets can be brought 30 days in advance.

Compulsory Military Training

561. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to impart compulsory military training to the persons joining Government jobs to ensure their wide participation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is presently no proposal under consideration to impart compulsory military training to the persons joining Government jobs.

[English]

Non-Lifting of LPG by Oil Companies

562. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether ONGC has lost 15,000 tons of LPG due to non-lifting of committed quantities by principal off takers;

(b) whether this company has been incurring huge revenue losses due to cut in production since 1999, till date;

(c) if so, the steps taken / proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether due to excessive stock-piling of LPG at Uran and Hazira by ONGC, there is a threat to safety of plants at Uran and Hazira; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to prevent catastrophs due to stock piling of LPG beyond storage capacity ?

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 produced by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is being marketed through Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and during the last three years, the upliftment of LPG by OMCs was in line with the estimated figures of production and the actual production by ONGC.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. LPG inventory is allowed to build up to safe storage limits only.

Marketing of LPG by ONGC and GAIL

563. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the ONGC and GAIL have applied to the Government for marketing of LPG independently of the present outlets;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has objected to this proposal as it has to meet increasing demand for LPG from rural areas;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken any decision in this regard;

(d) if so, whether handicapped youth would be selected for outlets; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government have not taken any final decision in the matter, so far.

Protest against Implementation of Legal Service Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2002

564. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken due cognizance of the threat by the Bar Council of India to boycott indefinitely the permanent Lok Adalats in protest against the implementation of Legal Service Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2002;

(b) whether the BCI considers certain provisions of the Act as "anti-litigant";

(c) whether any public activist group/Consumer Welfare Association had given similar views on this issue;

(d) whether the Apex Court while disposing off a PIL on this issue had given independent hearing of the

Counsels of Consumer Associations/Litigant Welfare Groups; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The Government are aware of the threat by the Bar Council of India to boycott Lok Adalats under the Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2002, as it considers the provisions of the said Act as 'anti-litigant'.

(c) The Government are not aware of similar views on the issue by any public activist group/Consumer Welfare Association.

(d) and (e) The Supreme Court has by its Order dated 28.10.2002 in S.N. Pandey Vs. Union of India, upheld constitutional validity of the aforesaid Act. A copy of the said Order is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Court No. 1

Section X

Supreme Court of India

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition (Civil) No. 543/2002
(For Preliminary Hearing)

S.N. Pandey

Petitioner (s)

Versus

Union of India & Anr.

Respondent (s)

Date: 28/10/2002 This Petition was called on for hearing today.

Coram:

Hon'ble The Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Y.K. Sabharwal

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arijit Pasayat

For Petitioner (s) Mr. Manoj Goel, Adv.
Petitioner-In-Person

For Respondent (s)

Upon hearing counsel the Court made the following

ORDER

We have heard the learned counsel for the petitioner. The challenge is to the validity of the Legal Services Authority (Amendment) Act, 2002 (in short the 'Act') whereby a new Chapter 6(A) has been inserted relating to pre-

litigation conciliation and settlement. It is quite apparent that this chapter has been enacted as being complementary to Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (in short the 'Code') which is a new provision enacted and implemented with effect from 1st July, 2002.

We have gone through the provisions of the said Chapter which contemplate the setting up of permanent Lok Adalat for deciding disputes in which public utility services is one of the matters involved. It is quite obvious that the effort of the legislature is to decrease the work load in the Courts by resorting to alternative disputes resolution. Lok Adalats is a mode of dispute resolution which has been in vogue since over two decades. Hundreds of thousands of cases have been settled through this mechanism and is undisputedly a fast means of dispensation of justice. The litigation is brought to a quick end with no further appeals or anguish to the litigants. The constitution of the permanent Lok Adalats mechanism contemplate the judicial officer or a retired judicial officer being there alongwith other persons having adequate experience in the public utility services.

We do not find any constitutional infirmity in the said legislation. The Act ensures that justice will be available to the litigant speedily and impartially. We do emphasis that the persons who are appointed on the Permanent Lok Adalats should be persons of integrity and adequate experience. Appropriate rules, inter alia in this regard, no doubt will have to be framed, if not already in place.

"We upheld the validity of the said Act and hope the Permanent Lok Adalats will be set up an early date. The Lok Adalats are enacted to primarily bring about settlement amongst the parties. The parties are normally required to be present in person and since the impugned provisions are in the interest of the litigating public, the Lok Adalats shall perform their duties and will function, even if members of the Bar choose not to appear."

Petition is disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

Copies of the order to be sent to the High Courts and also to the Attorney General.

Kalyani

(S.L. Goyal)
Court Master

Training to Tajik Defence Personnel

565. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has established a permanent base in Tajakistan to train Tajik Defence personnel, service and retrofit Soviet and Russian military equipment and also to teach English to Army and Air Force personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the two countries also agreed to closely exchange information on security issue to have benefit in these matters to effectively curb terrorism; and

(d) if so, the details of the bilateral agreement entered into in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. India has not established any permanent base in Tajikistan to train Tajik defence personnel, service and retrofit Soviet and Russian military equipment. However, India is imparting training in English and computers to Tajik defence personnel.

(c) The two countries have agreed to exchange information on matters relating to international terrorism.

(d) It would not be in the national interest to divulge further details in this context.

[Translation]

Electrification on Railway Routes

566. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of electrified rail routes in the country, State-wise;

(b) the targets fixed/achieved for electrification of rail track during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the targets fixed for electrification, State-wise;

(d) the time by which the pending work of electrification of the rail tracks is likely to be completed, project-wise; and

(e) the target set for electrification of rail lines during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) As on 31.3.2002, 16001 Route kilometres of tracks have been electrified over Indian Railways. The Route kilometres of tracks electrified, state-wise, are broadly as under:

S.No.	State	Route kilometres electrified
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2012
2.	Bihar	631
3.	Delhi	129
4.	Gujarat	706
5.	Haryana	366
6.	Himachal Pradesh	23
7.	Karnataka	104
8.	Kerala	199
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1880
10.	Maharashtra	1942
11.	Orissa	800
12.	Punjab	242
13.	Rajasthan	491
14.	Tamil Nadu	967
15.	Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	1394
16.	West Bengal	1692
17.	Jharkhand	1562
18.	Chhattisgarh	861
19.	Other States	-
Total		16001

(b) Against the target of electrification of 2300 Route kilometres, fixed during Ninth Five Year Plan, 2484 Route kilometres have been electrified.

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

(d) The details of the on-going/pending electrification projects and target date of completion are as under:

S.No.	Name of Project	Target
1.	Bhubaneswar-Kottavalasa	Completed except for Khurda Road - Puri which came up at a later stage and targeted for completion by March 2004
2.	Patna-Gaya	Mar., 03
3.	Kharagpur/Nimpura-Bhubaneswar including branch line of Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep	Mar., 03
4.	Udhna-Jalgaon	Mar., 03
5.	Tambaram-Villupuram & Chengalpattu-Arakkonam	Mar., 03
6.	Ambala-Moradabad	Mar., 04
7.	Renigunta-Guntakal	Mar., 04
8.	Ludhiana-Amritsar	Mar., 04
9.	Ernakulam-Trivandrum	Mar., 04
10.	Krishnanagar-Lalgola	Mar., 04
11.	Delhi-Sarai Rohilla-Gurgaon	Awaiting requisite clearances.
12.	Mughalsarai-Zafarabad	Awaiting requisite clearances.
13.	Khurja-Meerut-Saharanpur	Awaiting requisite clearances.

(e) During the 10th Plan, a tentative target of 2150 Route kilometres has been fixed for electrification over Indian Railways. Since Railway projects are not confined to state boundary, state-wise targets are not fixed.

[English]

Violation of LAC by China

567. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of perceived violations of the LAC by China have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the ITBP Chief has recently brought several facts to file notice of the Government in this regard as reported in the Hindustan Times dated October 22, 2002;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and?

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check violations of LAC by China?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The resolution of boundary question between India and China is outstanding. The two sides also have differences in the perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China border areas. Both sides carry out patrolling activity as per their respective perception of the LAC. Chinese activities along the LAC are to be viewed in this context. Nevertheless, perceived violations of the LAC are taken up through diplomatic channels and at Border Personnel Meetings/Flag Meetings.

India and China have been discussing the boundary question in the framework of India-China Joint Working Group and the India-China Expert Group of Diplomatic and Military Officials. Both sides have reiterated the objective of seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through dialogue. They are presently engaged in the exchange of maps for clarification and confirmation of the LAC. The maps showing the respective perceptions of the LAC in the Middle Sector have already been exchanged. Further, discussions have been continuing for clarification and confirmation of the LAC in the Western Sector and Eastern Sector. The Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the LAC in the India-China Border Areas (1993) and the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the LAC in the India-China Border Areas (1996) provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas of the two countries.

Government remains vigilant and takes all necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India.

[Translation]

Serving of Intoxicating Eatables in Passenger Train

568. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some incidents of duping with the passengers in trains by offering them eatables containing intoxicants;

(b) if so, the zone-wise details thereof during the last two years;

(c) the number of persons arrested in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check such incidents in the trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Rail Over Bridge at Maihar

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

(a) the progress made for construction of rail over bridge at Maihar Nagar under Jabalpur Railway division.

(b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has suggested to the Union Government to get the said rail over bridge constructed through B.O. T.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Work was sanctioned on deposit terms and the State Government was asked to deposit Rs. 2.45 Crore to commence the work but no amount has yet been deposited by them, hence work could not be taken up.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Contingency Plan for Import of Oil

570. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up a Contingency Plan for import of oil in the event of a war between US and Iraq;

(b) if so, the countries which have been identified for this purpose and the quantity proposed to be imported and their terms of supply;

(c) whether any agreements have been signed by the Government in this regard, if so, the extent to which oil from these countries will be useful for our country, in money terms; and

(d) if so, the total oil import bill as a result thereof?

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

(b) to (d) A number of countries from the Middle East region and other regions of the world have been identified for importing crude oil. The oil companies would be procuring crude oil from these countries as per their requirements. The oil import bill would depend upon the prices of crude oil prevailing at the time of actual purchases.

Pending Hydel Power Projects

571. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pending with the Government seeking its approval to start Hydel Power Projects, State-wise;

(b) whether any proposal from State Government of Karnataka is pending with the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) One hydro electric scheme namely Teesta Low Dam Stage-III (4x33 MW) in the State of West Bengal is under examination for techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority. 93 hydro-electric schemes including 5 in Karnataka were returned to the project authorities with a request to re-submit the schemes after the inter-state and other issues have been resolved. The details of these schemes are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

List of Multipurpose/Hydro-Electric Schemes returned to Project Authorities for Re-submission

As on 01.11.2002

Sl.No.	Schemes	State	Sector	Inst. Cap (MW)	Annual Energy (Gwh)	Estimated Cost (Rs. Crs.)	Price Level	Date of Receipt of DPR	Date of Return of DPR
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Northern Region									
1.	Ans St-II	J&K	State	30	148.00	115.56	5/92	4/93	9/94
& 2.	Bursar	J&K	State	1020	1626.00	1385.58	1986	3/87	10/94
3	Lower Kalnai	J&K	State	50	226.00	155.35	4/91	12/91	3/33
4.	New Ganderbal	J&K	State	45	217.00	171.24	12/94	8/95	9/96
& 5.	Pakal Dul	J&K	State	1000	3590.00	574.00	1986	12/85	10/94
6.	Parkhachik Panikar	J&K	State	60	244.71	243.82	9/94	6/95	9/96
7	Shitkari Kulan	J&K	State	84	453.00	383.43	93-94	6/94	3/95
& 8	Uri-II (Phase-I)	J&K	State	280	1446.00	2234.66	95-96	5/96	3/97
& 9.	Kishanganga	J&K	Central	330	1025.00	4240.42	Compl.	7/2000	10/2000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Mukerian St-II	Pun.	State	12.5	174.50	123.50	3/97	12/97	6/99
11.	UBDC III (Ravi U-IV)	Pun.	State	75	472.00	530.00	5/96	6/99	7/99
12.	Shahpur Kundi Extn.	Pun.	State	55.5		676.63	11/2000	1/2001	11/2001
13.	Baggi	H.P.	State	40	N.A.	40.00	3/80	4/80	3/91
& 14.	Hibra	H.P.	State	231	936.00	1162.91	12/96	3/97	5/97
15.	Karcham Wangtoo	H.P.	Private	1000	4402.00	7871.01	Compl.	12/2000	2/2001
& 16.	Parbati St.III	H.P.	State	501	1997.00	891.71	6/89	10/92	7/95
17.	Renuka Dam	H.P.	State	40	217.68	1224.64	5/97	7/98	9/99
18.	Budhil	H.P.	State	70	285.59	290.03	12/95	1/97	2/2000
19.	Kuther	H.P.	State	260	941.00	1075.33	9/98	12/98	2/2001
20.	Bowala Nand Prayag	Utt.	State	132	782.00	380.66	3/92	5/93	9/94
21.	Dhaulti Ganga Int. St.	Utt.	Central	210	955.00	1102.92	11/96	11/96	2/99
22.	Gori Ganga St. I & II	Utt.	Central	180	849.00	478.77	7/90	10/90	2/91
23.	Gori Ganga IIIA & IIIB	Utt.	Central	140	612.00	431.12	11/96	4/92	10/98
24.	Kotlibhel	Utt.	State	1000	5411.00	593.00	2/83	9/83	6/86
25.	Lohari Nagpala	Utt.	State	520	1939.00	372.60	1/85	12/88	1/89
26.	Pala Maneri	Utt.	State	400	1576.00	383.46	12/85	1/87	12/88
27.	Topovan Vishnugad	Utt.	State	360	1586.00	555.62	3/92	5/93	9/94
28.	Kishau	Utt.	State	600	1327.00	3455.11	5/98	6/98	7/99
29.	Lakhwar Vyasi	Utt.	State	420	852.00	920.50	3/92	11/98	7/99
30.	Tinui Plasu	Utt.	State	42	237.95	251.84	3/2000	7/2000	8/2000
31.	Panchnad	U.P.	State	90	418.00	559.00	6/83	6/83	6/83
32.	Rahughat	Raj.	State	160	395.00	415.00	6/87	6/87	2/88

Total N.R. : 32 Nos.

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Western Region

33.	Binauda	M.P.	State	600	1752.00	825.02	1991	1/98	1/99
34.	Gandhinagar Ph-II	M.P.	State	160	\$	228.60	1/93	2/93	6/94
35.	Gopad	M.P.	State	60	189.00	109.94	12/84	1/85	7/85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
36.	Gopalpur	M.P.	State	25	73.00	112.10	7/94	8/94	7/95
37.	Ken MPP	M.P.	State	50	N.A.	202.06	N.A.	7/82	2/87
38.	Mara PSS	M.P.	State	450	1314.00	763.13	1991	12/97	1/99
39.	Orchha MPP	M.P.	State	90	410.00	89	3.80	12/81	7/85
40.	Kanhan MPP	M.P.	State	90	98.75	183.12	1991	3/98	8/99
41.	Bhopalapatnam	Chh.	State	1000	2500.00	402.94	1/82	1/82	3/85
42.	Kutru-I	Chh.	State	150	388.00	153.22	1/85	4/85	4/88
43.	Kutru-II	Chh.	State	150	530.00	113.16	1/82	2/82	3/85
44.	Matnar	Chh.	State	60	192.92	253.64	9/98	6/2000	1/2001
45.	Chikhaldara PSS	Mah.	State	400	721.20	931.74	94-95	3/95	12/96
46.	Malshej Ghat PSS	Mah.	State	600	1121.00	908.52	95-96	12/97	1/99
47.	Humbarli PSS	Mah.	State	400	751.00	838.92	96-97	9/99	7/200
48.	Dudhsagar	Goa	State	30	70.00	11.67	1971	-	-
Total W.R. : 16 Nos.				4315					
Southern Region									
49.	Inchampalli MPP	A.P.	State	975	2762.00	1110.00	87-88	11/88	5/89
50.	Lower Jurala	A.P.	State	147.6	304.97	344.37	91-92	1/92	11/92
51.	Nelakotta MPP	A.P.	State	60	140.00	36.80	85-86	1/87	4/87
52.	Polavaram MPP	A.P.	State	720	524.00	528.59	89-90	1/90	4/90
53.	Pulichintalla	A.P.	State	60	102.99	238.36	96-97	9/97	3/97
54.	Kabini Dam	Kar.	State	20	73.00	9.32	78-79	8/79	5/90
55.	Katla & Palna Divn.	Kar.	State		100.00	8.13	N.A.	11/85	10/87
56.	Mekadatu St.-I & St.-II (*)	Kar.	State	360	N.A.	731.27	96-97	10/96	10/96
57.	Shivasamudram	Kar.	State	270	1590.00	132.27	6/97	10/87	10/88
58.	Mahadaayi	Kar.	State	320	635.00	850.05	-	7/2002	8/2002
59.	Barapole	Ker.	State	9	26.00	12.71	N.A.	6/91	8/91
60.	Kerala Bhawani	Ker.	State	150	420.00	168.75	90-91	8/91	1/92
61.	Kuttiyadi Aug.	Ker.	State	100	213.00	61.72	N.A.	5/92	5/92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
62.	Kuriarkutty Karppara MPP	Ker.	State	84	240.00	85.64		11/90	6/91
63.	Mananthvady MPP	Ker.	State	240	817.00	69.17	1980	5/80	7/80
64.	Pandiar Punnapuzha	Ker.	State	70	262.00	22.00	12/72	12/72	7/82
65.	Pambar	Ker.	State	30	168.00	65.46	1989	2/90	3/90
66.	Pallivasal Rehon	Ker.	State	60	279.00	45.48	89-90	7/90	4/92
67.	Athirappilly	Ker.	State	163	387.00	388.46	2001	4/2002	6/2002
68.	Bhawani Kattalai	T.N.	State	90	340.00	368.46	2001	4/2002	6/2002
69.	Cholatipuzha	T.N.	State	60	179.00	7.39	1976	2/68	7/82
70.	Cauvery Power Project Hogenkal	T.N.	State	850	1880.00	1660.00	96-97	1/97	2/97
71.	Pandiar Punnapuzha	T.N.	State	100	409.00	73.90	11/76	12/76	7/82
72.	Shanmughanadi	T.N.	State	30	84.00	17.43	76-77	1972	7/82
73.	Upper Amravati	T.N.	State	30	69.00	15.78	77-78	-	7/82
Total S.R. : 25 Nos.				4998.6					
Eastern Region									
74.	Kadwan MPP	Jha.	State	450	754.40	759.90	1/94	2/95	3/95
75.	Kanhar MPP	Jha.	State	300	373.70	242.80	1989	5/99	7/99
76.	Shankh St-II	Jha.	State	186	241.20	526.70	2/96	12/99	1/2000
77.	Rammam St-III	W.B.	State	60	306.00	169.07	1991	5/93	9/94
& 78.	Teesta Low Dam & Teesta St-III & IV	W.B.	State	332	1499.00	1947.86	9/2001	1/2002	1/2002
79.	Bhimkund MPP	Orissa	State	393	1358.00	304.10	1/80	8/80	9/84
80.	Hirakud-B & Chiptima-B	Orissa	State	408	451.00	1339.65	3/94	6/94	7/96
81.	Manibhadra MPP	Orissa	State	960	2620.00	657.00	8/84	10/85	8/88
82.	Sindol	Orissa	State	320	1284.00	2246.14	1994	4/94	7/96
83.	Jalaput Dam Toe	Orissa/AP	State	18	82.50	72.50	1/01	12/01	12/01
Total E.R. : 10 Nos.				3427					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
North Eastern Region									
84.	Demwe	Ar.Pr.	Central	520	3860.00	1495.10	7/91	4/92	1/93
85.	Dihang (Siang) (#)	Ar.Pr.	State	20000	50081.00	12171.00	10/88	2/89	1/91
86.	Ranganadai St-II	Ar.Pr.	Central	180	729.10	854.35	3/98	4/98	6/98
& 87.	Subansiri Lower	Ar.Pr.	Central	2000	7551.10	6411.91	3/2001	6/2001	7/2001
88.	Karbi-Langpi (U. Borpani)	Assam	State	60	213.00	127.47	1984	7/85	11/86
89.	Lower Kopili	Assam	Central	150	748.90	570.38	3/97	6/97	7/97
90.	Irang	Man.	State	60	219.40	118.00	1989	11/89	1/91
91.	Tipaimukh	Man.	Central	1500	3516.00	5255.70	12/2000	1/2001	5/2001
92.	Tuivai	Man.	State	51	236.00	117.00	1989	3/89	1/91
93.	Kolodyne St-I	Miz.	State	120.0	392.86	1174.12	3/99	6/2000	6/2001
Total N.E.R. : 10 Nos.				24641					
Total All India : 93 Nos.				46819.6					

(\$): For peaking.

(*) Estimated Cost is for St-I only.

(#) Pre feasibility report of alternative of 3 power houses with total capacity of 13700 MW (Upper Siang Dam Power Project 11000 MW, Syom Dam Project 1000 MW and Lower Dihang Project 1700 MW) was prepared by NHPC. DPR has been withdrawn by NHPC vide letter dated, 25.06.2002.

(&) Projects handed over to National Hydroelectric Power Corporation and are under survey & investigation for preparation of revised Detailed Project Report.

[Translation]

Radio Stations of Universities

572. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to allow various universities to start their own Radio Stations;

(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 INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) A proposal to grant community radio broadcasting licenses to well established and recognized educational institutions/organisations to cater to the aspirations and specific requirements of a particular locality/area is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The scheme is yet to be approved by the competent authority and therefore, no definite time frame can be indicated at this stage.

Shortage of Kerosene

573. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

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

(a) whether the shortage for kerosene in several States has resulted in its blackmarketing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No such specific report has been received by the Government.

- (b) Does not arise.

[English]

Constitution of DSBs

574. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M.SCINDIA:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether any radical changes were made in the Constitution of the Dealer's Selection Boards since 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the reasons for such changes; and

(c) the extent to which it has affected the nature and rationale of selections of petrol/LPG 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) No radical changes were made in the constitution of the Dealer Selection Boards after 1999 except that Retired Additional District Judges/Retired Officers who had held equivalent judicial posts, were made eligible for appointment as Chairmen.

[Translation]

Defence Production

575. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various achievements made in the field of defence production in the country in order to strengthen the defence forces and make them self sufficient during the last five years;

(b) whether the Government are exporting or propose to export the defence items manufactured in the country; and

(c) if so, the date from which these items are being exported, item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Major steps taken during the last five years by Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector

Undertakings in the field of defence production to strengthen defence forces and to make them self sufficient are as follows:

(i) The level of production & supply to defence forces has been increased. The value of issues from the Ordnance Factories has gone up from Rs. 2653 crores in 1997-98 to Rs.5349 crores in 2001-2002. Likewise, supply of items from Defence Public Sector Undertakings to the defence forces has also increased from Rs. 4150 crores in 1997-98 to Rs. 6149 crores in 2001-2002.

(ii) Production facilities in the Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings are being modernised to match the qualitative and quantitative requirements of the defence forces.

(iii) Action has been taken to procure transfer of technology for indigenous production of T-90 tanks by Ordnance Factory Board.

(iv) A number of new items have been developed and manufactured during the last five years for supply to the defence forces.

(b) and (c) The items being exported include small arms ammunition, explosives, rockets, spares for rifles and guns, clothing items, parachutes and accessories, aeronautical stores, communication equipments, components and sub-systems etc. The earliest defence exports date back to the year 1973-74. It is not in public interest to give itemwise details.

Gas Reserves in K.G. Basin

576. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

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

(a) whether Reliance Industries Limited have achieved availability of natural gas in large amount in Krishna and Godavari river basins in Andhra Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the date on which this gas reserve was explored;

(c) whether the work to explore this gas reserve was assigned to some other agency prior to this;

(d) if so, the date on which this work was assigned alongwith the name of the executing agency; and

(e) the result of the exploration carried out by the agency alongwith the date on which the result was obtained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The deepwater offshore block KG-DWN-98/3 was offered for global bidding for the first time in 1999 under the first round of NELP, based on seismic surveys and mapping carried out in 1996-97. The contract for the block was signed on 12.4.2000 with the consortium of M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. and Niko Resources Ltd. On 30th October 2002, the consortium has reported a significant gas discovery in this block with preliminary gas reserve estimates of around 7 trillion cubic feet (about 198 billion cubic metre).

(c) No. Sir.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

National Level Conference on Judicial Reforms

577. SHRI SATYAVARAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the National Level Conference held in New Delhi recently on legal and judicial reforms;

(b) if so, the details of issues raised and discussed in this conference; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Conference, resolutions were adopted as follows:

- (i) Space Law (regarding the 1967 Outer Space Treaty; the 1972 Liability Convention; and the 1979 Moon Agreement);

- (ii) international Commercial Arbitration (regarding the application of public policy as a ground for refusing recognition or enforcement of international arbitral awards);

- (iii) Sustainable Development (which adopted the New Delhi Declaration of Principles of International Law relating to Sustainable Development);

- (iv) International Civil and Commercial Litigation (which adopted the ports/New Delhi Principles on jurisdiction over Corporations); and

- (v) Refugee Procedures (two resolutions; the first adopting Guidelines on Temporary Protection and the second being a Declaration on International Minimum Standards for Refugee Procedures).

(c) The issues discussed during the conference mostly relate to International Law and the action taken/proposed to be taken will take into account the convention in this regard.

[English]

Seminar on Law of Arrest

578. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day seminar on Law of Arrest, Police Power and accountability was organized recently in Delhi in October end;

(b) if so, the recommendations/suggestions made therein; and

(c) the extent to which such seminars help to solve the current problems being faced by the Government in this field?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement showing details of recommendations/suggestions is attached.

Statement

The National Seminar on Law of Arrest - Police Power and Accountability held at New Delhi on October 10-11, 2002 has recommended amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 with a view to improving administration of criminal justice. Some of the recommendations/suggestions inter-alia are:

- (1) Doing away with categorization of 'cognizable' and 'non-cognizable', or 'bailable' and 'non-bailable' offences;
- (2) Amendment to the definition of cognizable offences in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973;
- (3) Reclassification of petty "cognizable" offences as 'non-cognizable' offences;
- (4) Reducing unnecessary arrests and distinguishing between a rightful arrest and a wrongful arrest;
- (5) Need to develop effective redressal mechanism against arbitrary arrests with exemplary punishments in wrongful arrests; and
- (6) Making more offences "compoundable".

[Translation]

Creation of Oil Reserve

579. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

DR. S. VENUGOPAL:

Dr. ASHOK PATEL:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to create oil reserve for 3-4 months on the lines of certain Western Countries;

(b) if so, the number of days for which crude oil is kept in reserve in the country and details of policy worked out; and

(c) the steps envisaged to meet emergency if supplies from abroad are suspended etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government is considering to provide strategic tankage for crude oil gradually in phases with a view to achieve a total of 45 days' cover. The proposed tankage is envisaged to meet the emergency requirements arising out of any

disruptions in the crude oil supplies from abroad. The details of the policy have not been finalized till yet.

[English]

Naphtha-based Power Projects

580. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Techno-Economic Clearance by CEA for Naphtha-based Liquid Fuel Power Projects Nanjangud (96.7 MW), Hassan (189 MW) and Mandya (64.37 MW) is awaited for the last several years; and

(b) the time by which the final clearance is likely to be given to the above power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to these projects could not be issued due to non-compliance up of certain requirements, as indicated below:

Nanjangud Combined Cycle Power Project (CCPP) (96.7 MW)

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) was received in April, 1998 and was considered by the CEA in its meeting held on 26.2.1999. The proposal could not be accorded TEC as the same was not cleared by the Central Water Commission (CWC) for water availability from inter-State consideration as the source of water proposed for the project was from Cauvery basin and the matter of water allocation was pending before the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal for adjudication. Also, the hard cost and soft costs of the project were to be reduced by the project developers. These issues were not resolved by the Independent Power Producer (IPP) for a long time and the DPR was thereafter returned by CEA in October, 2001.

Hassan CCPP (189 MW)

The DPR submitted by the IPP in December, 1997 was considered by CEA, in its meeting held on 28.5.1999. The proposal could not be accorded TEC as the same was not cleared by the Central Water Commission (CWC) for water availability from inter-State consideration as the source of water proposed for the project was from Cauvery basin and the matter of water allocation was pending before the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal for adjudication. Also the hard cost and soft costs of the project were to be reduced by the IPP. In order to resolve the issue of water availability,

CEA convened meetings on 23.1.2001 and 3.4.2001 with the project developers of all the three projects wherein only representatives of the Hassan project participated. In the meeting, alternative source of water supply was explored and the IPP proposed to go in for ground water for which clearance from the State and Central Ground Water Authorities was required. The same was obtained by the developer in February, 2002. However, due to high cost of generation for the Hassan project, CEA advised the State Government in August, 2002, to consider the possibility of reducing the capital cost and cost of fuel, even by changing the fuel from naphtha to other economical fuel and furnish their views to enable CEA to issue TEC. The views of the State Government have not been received by CEA. The DPR was, however, returned to the IPP on 21.9.2001.

Mandya CCPP (164.37 MW)

The DPR received in December, 1997, was returned in May, 2000 being incomplete as a number of essential inputs/clearances such as Compliance of Section 29(2) of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 Water Availability (State and Central), Fuel Linkage, Transportation Agreement for Fuel, Clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forest, Power Evacuation Arrangement, Financial Package and Recommendation of DPR and the cost by the Government of Karnataka. The developer did not submit the revised DPR after arranging for all the above clearances.

(b) These projects could be considered for TEC by CEA only after the necessary inputs/clearances are tied up. Meanwhile, the Government of India, Ministry of Power has also issued a notification No.S.O.888 (E) dated 19th August, 2002 under Sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 (54 of 1948), whereby, schemes for generating stations prepared by a generating company having an estimated capital cost of upto Rs.2500 crores, and whose tariff for sale of electricity is determined by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission or any State Electricity Regulatory Commission, are not required to obtain the TEC of CEA.

Violation of Airspace by unidentified Aircraft

581. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an unidentified aircraft intruded the airspace crossing the Bangladesh border on October 3, 2002 and dropped an object into a pond in the North Dinajpur District in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Air Force have conducted thorough probe into the intrusion of such aircraft;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to avoid such airspace violations?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Detailed investigations by Indian Air Force (IAF) proved that neither any aircraft intruded into Indian airspace nor it dropped any object.

(e) IAF has the requisite air defence mechanism in place to monitor and thwart air intrusions by any aircraft.

[Translation]

Mobile Police Patrolling in Important Trains

582. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile police patrolling is being done in the important trains in some divisions;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to provide this facility in other divisions also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) According to Entry No.2 of the State List of the Constitution, 'Police' (including Railway and village police) is the State subject. Maintenance of law and order in Railway premises, as also in running trains, is therefore the statutory responsibility of the State police. Providing this facility and its extension to various trains is, therefore, within

the purview of the GRP which functions under the concerned State Governments.

[English]

Advertisements of Medical and Cosmetic

583. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government allowing the public broadcaster Doordarshan which openly advertises medical and cosmetic quick-fixes-the origins and efficacy of which are completely unknown;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government is going to stop this and enact stringent law against such advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that all advertisements telecast on Doordarshan are governed by the provisions of the Code for Commercial Advertising. As per the Code, the items advertised should not suffer from any defect or deficiency as mentioned in Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and should not contain references which are likely to lead the public to infer that the product advertised or any of its ingredients has some special or miraculous or super-natural property or quality, which is difficult to prove.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Road along LAC

584. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct road network along the Line of Actual Control in the Indian territory keeping in view the violation of Line of Actual Control from Chinese side on Indo-China border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Construction of roads is an ongoing process to meet our operational requirements. A number of roads are under construction along our borders including along the India-China Line of Actual Control.

Government remains vigilant and takes all possible measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India.

[English]

Jammu-Udhampur Rail Line

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

(a) whether Jammu-Udhampur rail link project, which was initiated 20 years back, still remains a dream;

(b) whether during this long period three construction companies have gone and a sum of rupees 1.42 crore remains to be realized from the defaulting constructors;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether recovery of the outstanding dues has not been made so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Jammu-Udhampur rail link project was started in 1982 and is in advanced stage of completion.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However, Comptroller and Auditor General in their report No. 9 of 2001 have pointed out a recovery of Rs. 1.42 crore from the following firms, with the status of recoveries shown against each.

(i) M/s. Chahal Engineering and Company Ltd.

Type of recovery	Amount to be recovered	Status of recovery
Recovery for cement, steel and explosives etc.	Rs. 0.37 crore	Yet to be recovered. The matter is subjudice.

(ii) M/s. Himalayan Construction Co.

Type of recovery	Amount to be recovered	Status of recovery
1	2	3
Mobilisation advances	Rs. 0.62 crore	Fully recovered

1	2	3
Recovery for cement, steel and explosives etc.	Rs. 0.43 crore	Yet to be recovered. The matter is subjudice.

(e) The project is expected to be completed during 2003-2004.

Concession of Freight for Transportation of Coal

586. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to extend 25 per cent concession on freight for transportation of coal by APGENCO and to exempt APGENCO from the payment of 15 per cent surcharge on pre-pay basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Requests were received from the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh for grant of 25% concession on coal from Manuguru to Kothagudem, thermal power station of APGENCO and to exempt APGENCO of 15% surcharge levied on transportation of coal on 'To-Pay' basis.

As per the extant policy, 25% rebate in freight is admissible for traffic booked for distances upto 50 kms. Since the chargeable distance for coal traffic from Manuguru to Kothagudem, thermal power station of APGENCO exceeds 50 kms even after rounding off the distances of various sections involved only once, as suggested by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, it is not feasible to grant the said concession.

Prepayment of freight for coal traffic has been made compulsory w.e.f. 01.10.1996 as per a Cabinet decision. No surcharge is leviable on 'Pre-Paid' traffic.

[Translation]

AIR/FM Community Radio Stations

587. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to give permission for setting up AIR/FM community radio services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the each State which have sent such proposals to the Union Government so far; and

(d) the time by which community radio stations are likely to be started in these states?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) At present five Community Radio Stations of AIR are functioning in the country. These are at Nongstoin and Willamnagar in Meghalaya, Saiha in Mizoram, Mon and Tuensang in Nagaland.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that no request from State Governments have been received for setting up of Community Radio Station.

Spying Cases

588. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air Force Personnel have been found involved in spying for Pakistan?

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last three months; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against them?

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

(b) One.

(c) One airman has been arrested and is in judicial custody. The case is under investigation by Delhi Police.

[English]

Expenditure on New Zones

589. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHRY:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has earmarked Rs.700 crores for creation of new railway zones;

(b) if so, whether many safety related works are pending due to financial crisis in railway;

(c) if so, the reasons for spending huge money on creation of new zones;

(d) whether the Railway Board in its note to the Cabinet recommended against the creation of new zones;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the former Chairman of Railway Board and Federation of Railway Officer's Associations have urged the Government to reconsider reorganisation of railway zones; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. However, the estimated cost of setting of the new zones is of the order of Rs. 620 crore to be incurred over a five year period, including Rs. 58 crore already incurred and Rs. 29.77 crore earmarked during the current year (i.e. 2002-03).

(b) To carryout the safety related works is an ongoing process on the Railways. Recently, a Special Rail Safety Fund to the tune of Rs. 17,000 crore has been set up to wipe out the arrears of renewal of vital safety assets.

(c) The objective of new zones is to improve efficiency of Railways as recommended by experts. Smaller organisations are more efficient. Looking to the large size of operation of Railways, even a small increase in efficiency will give rich dividends and will far outweigh the one time investments.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes, Sir. Representation from former Chair-

man, Federation of Railway Officers' Association (FROA) and others have been received.

(g) The Government does not agree with their views.

Flight Safety

590. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has taken a decision to improve flight safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Air Force has also decided to provide commercial flying licences from its training academies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always afoot in Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade 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 the technical defects of aircraft.

(c) and (d) Indian Air Force has introduced Commercial Pilot License and Flight Navigator License examinations to be conducted by Directorate General of Civil Aviation for trainees (pilots and navigators) during commissioning stage with effect from December, 2002.

Procurement of Submarines from France

591. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have struck a deal with France for purchasing Scorpene Submarines;

(b) whether the rate quoted by the French producers are much higher than the estimated cost of the indigenous production proposed in the Project 75;

(c) if so, the reasons for the above deal;

(d) whether the Government propose to build Amur and Scorpene class submarines with the collaboration of Russia or France; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal for outright purchase of Scorpene submarines.

(b) and (c) Project 75 envisages indigenous construction of the French designed submarine under transfer of technology and there is no quote for outright sale.

(d) and (e) Government has approved a 30 year perspective plan for indigenous construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine building. Under the plan two types of submarines are planned to be constructed. Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai has been identified as the yard to construct French designed Scorpene submarines after necessary approvals. With regard to proposal to build Amur submarines in collaboration with Russia, no decision has been taken.

Development of Regional and Small Newspapers

592. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop regional and small newspapers;

(b) if so, action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have taken note of harassment of small newspapers by the Registrar of Newspapers of India, New Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to issue directives and lay down time & guidelines for Registration of newspapers especially small newspapers published from backward desert area of Rajasthan to avoid delay and inconvenience;

(f) if so, details thereof; and

(g) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per the advertising policy, Government advertisements are not intended to be financial assistance to newspapers. The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) releases advertisements in newspapers as per publicity requirement and availability of funds. Efforts are being made to ensure release of at least 9 advertisements in a year to small and medium newspapers.

(c) to (g) The Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) follow the procedure prescribed in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 and the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rules, 1956 for verification and registration of titles of newspapers. Procedure for circulation check has also been prescribed by RNI. Some times, there is delay on account of non submission of required documents by the publisher for title verification/registration/circulation check. In case of application made with complete documentation, registration is completed, preferably, within 30 days.

[Translation]

Clearance to Power Generating Schemes

593. DR CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private and Government sector power generation schemes approved by the Union Government during 1999 to October, 2002, State-wise;

(b) the names of private power generation companies with whom MOUs has been signed during the aforesaid financial years and the amount deposited in this regard;

(c) the name of the States in which the power generation is to be started by private power generation companies;

(d) whether the power project work has been completed;

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay as a result of which the ambitious power projects remains in files, scheme-wise; and

(f) the persons found guilty for delay of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (c) The details of private and Government sector power generation schemes for which techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) was accorded by the central Electricity Authority (CEA) from 01.04.1999 to 31.10.2002 indicating, name of the schemes, capacity and States is given in statement-I attached.

(b) The MOU route for award of power projects to private sector companies has been curtailed after a cut-off date of 18.2.1995 prescribed by the Ministry of power (Government of India). Thus award of power projects to private companies after the cut-off date can only be made through the process of competitive bidding. However, certain categories of schemes where the MOU route is considered feasible, have been exempted from this stipulation. Generally, MOUs for setting up of power projects in the private sector are entered into between the respective State

Government/State Electricity Boards and the Independent power Producers (IPP). The Government of India has not entered into any MOU with any IPP during the period in Question.

(d) and (e) None of the private power projects accorded TEC by CEA during 1999 to October, 2002 have been completed. Status of these projects indicating the main reasons for delay is given in the statement-II enclosed.

(f) The primary responsibility for tying up the various clearances/inputs for achieving financial closure and undertaking construction work lies with the respective project developers. The Government of India has not conducted any kind of inquiry to identify the persons responsible for any delays.

Statement-I

Name of the Schemes / Capacity (MW)	Sector	State	Date of Clearance
1	2	3	4
1999-2000			
Hydro			
Myntdu (Leishke) St. I HEP (84 MW)	State Sector	Meghalaya	20.9.1999
Larji HEP (126 MW)	State Sector	Himachal Pradesh	14.01.2000
Maneri Bhali HEP St. II (304 MW)	State Sector	Uttaranchal	21.2.2000
Thermal			
Vemagiri CCPP (492 MW revised to 520 MW)	Private Sector	Andhra Pradesh	14.1.99
Gouripore TPP (150 MW)	Private Sector	West Bengal	19.4.99 (proposal dropped)
Ramagundam TPP St. III (500 MW)	Central Sector	Andhra Pradesh	29.04.1999
Duburi TPP (500 MW)	Private Sector	Orissa	29.4.99
Nagarjuna TPP (1015 MW)	Private Sector	Karnataka	29.4.99
Jamnagar Petcoke based TPP (500 MW)	Private Sector	Gujarat	24.5.99
Parli TPS Extn. St.-I (250 MW)	State Sector	Maharashtra	09.07.1999
Kariakal CCGT (32.5 MW)	State Sector	Pondicherry	12.7.99
Suratgarh TPS St. II (500 MW)	State Sector	Rajasthan	09.07.99
Cuddalore TPP (1320 MW)	Private Sector	Tamil Nadu	13.8.99

1	2	3	4
Mathania Integrated Solar CCPP (140 MW)	State Sector	Rajasthan	27.8.99
Akrimota TPS (250 MW)	State Sector	Gujarat	06.9.99
Kaniminke CCPP (107.6 MW)	Private Sector	Karnataka	20.09.99
Vembar CCPP (1873 MW)	Private Sector	Tamil Nadu	24.09.99
Rihand STPS St. II (1000 MW)	Central Sector	Uttar Pradesh	01.10.99
Sipat STPP - I (1980 MW)	Central Sector	Madhya Pradesh	17.01.2000
Pragati CCGT (330 MW)	Central Sector	Delhi	10.02.2000
Kannur CCGT (513 MW)	Private Sector	Kerala	16.02.2000
2000-01			
Hydro			
Srinagar HEP (330 MW)	Private Sector	Uttaranchal	14.06.2000
Bairabi Dam HEP (80 MW)	State Sector	Mizoram	09.11.2000
Parbati HEP St. II (800 MW)	Central Sector	Himachal Pradesh	03.01.2001
Balimela HEP Extn. Project Unit-7&8 (150 MW)	State Sector	Orissa	05.01.2001
Thermal			
Guru Hargobind TPP St-II (500 MW)	State Sector	Punjab	15.09.2000
Hazira CCPP (156 MW)	State Sector	Gujarat	22.09.2000
Raichur TPP Unit-7 (210 MW)	State Sector	Karnataka	31.01.2001
Ramgarh CCGT St. II (75.325 MW)	State Sector	Rajasthan	16.02.2001
Kovilkallappal CCPP (107.88 MW)	State Sector	Tamil Nadu	28.02.2001
2001-02			
Hydro			
Dhamwari Sunda HEP (70 MW)	Private Sector	Himachal Pradesh	06.07.2001
Almatti Dam Power House (290 MW)	State Sector	Karnataka	28.02.2002
Thermal			
Suratgarh TPS St. II (250 MW)	State Sector	Rajasthan	27.07.2001
Barh STPS (1980 MW)	Central Sector	Bihar	28.9.2001
Dhuvaran CCGT (106.617 MW)	State Sector	Gujarat	30.10.2001
Kahalgau STPS St. II (1320 MW)	Central Sector	Bihar	27.11.2001

1	2	3	4
Monarchak Gas Based CCGT (500 MW)	Central Sector	Tripura	19.2.2002
Mejia TPS Extn. Unit IV (210 MW)	Central Sector	West Bengal	21.3.2002
2002-03			
Hydro			
Kol Dam HEP (800 MW)	Central Sector	Himachal Pradesh	30.06.2002
Allain Duhangan HEP (192 MW)	Private Sector	Himachal Pradesh	20.08.2002
Uhl. St. III (100 MW)	State Sector	Himachal Pradesh	19.9.2002
Thermal			
Kota TPS U-6 (St. IV) (195 MW)	State Sector	Rajasthan	23.5.2002
Bakreshwar TPS Extn. Unit 4&5 (420 MW)	State Sector	West Bengal	31.5.2002
Valuthur (Perungulam) CCGT (94 WM)	State Sector	Tamil Nadu	02.08.2002
Tau Devi Lal TPS Unit-7&8 St. V (500 MW)	State Sector	Haryana	08.08.2002
Neyveli TPS II Expansion (500 MW)	Central Sector	Tamil Nadu	19.08.2002
Vindhyachal STPS St. III (1000 MW)	Central Sector	Madhya Pradesh	27.8.2002
Sipat STPS St. II (660 MW)	Central Sector	Chhattisgarh	29.8.2002

Statement-II

Private Power Projects cleared by Union Govt./State Govt. during 1999 Oct. 2002

Name of the Project/ Capacity (MW)	State	Commissioning Schedule	Remarks/ reasons for delay
1	2	3	4
Thermal			
Jamnagar Petcoke based TPP (500 MW)	Gujarat	39 months from FC	Non-achievement of FC
Nagarjuna TPP (1015 MW)	Karnataka	39 months from FC	Approval of PPA by Govt. of Karnataka yet to be achieved. FC not yet achieved.
Kaniminika CCGT (107.6 MW)	Karnataka	17 months from FC	Escrow agreement/ Payment security arrangement not yet achieved.
Kannur CCGT (513 MW)	Kerala	25 months from FC	Non achievement of Escrow cover and FC

1	2	3	4
Vembar CCPP (1873 MW)	Tamil Nadu	38 months from FC for first module and balance module at an interval of 3 months	i) TN is unable to absorb the entire power. ii) Non achievement of FC
Cuddalore TPS (1320 MW)	Tamil Nadu	44 months from FC	i) TN is unable to absorb the entire power. ii) No achievement of FC
Vemagiri CCPP (492 MW revised to 520 MW)	Andhra Pradesh	24 months from FC	i) obtaining of revised TEC due to revision in capacity from 492 MW to 520 MW. ii) Non achievement of FC
IB valley St. II (500 MW)	Orissa	36 months from FC	i) Escrow agreement between GRIDCO and AES Company has not been signed so far. Final draft of Escrow agreement is lying with Grid Corporation of Orissa for signing. ii) Technical bid evaluation of EPC contract has already been done. Financial bid will be called after receiving counter guarantee from Govt. of India. Counter guarantee has not so far been issue.
Duburi TPS (500 MW)	Orissa	36 months from FC	FC not achieved due to non issuance of Govt. or Orissa's Guarantee.
Hydro			
Srinagar (330 MW)	Uttanchal	11th Plan	FC awaited
Dhamwari Sunda (70 MW)	Himachal Pradesh	2006-07	FC awaited
Allain Duhangan (192 MW)	Himachal Pradesh	2008-09	FC awaited
Gouripore TPP (150 MW)	West Bengal	-	State Government has decided not to pursue the project through Private Sector.

Power Generating Projects Under Construction

594. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many power generating projects in Government and non-Government sectors are under construction;

(b) if so, the details of the Power Generation Projects which are based on Thermal Hydro-electric and Petroleum products, State-wise;

(c) the generation capacity of each of the projects;

(d) whether the Government have estimated per megawatt cost of power generation of each of the projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. There are many power generating projects in Government and Non-Government sectors under construction. A statement showing fuel-wise, state-wise and cost per MW wise details in respect of these projects is enclosed.

Statement**A. Thermal Power Project Under Construction**

Sl.No.	Name of Projects	State	Capacity (MW)	Executing Agency	Est. Cost (Cr.)	Cost/MW (Cr.)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Central Sector							
Coal Based							
1.	Rihand STPP St.-II	U.P.	1000	NTPC	4028.03	4.03	
2.	Ramagundam TPP St.-III	Andhra Pradesh	500	NTPC	2128.61	4.26	
3.	Talcher STPP St.-II	Orissa	2000	NTPC	6854.99	3.43	
4.	Neyveli TPS-I	Tamil Nadu	420	NLC	1590.58	3.79	U-1 Syn. On 21.10.02
5.	Mejia TPS Extn.	W.B.	210	DVC	797.82	3.80	
State Sector							
Coal Based							
1.	Suratgarh St. III	Rajasthan	250	RRVUNL	752.738	3.01	
2.	Kota TPS St.-IV	Rajasthan	195	PRVUNL	634.78	3.25	
3.	Akrimota Lignite Based TPP	Gujarat	250	GMDCL	1338.42	5.35	
4.	Raichur TPP	Karnataka	210	KPCL	613.00	2.92	
Gas Based							
1.	Pragati CCPP	Delhi	330	PPCL	1077.30	3.26	GT-1 syn. On 5.03.02 GT-2 syn. On 9.11.02
2.	Baramura GT Extn.	Tripura	21	Govt. of Tripura	95.36	4.54	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Valuthur GTPP	Tamil Nadu	94	TNEB	301.36	3.21	
4.	Ramgarh St. II CCGT	Rajasthan	75.325	RRVUNL	280.00	3.72	GT-2 syn. On 07.08.02
5.	Dhuvaran CCGP	Gujarat	106.617	GSECL	310.06	2.91	
6.	Kuttalam GTPP	Tamil Nadu	101	TNEB	288.75	2.86	

Liquid fuel Based

1.	HFO Based DGPP at Bariabi	Mizoram	22.92	Govt. of Mizoram	87.73	3.83	
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Private Sector**Coal Based**

1.	Ramagundam TPP	Andhra Pradesh	520	BPL Power Projects Ltd.	2389.06	4.59	
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Gas Based

1.	Dabhol (Ph-II)	Maharashtra	1444	DPCo.	6538.00	4.53	
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Liquid Based

1.	Bambooflat DG U 1-4	Andaman & Nicobar	20	M/s Suryachakra Power Corp. Ltd.	63.14	3.16	U-2 & 4 syn. in 06/02
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B. Hydro Power Projects under Construction

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	State	Capacity (MW)	Comm. Sch. Latest	Latest Cost (Rs. Crore)	Cost/MW (Rs. Crore)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Dhauliganga (NHPC)	Uttaranchal	280.00	2004-05	1578.31	5.64	
2.	Chamera St. II (NHPC)	H.P.	300.00	2004-05	1684.02	5.61	
3.	Dulhasti (NHPC)	J&K	390.00	2003-04	3559.77	9.13	
4.	Pirulia PSS (NHPC)	W.B.	900.00	2006-07	3188.90	3.54	Joint Venture
5.	Teesta St. V (NHPC)	Sikkim	510.00	2006-07	2198.04	4.31	
6.	Loktak D/S (NHPC)	Manipur	90.00	2008-09	578.62	6.43	Works held up
7.	Parbati St. II (NHPC)	H.P.	800.00	2009-10	3919.59	4.90	
8.	Indira Sagar (NHDC)	M.P.	1000.00	2004-06	3527.54	3.53	Joint Venture

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Naptha Jhakri (NJPC)	H.P.	1500.00	2003-04	7666.31	5.11	
10.	Tehri St. I (THDC)	Uttaranchal	1000.00	2002-04	5690.64	5.69	
11.	Koteshwar (THDC)	Uttaranchal	400.00	2005-06	1301.56	3.25	
12.	Tuirial (NEEPCO)	Mizoram	60.00	2006-07	448.19	7.47	
13.	Kopili St. II (NEEPCO)	Assam	25.00	2003-04	99.35	3.97	
14.	Kol Dam (NTPC)	H.P.	800.00	2008-10	4492.77	5.62	
	Total (Central Sector):		8055.00				
State Sector							
15	Bagliahar	J&K	450.00	2004.05	3810.00	8.47	
16	Larji	H.P.	126.00	2004-05	908.64	7.21	
17	Maneri Bhali-II	Uttaranchal	304.00	2005-06	1249.18	4.11	
18	Lakhwar Vyasi	Uttaranchal	420.00	11th Plan	1446.00	3.44	Works held up
19	Sardar Sarovar	Guj/MP/Mah.	1450.00	2002-07	3267.25	2.25	
20	Madhikheda	M.P.	40.00	2004-05	169.17	4.23	
21	Bansagar Tons PH IV	M.P.	20.00	2004-05	84.97	4.25	
22	Ghatghar PSS	Mah.	250.00	2004-05	1184.60	4.74	
23	Priyadarshni Jurala	A.P.	235.00	2006-07 (Two Units) & four Units in 11th Plan	547.00	2.33	
24	Srisaillam LBPH	A.P.	900.00	2000-04	2482.00	2.76	U-1 to 3 Commissioned
25	Almatti Dam	Ktk.	290.00	2004-06	674.38	2.33	
26	Pykara Ultimate	T.N.	150.00	2003-04	373.06	2.49	
27	Bhawani Barrage I to III	T.N.	90.00	2004-05	241.82	2.69	Inter-state problem
28	Balimela Extn.	Orissa	150.00	2005-07	200.09	1.33	
29	Balimela Dam Toe PH	Orissa	60.00	11th Plan	69.30	1.16	Works held up
30	Karbi Langpi (Lower orpani)	Assam	100.00	2004-05	267.27	2.67	
31	Myntdu	Meghalaya	84.00	2006-07	363.08	4.32	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Private Sector							
32	Baspa St. II	H.P.	300.00	2003-04	949.23	3.16	Likely to be commissioned in 2002-03
33	Dhamwari Sunda	H.P.	70.00	2006-07	439.96	6.29	
34	Vishnu Prayag	U.P.	400.00	2006-07	1614.66	4.04	
35	Maheshwar	M.P.	400.00	2005-07	1673.00	4.18	
Total (All India):			14344.00				
Hydro Capacity already spun/Commissioned out of above.			550.00				
Net Hydro Capacity under execution:			13794.00				

U= Unit, GT= Gas Turbine

[English]

Setting up of Thermal Power Projects in Assam

595. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal for setting up of a Thermal Power Project at Margherita, Assam;

(b) if so, whether land for construction of Thermal Power Project has been acquired to some extent;

(c) the progress made in this regard so far; and

(d) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYWANTI MEHTA): (a) No proposal for setting up of a Thermal Power Project at Margherita in Assam has been received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Encroachment on Railway Land

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that a vast chunk of Railway land has been occupied by the encroachers;

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

(c) whether encroachments on Railway land on different Zonal Railways is now being monitored on a monthly basis in Board's Office;

(d) whether joint procedure orders for effective co-ordination between different departments for prevention, detection and removal of encroachments and making Inspector-Incharge personally accountable for additional encroachments, have yielded any effective results;

(e) whether his Ministry has urged the Urban Development Ministry to grant enhanced powers to the Estate Officer by amending PPE Act, 1971; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Approximately 2218 hectare of Railway land are under encroachments. State-wise details are not maintained. Railway zone-wise details (as on 30.9.02) are as given below:

Zone	Area under encroachments (Hectare)
1	2
Central	130
Eastern	125

1	2
Northern	1213
North-Eastern	62
Northeast Frontier	230
Southern	77
South Central	50
South Eastern	256
Western	75
Total	2218

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Amendments have been proposed to Sections 5, 7, 8, 11 and 16 of the PPE Act, 1971 to the effect that (i) orders of the Estate Officer (E.O.) be deemed as decree of Civil Court. (ii) non-compliance of E.O.'s orders should invite financial penalty, and action for contempt of Court, and (iii) E.O. should have the power to issue injunction/ interim orders during pendency of a case: and to issue directions for attachment of encroachers's property.

[Translation]

Mashalkar Committee Report on Auto Fuel

597. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mashalkar Committee constituted for review of Auto Fuel Policy has in its report protested against the use of gas fuels such as LPG and CNG in transport sector and cautioned the Government over excess dependence over such fuels;

(b) if so, whether the committee has stressed the liquid fuels of specific qualities as those main auto fuels in the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government has considered the report of Mashalkar Committee; and

(d) if so, the full 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) No, Sir.

The Mashelkar Committee has made the following recommendation:-

"The twin objectives of providing assured supply of auto fuels at minimal costs and meeting the environmental concerns should be achieved by making available:

- (i) liquid fuels of the specified quality as main auto fuels throughout the country; and
- (ii) alternative auto fuels, along with liquid auto fuels, in cities having high vehicular pollution to enable the vehicle owners to meet the prescribed emission norms in such cities by choosing appropriate combination of fuel and engine technology".

(c) and (d) The Report of the Mashelkar Committee was received by the Government on 25th September, 2002. The Government invited suggestions on the recommendations from all concerned by 31st October, 2002. No final decision on the recommendations of the Committee has been taken as yet.

Import of NCES Machines

598. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the value of machines relating to non-conventional energy sources between 1st January, 1999 to 31st October, 2002;

(b) the names and addresses of different institutions which imported the said machines;

(c) the details of the concessions being given by the Government to import these machines;

(d) whether such type of machines manufactured by Indian manufacturers are available at cheaper rates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken to use these machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Machinery and equipment of a total-value of about Rs. 62 crores was imported on concessional terms to set up small hydro power and bagasse cogeneration projects, during 1st January, 1999 to 31st October, 2002. Details of various institutions that have imported these machines/ equipment are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) The details of customs duty concessions provided by the Government during are given in statement-II enclosed.

(d) and (e) The machines and the equipment were imported for commercial projects taken up supported by international funding through private investment. In a free and competitive market, it is for the promoters of commercial projects to judge and assess the quality and performance of these machines keeping in view their comparative prices.

Statement-I

Details of institutions that have imported machines/equipment

S.No.	Details of the Institutions
1.	M/s. Kakatiya Cement & Sugar Industries Ltd, Khamman District, Andhra Pradesh.
2.	M/s. Gayatri Sugar Complex Ltd., Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh
3.	M/s Jamkhandi Sugars Ltd., Bagalkot District, Karnataka
4.	M/s Sagar Sugars & Allied Products Ltd., Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu
5.	M/s Auro Energy Ltd., Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu
6.	M/s Supreme Renewable Energy Ltd., Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu
7.	M/s GMR Technologies & Industries Ltd., Srikakulam District, Andhr Pradesh,
8.	M/s Boving Fouress Ltd., Bangalore
9.	M/s HPP Energy (India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
10.	M/s Jyoti Ltd., Vadodara
11.	M/s Triveni Engineering & Industries Ltd., New Delhi.
12.	UNDP-GEF Hilly Hydro Project, MNES, New Delhi.
13.	M/s Alternate Hydro Energy Centre, IIT Roorkee, Roorkee

Statement-II

Details of customs duty concessions provided by the Government

Item	Basic Duty	Total Duty
1	2	3
Goods imported by manufacturers for manufacture & supply of machinery for power plant (other than captive)	5%	26.67%
Captive power plants	25%	50.8%

1	2	3
Power generation projects (excluding captive plants)	5%	26.67%
Other projects	25%	50.8%

[English]

Encroachment of Defence Land

599. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal encroachments have taken 9000 acres of the defence land in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with area of land, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to take back the encroached land from the occupants;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to dispose off any surplus land out of the 17,00,000 acres of defence land spread over 82 cantonments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Approximately, an area of 10617 acres of Defence land is under encroachment. Exact details of the encroachment, State-wise, are being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Directions have been issued to Director General Defence Estates and Service Hqrs. to take action for removal of encroachments under the provisions of Cantonment Act, 1924 and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act 1971. Some of the encroachments are under litigation and hence their removal is subject to Court orders.

(d) No, Sir. The extant Defence land Policy does not provide for declaring any defence land as surplus.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

[Translation]

**Announcement of Elections to Legislative
Assembly in Gujarat**

600. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Election Commission has
announced the dates for elections to Legislative Assembly
of Gujarat and other States and bye-elections to Lok Sabha
after assessing the situation;

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

(c) the steps being taken or likely to be taken to
hold peaceful, free and fair elections?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K.
JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Election
Commission has announced the schedule for the General
Elections to the Gujarat Legislative Assembly as per which
these elections are scheduled to be held on 12th December,
2002. The Commission has also announced the schedule
of three bye-elections to Lok Sabha from Gujarat, Jharkhand
and Uttaranchal and five bye-elections to the State
Legislative Assemblies, one each from Arunachal Pradesh
and Assam and three from Rajasthan. The schedule for
these bye-elections is the same as that for General Elections
to the Gujarat Legislative Assembly.

(c) The Election Commission has informed that
it is taking all steps to ensure free and fair elections to the
Gujarat Legislative Assembly and bye-elections. It has
decided to depute Observers to oversee the elections. It
has asked the Central Government for deployment of
paramilitary forces in adequate strength in the State of
Gujarat to ensure smooth elections. It has directed the
Gujarat Government to take necessary steps for holding the
elections in a peaceful and smooth manner. It has also
decided to take the following steps for the poll to the Gujarat
Legislative Assembly:-

(i) One day poll for the entire State.

(ii) Use of Electronic Voting Machines in the
conduct of poll in all the constituencies.

(iii) Identification of voters through Electors' Photo
Identity Cards and other modes to ensure proper poll
process in the State.

Recruitment in Defence Forces

601. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to
state:

(a) the details of the recruitment made from each
State including from tribal areas for all the three wings of
the defence forces during each of the last three years, till
date, State-wise;

(b) the number of recruitment centres in the
country especially in tribal areas as on date, State and
location-wise;

(c) the names of the recruitment centres from
where the recruitment was made especially in the tribal
areas of the country during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to
increase the recruitment in the country particularly in
Maharashtra, Orissa and Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE
FERNANDES): (a) The number of recruitments made from
each State in Army and Navy is given in statement-I and II
enclosed. In the Indian Air Force State-wise data of
recruitment is not maintained. Total recruitment in each of
the last three years in Air Force is as under:-

Year	No. of persons recruited
2000	1871
2001	4019
2002	3026

(b) and (c) The recruitment centres/offices of Army,
Navy and Air Force is given in the Statement-III enclosed.

(d) Wide publicity is being given to the
recruitment programmes to attract the youth to the Defence
Services. In Navy and Air Force recruitment is done on All
India merit basis, as such particular steps to increase intake
from Bihar, Orissa or Maharashtra has not been felt
necessary. In Army the intake from Maharashtra and Orissa
has been satisfactory. In Bihar a large number of Army
recruitment rallies have been held and planned for the rest
of the year.

Statement-I*Recruitment made in Army during last three years.*

Sl.No.	State/UT	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman Nicobar (UT)	25	14	49
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2292	3663	6614
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	54	149	191
4.	Assam	743	1225	1555
5.	Bihar	2558	3684	5105
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	9	6	11
7.	Chhattisgarh	-	407	1030
8.	Dadar Nagar Haveli	-	0	0
9.	Daman & Diu	-	0	0
10.	Delhi	311	410	1210
11.	Goa (UT)	38	12	140
12.	Gujarat	787	1034	1899
13.	Haryana	2186	3328	3922
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2242	3201	2747
15.	J&K	2963	3989	3638
16.	Jharkhand	-	749	1574
17.	Karnataka	1756	2755	3994
18.	Kerala	1141	2266	3037
19.	Lakshadweep (UT)	4	15	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1966	3244	4084
21.	Maharashtra	3211	6079	7998
22.	Manipur	211	397	644
23.	Meghalaya	59	88	120
24.	Mizoram	114	222	296
25.	Nagaland	199	236	578

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Orissa	584	1562	1929
27.	Pondicherry (UT)	-	7	6
28.	Punjab	5855	7840	6995
29.	Rajasthan	3870	5443	6595
30.	Sikkim	7	19	62
31.	Tamil Nadu	2069	3598	5462
32.	Tripura	54	149	157
33.	Uttar Pradesh	8631	9717	12562
34.	Uttaranchal	-	4023	5966
35.	West Bengal	1558	3449	4760
Total		45497	72980	94930
Note:	Persons recruited from Nepal in Indian Army	1244	2135	1880
Grand Total		46741	75115	96810

Statement-II

Recruitment made in Navy during last three years.

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000	2001	2002 (Half year)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	323	269	132
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	03	01	01
3.	Assam	63	19	16
4.	Bihar	779	490	446
5.	Gujarat	05	16	02
6.	Haryana	274	296	149
7.	Himachal Pradesh	48	71	16
8.	J&K	33	26	23
9.	Karnataka	27	16	00
10.	Kerala	176	213	58

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Goa	09	06	04
12.	Madhya Pradesh	82	51	14
13.	Maharashtra	59	77	23
14.	Manipur	12	08	07
15.	Meghalaya	06	03	02
16.	Nagaland	-	02	00
17.	Mizoram	01	04	00
18.	Tripura	01	00	00
19.	Orissa	165	219	97
20.	Punjab	39	59	33
21.	Rajasthan	91	128	112
22.	West Bengal	294	256	63
23.	Uttar Pradesh	896	693	279
24.	Tamil Nadu	80	67	07
25.	Delhi	66	59	27
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	05	05	00
27.	Chandigarh	05	13	00
28.	Daman & Diu	-	00	00
29.	Lakshadweep Islands	-	00	00
30.	Pondicherry	04	01	01
31.	Chhattisgarh	00	13	05
32.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	00	00	00
33.	Sikkim	00	00	00
34.	Jharkhand	00	35	34
35.	Uttaranchal	00	37	47
Total		3544	3153	1598

Statement-III*Recruitment Centres of Armed Forces State-wise*

Name of State	Army	Navy	Air Force
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Secunderabad Guntur Vishakhapatnam	Vishakhapatnam	Secunderabad
Arunachal Pradesh			
Assam	Jorhat Silchar Narangi	Guwahati	Guwahati
Bihar	Danapur Muzaffarpur Gaya Katihar	Muzaffarpur Bihata Gaya	Patna
Gujarat	Ahmedabad Jamnagar	Jamnagar	
Haryana	Ambala Rohtak Hissar Charkhi Dadri	Ambala	Ambala
Himachal Pradesh	Palampur Hamirpur Shimla Mandi	Shimla	
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu Srinagar	Jammu Srinagar Leh	
Karnataka	Bangalore Mangalore Belgaum	Bangalore Karwar	Bangalore
Kerala	Trivandrum Kalicut	Kochchi	Cochin
Goa		Vasko da gamma	
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur Gwalior	Jabalpur	

1	2	3	4
	Mhow		
	Bhopal		
Maharashtra	Pune	Mumbai	Mumbai
	Mumbai	Lonawala	
	Nagpur		
	Kolhapur		
	Aurangabad		
Manipur			
Meghalaya	Shillong	Shillong	
Nagaland	Ranga Pahar	Kohima	
		Dimapur	
Mizoram		Aizawl	
Tripura			
Orissa	Cuttack	Chilka	Bhubaneswar
	Sambhalpur		
	Gopalpur Cantt		
Punjab	Jalandhar	Jalandhar	
	Amritsar		
	Ferozpur		
	Patiyala		
	Ludhiyana		
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Jodhpur	Jodhpur
	Alwar		
	Jhunjhunu		
	Jodhpur		
	Kota		
West Bengal	Kolkata	Kolkata	Barrackpore
	Siliguri		
	Kanchrapara		
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Dehradun	Kanpur
	Meerut	Kanpur	
	Bareilly		
	Agra		
	Varanasi		
	Amethi		

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Chennai	Chennai
	Trichirapalli	Coimbatore	
	Coimbatore		
Delhi	New Delhi	New Delhi	New Delhi
Andaman & Nicobar			
Chandigarh			
Daman & Diu			
Lakshadweep			
Pondicherry			
Chhattisgarh	Raipur		
Dadra Nagar Haveli			
Sikkim		Gangtok	
		Namchi	
Jharkhand	Ranchi		
Uttaranchal	Lancedowne	Dehradun	
	Almora		
	Pithoragarh		

*[English]***Increase in Prices of LPG and Kerosene**

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

- (a) whether the oil companies have asked the Government to increase the prices of LPG and Kerosene;
- (b) if so, the justification given by them; and
- (c) the response 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) and (b) In view of the increase in the international prices of LPG and Kerosene post March 2002, the oil companies are of the opinion that the consumer prices of domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene needs to be increased.

- (c) The Government is yet to fix the flat rates of subsidy on domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene. Once the

subsidy rates are finalised, the consumer prices of these products would be fixed by the oil companies in line with the prices in the international oil market.

*[Translation]***Rail Bridge on River Pandu on Delhi-Howrah Line**

603. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that a 40 metre long bridge on river Pandu between Karbigwan and Aung stations near Fatehpur, V.P. on Delhi-Howrah railway line constructed during the British era is in a dilapidated condition;

- (b) if so, whether the construction branch of the Railways had submitted its recommendations for re-constructing this bridge about 11 years ago but it is yet to be sanctioned;

- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

- (d) the time by which the construction work of this bridge is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The bridge is not in a dilapidated condition but had developed some signs of distress and, therefore, has been included in the list of distressed bridges as per norms. There was no proposal for its re-building 11 years ago. The bridge has been sanctioned for re-building, and the work is targeted to be completed by Dec. 2003.

[English]

Clearance for Vallarpadam Container Terminal Project

604. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the requisite clearance for the Vallarpadam container terminal project was sought from the Indian Navy long before;

(b) if so, the details and reasons for delay in granting the clearance to the said project; and

(c) the time by which the clearance is likely to be given?

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

On March 22, 2002, the clearance was sought for installation of cranes of 120 metre height at the Project site.

The Navy has raised some objections for installation of high cranes at the Vallarpadam Container Terminal Project (VCTP) on the ground that this will be an obstacle in landing/take-off of the Naval aircrafts at the Naval Airport. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) requirements for obstacles clearance also do not permit positioning of high cranes in the proposed area. The matter is still under examination.

[Translation]

Dealerships of Kerosene

605. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to open kerosene dealerships in all the block headquarters of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) After the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1.4.2002, the oil companies are free to choose locations and set up SKO-LDO dealerships depending upon economic viability.

[English]

Supply of Naphtha to Power Plants

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

(a) whether his Ministry has agreed to make available Naphtha at concessional rates to power plants for production of electricity as requested by the Ministry of Power to it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

(c) Naphtha is a decontrolled product and the oil companies are free to fix the prices of this product on commercial considerations.

Power Purchased by India from Nepal

607. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has offered to sell electricity to power-starved northern Indian States;

(b) if so, whether the Government has accepted this offer;

(c) if so, whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

POWER (SHRIMATI JAYWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The power exchange between India and Nepal, at present, is of the order of about 100 MW with Nepal as net importer of power from India. However, with the commissioning of the Kaligandaki project (144 MW), Nepal has offered to sell some surplus power to India. The Power Trading Corporation which has been appointed as nodal agency on Indian side is interacting with the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) to explore the possibility of purchase of surplus power on mutually acceptable terms.

Integrated Defence Acquisition Council

608. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to go in for an Integrated Defence Acquisition Council for military procurement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the council is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have set up a Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Raksha Mantri, with senior level representation of all Departments and Service Headquarters of the Ministry. DAC accords "in principle" approvals to capital acquisitions under the long-term perspective plan and five year plans. It also monitors the progress of major projects.

(c) The Defence Acquisition Council is functional.

[Translation]

Multi-Prolonged Strategy for Power Distribution

609. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that a multiprolonged strategy is required in the field of power distribution;

(b) if so, the details of this multiprolonged strategy; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Power has initiated large-scale reforms in the power sector. Under the reforms programme, the Ministry of Power has launched the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the year 2000-01 as an important step towards reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses and restoring commercial viability of the power sector. Distribution reforms is expected to bring out the desired changes in the performance of the State Electricity Boards through the adoption of best technical and commercial practices in the operation and management of distribution circles.

Under the APDRP, the Ministry of Power has formulated a six level intervention strategy for distribution reforms at National, State, SEB, Distribution Circle, Feeder & consumers levels to ensure accountability, deliverability and performance at all level.

- **National level interventions.**

The national level intervention include providing for a legal framework for ushering distribution reforms like enabling local institutions to manage distribution, third party sale, remote metering, removal of cross subsidies, penal provision for thefts etc.

- **State level interventions.**

The States are being asked to sign the MOUs with the Ministry of Power to set up SERCs, restructure SEBs, remove cross subsidies and tariff anomalies, provide budgetary support to SEBs towards subsidies, introduce privatisation etc. So far 24 States have signed MOUs with the Ministry of Power, 21 States have constituted SERCs, 12 State Regulatory Commissions have issued tariff orders and 9 States have unbundled SEBs.

- **SEB level intervention.**

The State Electricity Boards are being insisted upon to sign an MOA with the Ministry of Power to carry out distribution reforms. This would lead to increased accountability, introduction of commercial accounting, setting up of online management information systems, reduction of T&D losses, introduction of bench marking of crucial parameters that cover consumer satisfaction and system stability. Till now 18 States have signed the MOA and others are expected to sign shortly.

- **Distribution Circle level intervention.**

At this level, the technical commercial and

administrative interventions for reducing outages improving reliability, reducing technical and commercial losses are envisaged. The Superintending Engineer will be the Chief Executive Officer of the distribution circle. Each circle will work as an independent profit centre.

• **Feeder level intervention**

11 KV Feeders will be operated as business units that will be accountable for quality of power and reliability, metering, billing and collection. IT applications covering remote metering at feeder and distribution transformer levels will be the mainstay for monitoring and collection. Replacement of conductors and energy efficient distribution transformers, metering of feeders and distribution transformers reducing HT/LT ratio, segregation of technical and commercial losses etc. are envisaged.

• **Consumer level intervention.**

Mandatory metering with digital interface for all consumers, prepaid metering, incentives for energy efficiency are envisaged here.

With the implementation of the multi-pronged strategy, the distribution sector is expected to turn around within the next three to five years.

[English]

Development of Auto Industries

610. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued guidelines to the Auto Industry to popularize the 'Made in India' brand globally and strengthen development activities in their enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the auto industry has demanded for upgradation of existing testing facilities;

(d) if so, whether the Government have approved several projects in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith cost of projects and funds released for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) No such guidelines have been issued by the Government. However the Government have been encouraging strengthening of 'Made in India' brand globally, through the Indian Auto Industry which fully delicensed and is now operating in a WTO compatible environment.

(c) to (e) The Government at their own initiative realized the need for upgradation and modernization of the existing testing facilities. Based on a comprehensive proposal of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), a blueprint for major upgradation of testing facilities at an estimated cost of Rs.1480 crores has been accorded 'in principle' approval by the Government. Since the investment involved is very large, Government are exploring the possibilities of arranging institutional funding.

[Translation]

Payment of Pending Amount of Police Force, M.P.

611. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the time by which the payment of the pending amount of Rs 20.44 crore to Madhya Pradesh Government as on October 31, 2001 with regard to 50 percent contribution of the expenditure on State Police Force working under the Ministry of Railways being borne by the Ministry would be made to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): An amount of Rs. 12.62 crores only was payable to Madhya Pradesh Government as on 31.10.2001 on this account. There was a further accretion of Rs. 7.18 crores up to 31-10-2002. The Railways paid an amount of Rs. 11.51 crores during this period. Thus outstanding dues as on 31.10.2002 is Rs. 8.29 crores. Out of the above, an amount of Rs. 2.05 crores is outstanding on account of non-receipt of AG's certificates and Rs. 3.8 crores on account of operation of unsanctioned posts by Government of Madhya Pradesh. An amount of Rs. 2.43 crores is presently under dispute. Railways have standing instructions to settle all clearly admissible GRP claims on receipt of AG's certificates.

Pending Power Projects

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

(a) the number of centrally sponsored power projects pending in the country along with the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(b) the details of amount likely to be spent on these projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) There is no centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Power at present. However, details of power projects under construction in Central Sector in the country is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Power projects under construction in the Central Sector in the Country as on 31st October, 2002.

Sl.No.	Name of Projects	State	Capacity (MW)	Est. cost (Cr.)	Remarks
Central Sector					
Thermal					
1.	Rihand STPP St-II NTPC	U.P.	1000	4028.03	
2.	Ramagundem TPP St-III NTPC	Andhra Pradesh	500	2128.61	
3.	Talcher STPP St-II NTPC	Orissa	2000	6854.99	
4.	Neyveli TPS-I NLC	Tamil Nadu	420	1590.58	U-I syn. On 21.10.02
5.	Mejia TPS Extn. DVC	W.B.	210	797.82	
Hydro					
1	Dhauliganga (NHPC)	Uttaranchal	280	1578.31	
2	Chamera St. II (NHPC)	H.P.	300	1684.02	
3	Dulhasti (NHPC)	J&K	390	3559.77	
4	Teesta St. V (NHPC)	Sikkim	510	2198.04	
5	Loktak D/S (NHPC)	Manipur	90	578.62	Works held up
6	Parbati St. II (NHPC)	H.P.	800	3919.59	
7	Indira Sagar (NHDC)	M.P.	1000	3527.54	Joint Venture
8	Nathpa Jhakri (NJPC)	H.P.	1500	7666.31	Joint Venture
9	Tehri St. I (THDC)	Uttaranchal	1000	5690.64	Joint Venture
10	Koteshwar (THDC)	Uttaranchal	400	1301.56	Joint Venture
11	Tuirial (NEEPCO)	Mizoram	60	448.19	
12	Kopili St.II (NEEPCO)	Assam	25	99.35	
13	Kol Dam (NTPC)	H.P.	800	4492.77	
Total			11285		

Soldiers killed in attack by Pakistan

613. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is frequent firing by Pakistan on International Border and LOC;

(b) the names of the places and number of skirmishes taken place since June 1, 2002;

(c) the number of casualties of Indian soldiers in the attacks by Pakistan Army and Terrorists since June 1, 2002;

(d) the compensations paid to each of the dependent of deceased soldiers; and

(e) the number of enemy soldiers and terrorists killed by the Indian Forces during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Frequent exchange of firing along the Line of Control and the International Border is a regular phenomenon. This had intensified during June/July after the Kaluchak incident, but has reduced since August 2002.

Firing has been more pronounced in the Siachen, Kargil, Dras, Punch, Rajouri and Jammu Sectors of Jammu & Kashmir over the last five months.

(c) As per the latest records of Army Head Quarters, from June 1, 2002 to November 13, 2002, 163 Indian soldiers have been killed in the attacks by Pakistan Army and terrorists.

(d) Compensation is paid to the next of the kin as per a comprehensive welfare package.

(e) From 1st June to 17th November 2002, Indian Army has killed 488 Pakistan soldiers and 72 terrorists.

[English]

Poor Litigation of Under Trails

614. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading experts have expressed concern at the plight of poor litigation of under trials who have been languishing in various jails across the country for want of bails;

(b) if so, whether the National Human Rights Commission has reported that about 2.90 lakh prisoners

constituting 74.18 per cent of jail inmates are under trials;

(c) if so, whether the Chief Justice of Supreme Court has pointed that for speedy trials of undertrials even after delegating criminal cases to all benches there is urgent need to appoint some more judges at all levels of judiciary;

(d) if so, the steps taken, or being taken by Government in this regard;

(e) whether Government propose to amend criminal laws in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) The problem of undertrials languishing in jails has drawn the attention of the Government, the Judiciary and other authorities like the National Human Rights Commission etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Supreme Court in the case of R.D. Upadhyay has been periodically urging the States to take necessary action on the problems of the undertrials. In the case of All India Judges Association case the Supreme Court on 21st March 2002 has observed:

"The increase in the judge strength to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented with the filling up of the posts in a phased manner to be determined and directed by the Union Ministry of Law, but this process should be completed and the increased vacancies and posts filled within a period of five years from today."

(d) Both the Government and judiciary are concerned with the problem of undertrials languishing in jails. Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has suggested to all the Chief Justices of High Courts that in every District the Chief Judicial Magistrates, or Chief Metropolitan Magistrates, as the case may be, should hold their Courts in the respective jails once or twice in a month to take up the cases of those undertrial prisoners who are petty offenders and may be willing to confess their guilt. The Central Government has also requested the State Governments and UT Administrations to take necessary measures for mitigating the hardships faced by the undertrials.

(e) and (f) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill - 1994 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on

9th May 1994 inter alia proposes to amend section 436(i) to make a mandatory provision that if the arrested person is accused of a bailable offence and if he is an indigent person and cannot furnish surety, the Court shall release him on his execution of a bond without sureties.

[Translation]

Rail Line between Hazipur-Vaishali-Sugouli

615. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether a survey has been conducted to construct new rail line from Hazipur-Vaishali-Sugouli to bridge the gap in Budhist circuit through rail route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the project; and

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

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

(b) As per the updated survey report, cost of construction of this 148 km. long line from Hajipur to Sagauli via Vaishali has been assessed as Rs. 324.66 cr. with a negative rate of return.

(c) The proposal is under process for necessary approvals.

(d) The work would be taken up after obtaining necessary approval and inclusion of the work in the Budget.

[English]

Kaliabhomora Bridge

616. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kaliabhomora Bridge constructed over Brahmaputra near Tezpur during 1980's has been found to have developed dangerous cracks; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to maintain, repair and update the bridge?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Demand by AFHQ Civilian Officers

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

(a) whether various demands are pending in Naval Headquarter which have been given by AFHQ Civilian Officers Association during the last 3 years;

(b) the details of specific demands which have been implemented in Air Headquarter and, Army Headquarter but have not been implemented in Naval Headquarter; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to remove the disparity in respect of Joint Directors of Naval Headquarter & other Headquarters/Offices/Directorates under his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Residential Telephone facilities have not been provided to Deputy Director (erstwhile Civilian Staff Officers) (Pay scale Rs. 10000-325-15200) promoted in-situ to the level of Joint Director (Pay scale Rs. 12000-375-16500) posted at Naval Headquarters, whereas in-situ Joint Directors (Pay scale Rs. 12000-375-16500) posted at Army Headquarters and Air Headquarters have been provided residential telephones.

(c) No specific time frame can be given.

[Translation]

Theft Cases in Defence Production Installations

618. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which incidents of thefts took place in Defence Production Installations situated at Jabalpur during the last three years along with the losses suffered thereby;

(b) whether any proof of involvement of officials or a foreign conspiracy in these cases has been found during the course of investigation; and

(c) if so, the special steps being taken for the safety of Defence Production installations as the presence of big mafias and the people associated with Al-Quida is being suspected in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There were no incidents of theft in the defence production installations at Jabalpur during the last

three years. However, incidents of minor thefts took place outside the factory installations but within the estates of Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur and Ordnance Factory, Khamaria.

Four incidents of theft took place in the estate of Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur on 9.6.2000, 22-3-2001, 31-5-2001 and 26.6.2001 involving loss of Rs. 8,677/-, Rs. 3880/-, Rs. 21,904/- and Rs. 786/- respectively. Six incidents of thefts took place in the estate of Ordnance Factory, Khamaria on 20-10-1999, 7-8-2000, 18-10-2000, 20-11-2000, 29-1-2001 and 8-7-2002 involving loss of Rs. 700/-, Rs. 11,911/-, Rs. 27,000/-, Rs. 26,395/-, Rs.13,332/- and Rs. 1,744/- respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of the threat perception, Ordnance Factories have been directed to carry out a review of the existing security set up and take the following steps:-

(i) Increase the frequency of patrolling inside and outside the factories and the estate area (ii) To do a thorough and 100 % check of casual labour and visitors (iii) To constitute security/vigilance committee for each factory and set up a control room with proper communication and coordination with local police and civil administration (iv) To carry out mock drills and rehearsals for disaster management and internal security schemes (v) Organise security meetings with trade unions and involve the workers and their families living in the estate in the task of ensuring safety and security.

[English]

Relaxation of Eligibility Criteria for Appointment as Notary

619. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has relaxed the eligibility criteria for appointment as Notary for legal practitioners belonging to the SCs & STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the posts of Notary have been increased in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the Gazette Notification dated 05.01.2000 is enclosed herewith as statement-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A copy of the Gazette Notification dated 25.06.2001 is enclosed herewith as statement-II.

Statement-I

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA: EXTRAORDINARY

Part-II Section 3 - Sub-section (i)

Published by Authority

MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS

(Department of Legal Affairs)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 5th January, 2000

G.S.R. 17(E) - In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 15 of the Notaries Act, 1952 (53 of 1952), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Notaries Rules, 1956, namely:-

(i) These rules may be called the Notaries (Amendment) Rules, 2000.

(ii) This shall come into force from the date of the publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Notaries Rules, 1956, in rule 3, sub-rule (a), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(a) a person had been practising at least for ten years, or

(aa) a person belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes had been practising at least for seven years, or

(ab) a woman who had been practising at least for seven years, as a legal practitioner, or"

[No. 5(485)/99-NC]

Krishna Kumar, Jt. Secy. & Legal Adviser

Statement-II

The Gazette of India

EXTRAORDINARY

Part-II Section 3 - Sub-section (i)

Published by Authority

New Delhi, Tuesday, June 26, 2001/Asadha 5, 1923

MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS

(Department of Legal Affairs)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 25th June, 2001

G.S.R. 460 (E) - In exercise of the powers conferred

by section 15 of the Notaries Act, 1952 (53 of 1952), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Notaries Rules, 1956, namely:-

1. (1) These rules may be called the Notaries (Third Amendment) Rules, 2001.
- (2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
2. In the Notaries Rules, 1956, in the Schedule, in Column (1), against serial number 29 relating to 'Delhi', in Columns (2) and (3), for the figures "225", and "225", the figures "325" and "325" shall respectively be substituted.

[F.No. 5(271)/2000-NC]

Brahm Avtar Agrawal, Jt. Secy. & Legal Adviser

Note:- The principle rules were published vide S.R.O. 324 dated the 14th February, 1956 and subsequently amended vide G.S.R. 370(E) dated the 8th July, 1997, G.S.R. 547 (E) dated the 31st August, 1998, G.S.R. 17(E) dated the 5th January, 2000 G.S.R. 262 (E) dated the 28th March, 2000, G.S.R. 630 (E) dated the 21st July, 2000, G.S.R. 172 (E) dated the 12th March, 2001 and G.S.R. 330(E) dated the 9th May, 2001.

Setting up of Wind Farms

620. **PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:** Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether wind power generation has been found to be un-economical in Indian conditions;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this direction;
- (c) whether Government are likely to identify new geographical areas to set up wind farms;
- (d) if so, whether proper identification has not been done to locate areas where wind farms have to be set up; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken to identify new areas where wind energy are likely to be generated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The levelised cost of wind power generation compares favourably with cost of conventional power, taking into account various fiscal and promotional incentives available for wind power projects. Moreover, the generation of power from wind is non polluting and environmentally benign.

(c) to (e) Under the Wind Resource Assessment Programme, 201 locations have so far been identified in 13 States, which are suitable for setting up of wind power projects. Wind resource assessment is an ongoing programme, with efforts being made to cover more States and new potential areas. Special efforts are also being made to identify windy locations in the North-Eastern States.

Setting up of 500 MW Power Project in North-East Region

621. **SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware about the uncertainties prevailing over the setting up of the 500 MW Power Project in the Manarchak under Sonamura Sub-division in the North-East Region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the JBI Corporation (Japan Bank of International Corporation) refused to fund for this project;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Power Finance Corporation of India also showed unwillingness for giving loan in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (f) The Tripura Gas Based Power Project (500 MW) figures in the capacity addition programme of the Ministry of Power for 10th Five Year Plan. This project has already been accorded Techno-Economic Clearance by CEA.

This project was posed to the JBIC for funding in 2002-

03 and the JBIC Fact Finding Committee and the Appraisal Committee have conducted their scrutiny.

The Power Finance Corporation has given in-principle clearance for sanction of loan upto 40% of the completion cost of the project after detailed appraisal within its policy frame work.

Incident of Rape, Molestation, Pick-pocketing and Robbery

622. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI SURESH KURUP:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of rape, molestation, pick-pocketing, thefts and robbery in the running trains are increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the number of cases noticed by the Railway Department during the last three years and current year till October, 2002;

(c) whether effective safety measures were not taken by the Railways to save the passengers from such incidents in the running trains;

(d) if so, reasons therefor;

(e) whether a dacoity was committed in Shipra Express and Howrah-Mumbai Mail between Mughalsarai-Gaya Grand Chord Section in October, 2002;

(f) whether the Government are considering to take this matter seriously and propose some effective safety measures for passengers in running trains; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (g) "Policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on Railways, including running trains, is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. 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.

[Translation]

Manufacturing Units

623. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of items are manufactured in various manufacturing units under Railways;

(b) if so, the names and details of the items manufactured in these units, unit-wise;

(c) whether these units are running in profit;

(d) if so, the total investment made in each manufacturing unit till the end of October, 2002;

(e) the annual average amount of profit earned by each unit during the last three years; and

(f) the efforts made towards modernising these manufacturing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Rolling Stock i.e. both Coaches and Locomotives and some of the major components and assemblies are manufactured in the Indian Railway's Productions Units.

(b) There are six production units under the Ministry of Railways. Names of the units and the principal items manufactured by each are as under:-

Name	Items manufactured
1	2
1. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan	Electric Locomotives
2. Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi	Diesel Locomotives

1	2
3. Integral Coach Factory, Chennai	Passenger Coaches and self-propelled passenger carrying vehicles
4. Rail Coach Factory; Kapurthala	Passenger Coaches and self-propelled passenger carrying vehicles
5. Wheel & Axle Plant, Bangalore	Wheels, Axles and wheelsets for Rolling Stock
6. Diesel Component Works, Patiala	Major Diesel-Electric Loco-Components and rehabilitation of Diesel-electric locomotives

(c) The six production units under the Ministry of Railways are in-house production organizations, operating on a "no-profit no-loss" basis. The full cost of production is transferred to the consuming units by way of appropriately fixed transfer prices for the various items that are manufactured.

(d) The Capital at charge, as on 1.4.2001 in respect of fixed assets in each of these units, was as under:

Name of the Unit	Capital at Charge (Figures in lacs of Rs.)
CLW	12984.02
DCW	17057.96
DLW	7416.50
ICF	8122.95
RCF	36168
WAP	15751

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Modernisation is an ongoing process in these units and is carried out as and when the requirement arises.

Demand of Kerosene in Madhya Pradesh

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

(a) whether the demand for kerosene is constantly increasing in rural and urban areas due to power cuts and scarcity of power in States particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government are contemplating to hike the quota of kerosene to the States to enable them to meet the rising demand of kerosene; and

(c) the quality of kerosene in barrels made available to Madhya Pradesh at present?

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) A request was received from Government of Madhya Pradesh to increase the allocation of Kerosene. In view of release of large number of LPG connections to the State of Madhya Pradesh, the request was not acceded to.

(c) Oil Companies supply Kerosene of the quality meeting the Bureau of Indian Standard Specification No. IS1459.

Railway Employees Involved in Illegal Activities

625. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Railway employees are involved in illegal activities on all the Railway Stations in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(c) the steps being contemplated by the Government to check the nexus between the Railway employees and the agents and also to check gross irregularities being committed by the reservation centres and parcel offices?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Vigilance organizations of the Railways take preventive measures, like preventive checks/decoy checks, from time to time, to arrest such illegal practices, on receipt of complaints and source information.

[English]

**Financial Assistance by Banks
and Financial Institutions**

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

(a) whether the Union Government are likely to enlist the support of banks and financial institutions to fund the massive energy efficiency projects being undertaken in next five years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The financial institutions and banks generally finance projects on the strength of balance sheet of a company whereas large penetration, energy efficiency projects need financing on the strength of the cost benefit of the investment. Energy efficiency projects are expected to result in the reduced energy bill which, however, does not, get reflected in the balance sheet. Bank finance for investment exclusively in energy efficiency projects has thus not taken place significantly. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) a statutory body created by the Central Government for implementing Energy Conservation Act, 2001, is making efforts to leverage financial resources, from multilateral and domestic financial agencies regarding removal of financial barrier and financing energy efficiency projects. It will require concerted and continuous efforts by all stakeholders to create confidence in the ability of energy service companies before the investments in energy efficiency projects by the financial institutions/banks become commercially viable and bankable.

[Translation]

Corruption in Judiciary

627. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Slackness of CJ's, cause of corruption" published in the Hindustan Times dated 9.11.2000;

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

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has consulted the Supreme Court of India. The Court has informed as below:

"The Statement of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India is based on his perceptions which he has gathered from various sources of the publications at times in the newspapers. The Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India has been trying to get even the minimum materials from the concerned Chief Justices of the High Courts in support of the allegations so that he can proceed with the In-House Procedure Inquiry which has been adopted by the Supreme Court as well as all the High Courts."

[English]

Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

628. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether India-Iran gas pipeline project has since been finalized;

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

(c) whether Pakistan has agreed to any arrangement for the pipeline to be laid through its territorial waters or land; 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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Skiing Training to Army

629. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Army would get skiing training in the Swiss Alps; and

(b) if so, the other areas expected to be covered in the negotiations with Swiss?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to the effect that Indian Army would get skiing training on the Swiss Alps. The discussions held between the two countries were general in nature in the field of defence cooperation including utilization of mutual national defence training facilities.

Jurisdiction of Hubli Division

630. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representation for inclusion of Bellary, Torangal, Bantanala and Ranajith-Pura in the jurisdiction of the Hubli Railway Division; and

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

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

(b) The demand is to retain Bantanhal (Bantanala)-Bellary-Toranagallu-Ranjitpura (Ranajith-Pura) and Bellary-Rayadurg sections in Hubli Division under South Western Zone.

As per Notification issued, the jurisdiction of Guntakal and Hubli division is to be revised w.e.f. 01.4.2003. Guntakal-Bellary (MG), and Bellary-Rayadurg is to be part of Guntakal division and Hospet-Torangallu section is to be transferred from Guntakal to Hubli division.

[Translation]

Gas Policy

631. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate a new gas policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features 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.

[English]

Water Filled and Underweight LPG Cylinders

632. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from consumers about LPG cylinders filled with water and also underweight at the time of its delivery;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by Government during the last three years in this regard, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by Government on each complaint, so far; and

(d) the number of LPG distributorship cancelled during the last three years indulged in such activities?

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, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) received 25 established complaints against their distributors relating to water filled cylinders and 92 established complaints relating to supply of underweight cylinders from consumers across the country.

(c) and (d) In all such established cases of complaints, the underweight / water filled cylinders were replaced free of cost by the distributors. In addition to this, action against erring distributors had also been taken in terms of prevailing Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) / Distributorship Agreement in each case.

[Translation]

Installation of Flight Simulators

633. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to install flight simulators in the fighter aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue as a result of installing flight simulators in the fighter aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Simulators for some fighter aircraft are already in service. Induction of simulators in Indian Air Force is a continuous process.

(c) Simulators help in enhancing skill levels and in practising emergencies and procedures in a safe environment.

[English]

Compensation to Farmers

634. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned and released by the Union Government to the farmers as compensation whose fields and crops were damaged due to deployment of armed forces, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have received some complaints about irregularity in disbursing of compensation among the farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Ministry of Defence have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,30,29,52,580/- towards payment of ex-gratia compensation to the people/farmers for the damages occurred to their crops during the preparatory stage of defensive preparations/movement of Armed Forces in the border area of J&K, Punjab and Rajasthan. The entire amount has been released to the State Governments as per details given below:

S.No.	Name of State	Amount released
1.	Punjab	Rs. 66,00,00,000/-
2.	Rajasthan	Rs. 54,31,57,580/-
3.	J & K	Rs. 09,97,95,000/-
Total		Rs. 1,30,29,52,580/-

(b) and (c) The amount of compensation is being disbursed to the affected farmers by the State Revenue Authorities based on their Revenue records. However, no complaint regarding irregularity in disbursement of compensation among the farmers has come to the notice of this Ministry.

Excise Duty on Petrol and Diesel

635. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to check the impact of the upsurge in international prices on oil, the excise duty on petrol and diesel be scaled down by about 2 percent; and

(b) if so, the action 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) With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the fluctuations in the international oil market are bound to get reflected in the domestic consumer prices of petrol and diesel.

With a view to check the impact of the excessive price volatilities in the international market on domestic prices, the Government had w.e.f. 4.6.2002 reduced the excise duties on petrol and diesel by 2% each. As the prices of oil in the international oil market have softened recently, at present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to further reduce the excise duties on petrol and diesel.

Broken Fishplates Between Mainpur-Gaya Route

636. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a patrolling Railway Protection Force group had noticed the broken fishplates between Mainpur and Gaya, on both sides;

(b) whether the track between Gaya-Mainpur is 25 years old and is in the process of being replaced;

(c) whether the fishplates have been sent to the chief metallurgical testing lab;

(d) if so, whether the testing report has since been received to establish the reasons;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government as per the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Solar Water Heater in Maharashtra

637. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of the Government regarding solar water heater has received good response in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of solar water heater have been installed in Maharashtra during each of the last three years;

(c) the manner in which the Government motivated and help the users; and

(d) the details of the benefits and the steps taken to increase the use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The soft loan scheme for financing solar water heaters being implemented through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and some banks has received good response in Maharashtra.

(b) Solar water heating systems employ devices known as solar collectors, which absorb solar radiation and transfer the heat to the water flowing through the collectors. A typical collector has an area of 2 sq.m. The number of collectors used in a system depends on the quantity of hot water required per day. Most domestic systems employ one or two collectors, while systems used in commercial and industrial establishments may employ 50-100 collectors or more. The total solar thermal collector area and the equivalent number of water heaters (using an average of 4 sq.m. per system) installed in Maharashtra during the last three years are estimated as follows:

Year	Total Solar Collector Area (Sq.m.)	Equivalent number of solar water heaters
1999-2000	8000	2000
2000-2001	13000	3250
2001-2002	14000	3500

(c) Solar water heaters were first promoted by the government through a demonstration scheme and later on by providing direct subsidy to the users for about a decade. Since the technology became technically and commercially viable, the capital subsidy was discontinued and replaced by interest subsidy provided by government. Currently loans at reduced interest rates are being provided to users through seven designated banks and IREDA. To motivate and help the users, advertisements are issued and business meets / training programmes / exhibitions are often organized. Also to ensure deployment of reliable products, national standards for solar collectors have been formulated and use of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certified products has been made mandatory for any project receiving government assistance.

(d) It has been estimated that round the year use of a 100 litre capacity solar water heater can save around 1500 units of electricity and prevent emission of 1.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. Installation of such 1000 solar water heaters can also contribute to a peak load reduction of 1MW.

To increase the use of solar water heaters in the country, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) A model amendment in building bye-laws making solar assisted water heating systems mandatory in certain categories of buildings has been formulated and the state governments/local bodies have been requested to incorporate the same in their building bye-laws. Provision has been made for financial assistance to the municipalities/ municipal corporations/local bodies which incorporate the above modification in their building bye-laws to support training and awareness promotion activities.
- (ii) The bank scheme has been expanded to cover wider areas of the country to bring the benefits of the soft loans to more users.
- (iii) A few State Electricity Boards (SEBs) have announced rebates in electricity tariff for homes

which have installed solar water heaters. Other SEBs have been requested to do the same.

- (iv) A special demonstration programme on cost sharing basis is being implemented in the North-Eastern states, Jammu & Kashmir and the Islands.

[Translation]

Metro Rail in Big Cities

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide metro rail service in 35 other big cities in the country after providing the same in Delhi by December;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, city-wise; and
- (c) the time by which metro rail service is likely to be started in the said 35 cities?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Non-Telecast of News from Ranchi DD

639. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

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

- (a) the details of programmes being telecast from Ranchi Doordarshan at present;
- (b) whether local news are not being telecast from this Doordarshan due to some problems;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that at present many programmes are telecast from Ranchi Doordarshan Kendra on various subjects including, inter-alia, folk music, women's programmes, current affairs, sports, agriculture, health, environment, culture, science etc.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that local news bulletins are being telecast from the Ranchi Kendra from 7.00 p.m.- 7.15 p.m., with effect from 2nd April, 2002.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Indo-US Project on Hydrogen-Car

640. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and US are jointly working on a project for developing Hydrogen-Car;
- (b) if so, the details of the project;
- (c) the targets fixed in this regard;
- (d) the extent of India's involvement in the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Auto Industry is a fully delicensed and the Government have no direct role in its operations. As per the information received from the Society for Indian Automobile Manufacturers Association (SIAM), no joint project between the industries of the two countries exists on this subject at present.

Crude Oil Prices

641. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have asked the state-owned oil marketing companies to share the burden of increased global crude prices and not pass it all to the consumers;
- (b) if so, whether it has also been pointed out that oil companies cannot increase the prices fortnightly by 25-30 paise in tandem with global prices to keep their rate of returns intact;
- (c) if so, the other communications forwarded to these companies; and
- (d) the extent to which they have agreed?

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

[Translation]

Bina Refinery

642. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:

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

(a) the total amount spent on the Bina Refinery so far; and

(b) the time by which the Bina Refinery is likely to start functioning?

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) Total expenditure incurred so far on Central India Refinery Project at Bina (Madhya Pradesh) is Rs.150 crore (approximately).

(b) The project is expected to be completed within 42 months from the date of re-commencement of project execution.

Financial Assistance to State Government for Fast Track Courts

643. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of continuous increase in number of cases in Uttar Pradesh, the Union Government have released financial assistance to the State Government in the current financial year for constituting fast track courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are getting information that several State Governments are indifferent towards constituting fast track courts;

(d) whether in the absence of proper administrative resources and non-utilisation of funds released by the Union Government, the target of early disposal of cases is not being achieved; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, an amount of Rs.28.24 crore has been released to Uttar Pradesh by the Union Government under the Fast Track Court Scheme.

(c) to (e) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 6th May, 2002 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India & Others has given directions on implementation of the Fast Track Court Scheme. Minister of Law and Justice has been periodically requesting State Governments to establish the full number of Fast Track Courts as envisaged by the Eleventh Finance Commission. In the recently held Conference of Law/Home Secretaries of State Governments/Union Territories, the State Governments were requested to constitute all the earmarked Fast Track Courts and make them functional so that targets of disposal of cases by the Fast Track Courts are achieved.

Construction of Transmission Lines in Bihar

644. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation has formulated a scheme to construct transmission line in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission, has sanctioned Rs.325 crores as financial package to Bihar and has also consented its implementation by Power Grid Corporation; and

(c) if so, the time by which the plan is likely to be completed and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The POWERGRID in consultation with BSEB has submitted a proposal for strengthening of sub-transmission system in Bihar State at an estimated cost of Rs.365.79 crore, which includes Rs.49.77 crore towards charges for establishment, construction and commissioning of Transmission lines and sub-station.

(b) The scheme has been accepted in principle by the High Level Committee on Development and Reform Facility of the Planning Commission.

(c) The scheme is proposed to be implemented by POWERGRID in 18 months from the date of sanction.

[English]

Setting up of Power Projects in Meghalaya

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

(a) whether the President of India laid the foundation of a 84 (2x42) MW hydel project at Myntdu Leiska in Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof and estimated cost of the project, indicating its time schedule; and

(c) the details of the estimated hydro electric power potential of the North-Eastern region, and how far it is being exploited and utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The President of India laid the foundation of 84 (2x42) MW hydel project of the Meghalaya State Electricity Board at Myntdu Leiska in Meghalaya on 25.10.2002.

(b) The project cost is Rs.363.08 crores (Jan. 1999 price level) with a scheduled completion period of 60 months from the date of investment sanction. The commissioning is expected by October, 2006.

(c) As per re-assessment studies carried out by Central Electricity Authority from 1978-87, identified hydro capacity of N.E. region has been estimated as 58971 MW. Out of the above, 1070 MW of the identified potential has been harnessed so far while another 379 MW is under construction after investment approval. The State-wise estimated hydro electric potential of North-Eastern region and its development so far is given below:

Region/State	Identified capacity as per reassessment study (MW)	Capacity developed		Capacity under construction (MW)	Capacity under development under Stage-II of 3 stage process (MW)
		(MW)	%		
Meghalaya	2394	185	8	84	0
Tripura	15	15	100	0	0
Manipur	1784	105	6	90	0
Assam	680	250	37	145	0
Nagaland	1574	99	6	0	0
Ar. Pradesh	50328	416	1	0	2600
Mizoram	2196	0	0	60	0
Total	58971	1070	2	379	2600

Allotment of Petrol Pumps to Kargil Martyrs

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

(a) whether the Government have received any applications from widows or dependents of Kashmir-Kargil martyrs for allotment of any petrol pumps or gas agencies;

(b) if so, details of such pending applications;

(c) whether the Government have not taken up applications of this nature in the last six months anywhere in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to discontinue the scheme of allotting petrol pumps to widows of Kashmir-Kargil Martyrs; and

(e) if so, the schedule of doing away with this scheme?

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) Under the Special Scheme for widows/next of kin of Defence personnel killed in action in 'OP Vijay' (Kargil), allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships is made on the

recommendations of the Director-General Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence. So far, recommendations in respect of 454 cases have been received from the DGR, out of which, allotment of dealerships/ distributorships has been approved by the Government in 439 cases, till now.

The Government proposes to cover all eligible cases recommended by the DGR.

East-South Powergrid Link from Talcher to Kolar

647. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Powergrid Corporation has taken up the work of the East-South powergrid from Talcher to Kolar;

(b) if so, whether this powergrid is likely to assist the power evacuation of bulk power from Talcher and transfer surplus power from the Eastern region to the Southern region;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be ready and the cost of this new powergrid;

(d) whether it is cost-effective to transfer power in this manner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The investment approval for Talcher-Kolar Transmission System was issued by the Government in February, 2000 at an estimated cost of Rs.3865.61 crores. The 1000 MW capacity Pole-I of this link, including HVDC terminal Stations at Talcher and Kolar, has been test charged by POWERGRID in September, 2002. Pole-II of the link is expected to be completed by January, 2003 and will be fully charged by March, 2003. The completed cost of the project is anticipated to be Rs.3150 crores. This link would facilitate evacuation of power from 2000 MW Talcher-II Super Thermal Power Project in Orissa and its delivery to the States in Southern Region. The link would also be used for transfer of surplus power from Eastern Region to Southern Region.

(d) and (e) Transmission of power is considered to be cost effective in comparison to transportation of fuel. As per an estimate, the cost of transportation of coal is normally about 1.5 to 1.75 times of the cost of transmission of power.

Demand of Natural Gas in West Bengal

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that working group set up by the Government of West Bengal has projected the demand of Natural Gas in West Bengal approximately as 275 mmscfd (million cubic feet/day) in 2005-2006;

(b) if so, whether Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB) engaged by a consortium of three Central Oil PSUs (IOC, ONGC, GAIL), has also projected huge demand of natural gas in West Bengal in 2005-2006;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from Government of West Bengal for setting up an absorption plan in the State for meeting the demand of Natural Gas in the State; and

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

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

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, supply of natural gas to West Bengal mainly depends on import of natural gas from Bangladesh. For this purpose, a consortium of three Oil Public Sector Undertakings, namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Gas Authority of India Limited and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited has been formed to participate in any venture for import of natural gas from Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh have yet to convey their decision to export natural gas to India.

Rise in Oil Prices

649. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rising global oil prices has hit the Indian economy adversely;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any effective steps to overcome this situation; 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) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the fluctuations in the international oil market are bound to get reflected in the domestic consumer prices of petroleum products. The details of prices of petrol and diesel revised by the oil companies post 1st April 2002 are given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) With a view to partially contain the impact of volatility in the international oil market on the domestic consumer prices of petrol and diesel, the Government reduced the excise duty rates on these products by 2% each effective 4th June 2002. Also, taking into account the recent softening of international oil prices, the public sector oil companies have effected a reduction in the consumer prices of petrol and diesel effective 16th November 2002.

Statement

Revisions in retail selling prices of Petrol and diesel effected by the oil companies post 1st April 2002.

Effective Date	Retail selling prices at Delhi	
	Petrol	Diesel
As on 1/3/02	26.54	16.59
4/6/02	28.94	17.99
16/6/02	29.18	18.23
16/8/02	29.00	18.05
1/9/02	29.20	18.34
16/9/02	29.66	18.68
1/10/02	29.91	18.91
17/10/02	30.24	19.23
1/11/02*	30.26	19.25
16/11/02	29.57	18.57

* On account of increase in dealers' commission.

[Translation]

Railway Station on Contract Basis

650. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations in the country running on contract basis along with the number of such railway stations in Delhi;

(b) the rules, norms and criteria adopted for leasing the stations on contract basis along with the total income earned during the last three years and year-wise amount of income accrued to Railways from such stations particularly in Delhi;

(c) the extent to which the operators of such stations are responsible in case of any accident;

(d) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government to bring the stations operated on contract basis under railway control in order to lay down norms to fix their responsibility and increase the revenue from such stations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Report by Venkataswami Commission

651. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Venkataswami Commission probing into the so called "Tehelka" defence deal has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main findings thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import of Crude Oil

652. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of crude oil imported from April, 2002 to October, 2002; and

(b) the total cost of this import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The crude oil imported during the period April-September, 2002 is 42.007 million metric tonnes costing Rs. 37.549 crore.

Provision of Narrow Casting Digital DD

653. 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 Government have any plan to provide narrow casting for its viewers;

(b) if so, the number of digital DD Kendras opened by the Government to provide narrow casting, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open more digital DD Kendras in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Doordarshan has drawn up a scheme of narrowcasting to be taken on a pilot basis from selected LPTs in different states, for telecasting programmes, produced in collaboration with Agricultural Universities, State Health Departments etc.

(b) to (d) Narrowcasting is proposed from 12 LPTs, in analogue mode, from one center each in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and from two centres in Punjab. Limited transmission has been started from 8 centres. Narrowcasting by Doordarshan is not linked to setting up of digital Doordarshan Kendras. The 10th Plan proposals of Doordarshan include schemes for digitization of Doordarshan Kendras.

Investigation into Stampede in Lucknow

654. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry commission has been set up to investigate the incident of stampede in Lucknow Junction recently;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Railways to avert such incidents in future?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the committee are being examined.

New Halt/Station at Nahur, Mumbai

655. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a halt/railway station at Nahur in Mumbai;

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

(c) the present status of the said project, and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be completed on the project?

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

(b) to (d) A new halt station has been sanctioned recently at Nahur between Bhandup & Mulund stations in Mumbai. The sanction is, however, subject to provision of land by the State Government free of cost at nominal charges. A formal proposal for acquisition of 1745 square metre of land and making it available to the Railway by State Government has been submitted to the State Government.

As the whole proposal is dependent upon the availability of land which is yet to be provided by the State Government, no specific details regarding funds, time frame, etc. can be furnished presently.

Indo-Iraq Joint Commission Meeting

656. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Indian delegation visited Iraq for a Indo-Iraq Joint Commission Meeting in Baghdad on 6th July, 2002 and held discussions with the Iraq Government;
- (b) if so, the agreements reached; and
- (c) to what extent both the countries have agreed to boost the exports from each countries?

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) During the 15th session of the Indian-Iraqi joint commission for economic and technical cooperation held in Baghdad on 6th & 7th July 2002, issues of mutual interest in the upstream and the downstream oil sector and supply of crude oil from Iraq were discussed. However, no new agreement was entered into during the visit.

Linking of Steel Plants with Rails

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

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to connect steel plants by rail from the feeder mines areas;
- (b) if so, whether any specific requests received by his Ministry from SAIL, Department of Mines and also from the States where the steel plants are located; and
- (c) 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 major Integrated Steel Plants in the country are already well connected by the railway network to the feeder mines. In addition, there is also a proposal to connect Bhilai Plant with Iron ore Mines at Bailadila/Kirandul via Rowghat.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) Dallirajahara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur new line is to be constructed on cost-sharing basis among the Ministry of Railways, the State Government of Chhattisgarh, M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), and M/s National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC). As per the Memorandum

of Understanding (MOU), the first phase of this Railway line, viz., from Dallirajahara to Rowghat, is to be constructed entirely at the cost of M/s SAIL, as the line is primarily meant for transportation of iron ore to the steel plant at Bhilai. However, M/s SAIL have not yet deposited the cost of the part-project with the Railways. The work will be taken up as soon as M/s SAIL deposit the cost with the Railways, once they receive the requisite environmental clearance.

[Translation]

Electronic Media under PCI

658. SHRI JAI RAKASH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal to bring electronic media within the ambit of the Press Council of India;
- (b) if so, the time by which the Government would take a decision in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financial Assistance for NCES

659. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the schemes being implemented by the Government to promote non-conventional energy sources;
- (b) the details of the assistance provided to the States in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) the assistance likely to be given to Bihar and other States during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the assistance provided during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Wide ranging schemes/programmes such as biogas, integrated rural energy programme, energy parks, solar photovoltaic, small hydro power, wind power, biomass power, solar power, biomass gasifiers, solar thermal energy programme, solar cooker, new technologies and energy from wastes are being implemented to promote

the development and utilization of non-conventional energy sources throughout the country.

(b) Details of the financial assistance provided during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise and year-wise, are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) State-wise allocation of funds is not made for various programmes. However, during the Ninth Five Year Plan period a total financial assistance of Rs. 7.82 crores was provided to the State of Bihar.

Statement

Financial assistance, State-wise and Year-wise provided during 9th Plan period

Sl.No.	States/UT	Amount Rs. in Crores				
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.614	11.042	15.355	20.993	24.986
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.788	0.707	0.383	0.894	16.528
3.	Assam	1.073	1.186	2.519	0.777	0.471
4.	Bihar	0.725	2.802	3.939	0.224	0.133
5.	Goa	0.118	0.314	0.104	0.056	0.020
6.	Gujarat	6.056	7.679	4.544	5.900	5.522
7.	Haryana	2.354	3.098	3.539	4.239	3.477
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.311	7.423	6.094	4.370	6.151
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.008	1.966	3.492	1.514	0.849
10.	Karnataka	7.569	9.943	10.179	15.210	13.405
11.	Kerala	1.078	2.507	4.744	5.190	10.674
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8.312	9.594	11.421	7.736	3.805
13.	Maharashtra	7.152	9.132	16.527	11.120	7.804
14.	Manipur	0.396	1.812	1.205	0.399	1.342
15.	Meghalaya	0.324	0.636	0.466	1.296	2.095
16.	Mizoram	9.524	3.336	2.928	5.042	0.528
17.	Nagaland	0.325	0.802	0.586	1.181	3.341
18.	Orissa	3.445	7.158	9.877	5.448	8.025
19.	Punjab	4.380	7.638	11.126	3.967	12.876
20.	Rajasthan	2.108	6.227	7.817	7.099	9.136
21.	Sikkim	1.580	4.108	3.970	6.681	5.097

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22.	Tamil Nadu	3.994	4.339	6.266	5.218	3.844
23.	Tripura	0.464	1.131	0.937	3.264	2.686
24.	Uttar Pradesh	13.197	17.203	11.687	15.531	18.582
25.	West Bengal	6.315	9.339	16.200	15.881	18.157
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.040	0.134	0.184	8.049	2.655
27.	Chandigarh	0.038	0.248	0.080	0.020	0.160
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.000	0.023	0.012	0.000	0.000
29.	Daman & Diu	0.000	0.023	0.012	0.036	0.000
30.	Delhi	0.468	0.223	0.660	1.402	0.825
31.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.573	1.191	2.882	5.725
32.	Pondicherry	0.081	0.105	0.119	0.135	0.132
33.	Chhattisgarh	0.000	0.000	9.000	0.000	1.772
34.	Jharkhand	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.125
35.	Uttaranchal	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.416
36.	Others	30.068	26.067	34.369	26.841	30.808

[English]

Construction of Grid Station at Tekari in Gaya

660. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for the construction of grid service station at Tekari in Gaya district which is a sub-divisional town in which blocks such as Parya, Guraroo, Konch fall; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to establish an electricity Grid Station at Tekari?

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

Form of Co-operatives to Supply Electricity by REC

661. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation had one of its main objectives to form co-operatives to supply electricity in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of such co-operatives along with the names of States where these co-operatives are functioning;

(c) whether there is any proposal to expand their activities; and

(d) if so, the plans of REC to form more rural electricity co-operatives in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Formation and development of Rural Electricity (RE) Cooperatives is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments in accordance with their policy in this regard. The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) facilitated the process by providing loan assistance to RE Cooperatives and to the concerned State Governments. REC, has provided financial assistance to 41 RE Cooperatives in the

country based on the proposals received from the concerned Societies/State Governments spread over 12 States namely, Andhra Pradesh (9), Bihar (1), Gujarat (1), J&K (1), Karnataka (1), Madhya Pradesh (17), Maharashtra (1), Orissa (1), Rajasthan (3), Tamil Nadu (3), Uttar Pradesh (1) and West Bengal (2). Presently, 20 RE Cooperative Societies are in operation in the States of Andhra Pradesh (9), Karnataka (1), Madhya Pradesh (7), Maharashtra (1) and West Bengal (2).

Disparity in Pricing of Crude Oil with OPEC

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

(a) whether the Government have taken up the matter of "Disparity in pricing of Crude Oil" with OPEC;

(b) if so, whether OPEC has agreed to curtail the extra charges on crude oil being imposed on developing countries particularly on India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have raised this issue at the 14th World Petroleum Congress held in the first week of September, 2002;

(e) if so, whether the Government have sought stable prices in \$ 22-23 per barrel band and mechanism to protect developing countries from extreme fluctuations; and

(f) if so, to what extent suggestions of the Government were accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The matter of disparity in pricing of crude oil by certain OPEC countries was taken up at international forums and with the OPEC member countries. The matter is being pursued with various OPEC countries.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir.

(f) OPEC member countries have not accepted the suggestion of the Government of India as yet.

Misleading Figures given by IGL on CNG

663. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indraprastha Gas Ltd. has misled the Hon'ble Supreme Court about the installed compression capacity and the dispensing capability of CNG filling stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed/taken against IGL;

(c) the present compression capacity and dispensing capability of IGL against the requirement;

(d) whether IGL has failed to provide adequate CNG to vehicles even today in the capital; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the government to meet the demand of CNG 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) and (b) During the course of hearing of a Public Interest Litigation Writ Petition No. 13029/85 filed by Shri M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India and Others the Supreme Court has issued show cause notice to some present and former Officials of Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) for misleading the Hon'ble court. IGL in its affidavit dated October 23, 2002 filed in the Supreme Court has tendered unconditional apology for any confusion arising out of various affidavits submitted by IGL from time to time and has clarified the position. The matter is still before the Supreme Court.

(c) to (e) As against the average sale of about 5.8 lakh Kg/day, the compression capacity of IGL as on 31.10.2002 is 9.3 lakh Kg/day, which is expected to increase in a phased manner to 18 lakh Kg/day by June, 2003. The present dispensing capacity of IGL is around 18 lakh Kg/day, considering 18 hours working per day.

Target of Power Generation during 9th Plan

664. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether target projected for schemes planned during Ninth Five Year Plan have been fully achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons for not achieving the projected targets of 30538 MW during the Ninth Plan;

(c) if so, whether the country is passing through great turmoil in the availability of electricity both by farmers and others; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) A capacity of 19015 MW has been added during 9th Plan against a target of 40245.2 MW. The reasons that adversely affected the progress of project implementation are:

- (i) Delayed financial closures of private sector projects due to non-availability of escrow.
- (ii) Delay in land acquisition.
- (iii) Delay in investment decision.
- (iv) Rehabilitation and resettlement problems.
- (v) Law and order problems.
- (vi) Contractual problems.
- (v) Inter-State disputes in respect of some hydro projects.

(c) and (d) The power supply position in the country as on 30.09.2002 is as under:-

Energy Requirement	272,534 MU
Energy Availability	246,824 MU
Deficit	25,710 MU (9.4%)
Peak Demand	79443 MW
Peak Met	68581 MW
Deficit	10862 MW (13.7%)

To improve availability of power and generation capacity and to make optimal use of the available power resources in the country, the following measures have been taken:

- (a) Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme by way of Strict monitoring.
- (b) Liberalization of investment procedures.
- (c) Promotion of measures for demand side management.
- (d) Renovation and Modernisation of existing old generating units.
- (e) Disbursement of loans by Power Finance

Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under accelerated generation programme.

- (f) Promotion of inter-state and inter-regional power transfer.
- (g) Augmentation of transmission, transformation capacity in the power system and installation of shunt capacitors to improve the voltage.
- (h) Reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

For strengthening the sub-transmission and distribution systems and also for assisting Renovation and Modernisation programmes, the Government has initiated the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) this year with a budgetary outlay of Rs.3500 Cröre in 2002-2003.

The Government has also initiated and evolved a national consensus on power sector reforms to improve the financial health of the power utilities in the States. A Conference of Chief Ministers and State Power Ministers on Power Sector reforms was held in New Delhi on 3rd March 2001 and took a series of decisions to accelerate reform and to restore the financial health of the power sector.

Private Hospitals Recognised by PSUs

665. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the private hospitals in Delhi which have been recognized by the Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry for the purpose of treatment of employees of these PSUs;

(b) the total amount paid by these PSUs to each of these hospitals during the last three years, PSU-wise, Hospital-wise and Year-wise;

(c) the details of hospitals which have been removed from the panel of the PSUs during the above period; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Names of PSUs under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Names of Hospitals in National Capital Territory of Delhi recognized by PSUs	Amount Paid (in Rupees) during			Names of Hospitals removed from the Panels of PSUs	Reasons for removal
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL)	1. Sir Ganga Ram Hospital	3,62,294	1,63,204	3,94,572	1. Moolchand Hospital	Non-acceptance of general term & conditions.
	2. Kolmet Hospital	14,277	50,830	3,375	2. Mohinder Hospital	
	3. Batra Hospital	2,54,440	45,880	1,85,100	3. Umkal Hospital	
	4. Escorts Hearts Institute & Research Centre	6,68,231	3,37,778	7,13,473		
	5. Orthonova Institute of Advanced Surgery & Research	Nil	4,105	Nil		
	6. Vasant Lok Hospital	Nil	36,921	Nil		
	7. National Heart Institute	38,140	59,964	Nil		
	8. Jaipur Golden Hospital	41,707	23,651	Nil		
	9. Mata Chanan Devi Hospital	87,003	8,895	1,78,503		
	10. Shanti Mukund Hospital	Nil	Nil	18,821		
	11. Dharamshila Cancer Hospital & Research Centre	1,31,527	93,068	Nil		
Total		15,97,619	8,24,296	14,93,844		
Engineers India Limited (EIL)	1. Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre	21,84,649	34,14,637	29,08,064	1. Dharamshila Cancer Hospital & Research Centre	Increase in rates and poor response from users for the services of the hospital.
	2. Deepak Memorial Hospital & Medical Research Centre	4,58,891	3,52,126	4,75,923	2. Shanti Mukand Hospital	
	3. Dharamshila Cancer Hospital & Research Centre	31,329	2,19,317	5,672		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Escorts Heart Institute & Research Centre	24,43,827	23,43,158	24,97,444		
5.	Escorts Limited Medical Centre	1,05,789	1,30,619	75,061		
6.	Gujarmal Modi Hospital & Research Centre	2,93,436	2,64,251	1,01,507		
7.	Holy Angles Hospital	83,138	1,37,799	1,17,918		
8.	Holy Family Hospital	6,30,241	6,54,327	9,21,394		
9.	Indraprastha Apollo Hospital	34,35,848	55,90,672	28,00,396		
10.	Jaipur Golden Hospital	15,22,959	11,96,357	11,28,152		
11.	Kailash Hospital & Research Centre Limited	29,656	60,393	3,58,809		
12.	Mata Chanan Devi Hospital	11,90,758	8,36,850	7,99,910		
13.	Metro Hospital & Heart Institute	1,72,286	1,11,148	1,33,531		
14.	Narender Mohan Hospital	29,937	96,138	1,11,728		
15.	Noida Medical Centre Limited	3,08,366	1,22,951	8,13,070		
16.	Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Hospital	6,69,039	2,46,397	12,02,130		
17.	Shanti Mukand Hospital	7,24,645	4,74,286	2,10,410		
18.	Mool Chand Khairati Ram Hospital	6,83,254	9,44,650	13,09,353		
19.	Sir Ganga Ram Hospital	58,91,119	87,43,360	74,18,276		
20.	Sita Ram Bhartia Institute of Science & Research	3,70,067	9,58,198	6,66,697		
21.	St. Stephen's Hospital	84,103	86,061	2,54,111		
22.	Sunderlal Jain Charitable Hospital	3,25,515	3,81,819	3,52,047		
23.	Tirath Ram Shah Charitable Trust Hospital	1,50,675	1,08,931	94,897		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	24. Unkal Hospital & MP Heart Research Institute	1,84,089	1,84,347	4,26,240		
	25. Vasant Hospital	30,732	62,368	44,950		
	26. Venu Eye Institute	2,82,599	2,30,345	2,90,277		
	27. Yashoda Hospital	6,705	Nil	30,959		
	Total	2,23,23,652	2,79,51,505	2,55,48,915		
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	1. Batra Hospital	7,24,158	7,62,376	1,90,002	Nil	Does not arise.
	2. Indraprastha Apollo Hospital	12,67,986	12,39,125	12,83,529		
	3. Shanti Mukund Hospital	1,16,410	1,29,556	1,33,761		
	4. Maharaja Agarsain Hospital	4,63,947	2,48,172	10,31,714		
	5. St. Stephen's Hospital	1,04,453	22,250	1,22,004		
	6. Mata Chanan Devi Hospital	3,46,538	3,19,099	1,90,756		
	7. Jaipur Golden Hospital	2,51,816	2,32,393	1,96,907		
	8. Jeewan Hospital	Nil	4,82,609	4,76,753		
	9. Noida Medical Centre	1,97,751	1,49,762	28,154		
	10. Metro Hospital & Heart Institute	Nil	Nil	15,000		
	11. Kailash Hospital & Medical Research Centre	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Total	32,75,268*	34,35,580*	36,25,426*		

(* Calendar year wise for 1999, 2000 & 2001)

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)	Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (From 01.10.2001)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Does not arise.
Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC)	1. Sir Ganga Ram Hospital	1,41,45,589	1,44,07,602	1,83,51,362	Nil	Does not arise
	2. Moolchand Khairati Ram Hospital	8,05,089	6,35,257	13,11,509		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Holy Family Hospital	10,15,069	8,00,877	6,66,933		
4.	Tirathram Shah Charitable Trust Hospital & Nursing Home	2,62,949	4,08,628	1,30,970		
5.	St. Stephen's Hospital	2,57,714	2,79,238	7,31,056		
6.	Batra Hospital & Research Centre	41,95,075	52,81,320	86,48,504		
7.	Dr. B.K.L. Kapur Memorial Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
8.	Sunder Lal Jain Charitable Hospital	2,62,642	1,88,247	1,89,870		
9.	Deepak Memorial Hospital & Medical Research Centre	2,61,926	3,44,801	3,64,216		
10.	Escort Heart Institute	600,83,794	60,19,219	79,84,230		
11.	National Heart Institute	2,86,403	1,73,643	1,24,294		
12.	Jaipur Golden Hospital	17,58,518	31,49,562	23,53,305		
13.	Mata Chanan Devi Hospital	12,93,958	11,28,884	7,41,721		
14.	Anand Hospital	1,43,168	56,310	2,92,775		
15.	Indraprastha Apollo Hospital	1,06,11,721	1,69,73,076	1,97,98,606		
16.	Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute	16,68,690	22,60,700	39,33,797		
17.	Maharaja Agrasen Hospital	4,93,819	20,12,585	15,44,552		
18.	Vimhans	78,102	3,56,038	6,60,825		
19.	Mahendra Hospital	54,400	5,03,905	5,39,833		
20.	Pushpawati Singhania Research Institute	23,924	1,54,524	1,76,723		
21.	Holi Angles Hospital	Nil	71,039	1,32,969		
22.	Sita Ram Bhartiya Institute of Science & Research Centre	3,72,814	4,89,232	4,59,725		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23.	Indian Spinal Injuries Centre	33,985	89,016	45,081		
24.	Kalra Hospital	33,637	74,588	2,87,254		
25.	Shanti Mukund Hospital	1,16,662	1,90,330	5,02,608		
26.	Sant Parmanand Hospital	Nil	Nil	14,350		
27.	Dharamshila Cancer Hospital	89,305	2,01,093	3,62,304		
Total		4,43,48,953	5,62,49,714	7,03,49,372		
Bongaigaon Refinery & Petro-chemicals Ltd. (BRPL)	1. Sir Ganga Ram Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Does not arise
	2. Moolchand Khairati Ram Hospital & Ayurvedic Research Institute	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	3. Batra Hospital	12,84,507	10,55,117	5,16,997		
	4. Holy Family Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	5. Deepak Memorial Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	6. Tirath Ram Shah Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	7. Shyam Lal Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	8. Girdhari Lal Maternity Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	9. St. Stephen's Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	10. Escorts Heart Institute	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	11. Sunder Lal Jain Charitable Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	12. Jaipur Golden Trust Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	13. National Heart Institute	3,95,015	24,720	1,94,996		
	14. Dr. B.L. Kapur Memorial Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	15. Indraprastha Appollo Hospital	1,04,930	1,89,876	9,06,749		
	16. Metro Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	17. Gujar Mal Modi Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
Total		17,84,452	12,69,713	16,18,742		

1		2	3	4	5	6	7
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)	1.	Anand Hospital	6,53,431	4,78,979	2,55,967	Nil	Does not arise.
	2.	Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre	1,32,76,033	1,74,55,434	1,26,96,325		
	3.	Deepak Memorial Hospital & Med Research Centre	70,071	1,84,003	52,371		
	4.	Dharamshila Cancer Institute	Nil	Nil	1,40,606		
	5.	Escort Heart Institute & Research Centre	73,72,032	69,37,338	85,26,493		
	6.	Escorts Hospital & Research Centre Limited	Nil	Nil	98,535		
	7.	Holy Angles Hospital	Nil	Nil	61,221		
	8.	Holy Family Hospital	2,41,366	1,11,423	5,64,735		
	9.	Indian Spinal Injuries Centre	Nil	Nil	2,18,676		
	10.	Indraprastha Appollo Hospital	28,19,872	41,72,896	1,01,82,098		
	11.	Jaipur Golden Hospital	6,23,460	8,47,478	4,06,377		
	12.	Kailash Hospital & Research Centre Limited	48,783	1,50,479	1,87,524		
	13.	Kalyani Hospital Pvt. Ltd.	Nil	Nil	1,35,833		
	14.	Khetrapal Nursing Home	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	15.	Kolmet Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	16.	Mata Chanan Devi Hospital	3,78,767	4,44,299	8,26,778		
	17.	Metro Heart & Hospitals Limited	63,32,653	71,10,306	21,19,397		
	18.	Maharaja Agarsain Hospital	Nil	Nil	1,33,351		
	19.	Mohinder Hospital	Nil	Nil	42,865		
	20.	Sh. Mool Chand Kr. Hospital & Ayurvedic Research Centre	3,69,086	5,74,498	6,01,710		
	21.	Narender Mohan Hospital	Nil	Nil	15,003		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22.	National Heart Institute	2,30,361	91,370	6,41,827		
23.	Noida Medical Centre	2,36,761	3,36,944	10,31,765		
24.	Paryag Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
25.	Prakash Hospital Pvt. Ltd.	Nil	Nil	Nil		
26.	Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre	24,05,283	72,31,742	87,62,874		
27.	Rana Nursing Home	Nil	Nil	Nil		
28.	RG Stone Urological Research Centre	Nil	63,440	Nil		
29.	Saroj Hospital & Heart Institute	Nil	Nil	21,712		
30.	Shanti Mukand Hospital	Nil	Nil	1,68,196		
31.	Sir Ganga Ram Hospital	55,98,470	62,37,401	87,16,045		
32.	Sita Ram Bhartia Institute of Science & Research	Nil	Nil	8,000		
33.	St. Stephen's Hospital	41,350	46,468	1,37,425		
34.	Sunder Lal Jain Charitable Hospital	27,327	80,525	72,624		
35.	Tirath Ram Shah Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
36.	Venu Eye Institute & Research Centre	1,08,112	1,08,313	1,00,038		
37.	Vimhans	Nil	Nil	4,47,004		
38.	Walia Nursing and Maternity Home	5,430	47,612	54,022		
39.	Yashoda Hospital & Research Centre	Nil	Nil	99,309		
Total		4,18,38,658	5,27,10,948	5,75,26,706		
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	BPCL has its own Medical Reimbursement Scheme under which employees can avail medical treatment from doctors/hospitals of their choice and claim medical reimbursement as per their entitlement under the Corporation's Medical Reimbursement Scheme	Does not arise	Does not arise	Does not arise	Does not arise	Does not arise

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Oil India Limited (OIL)	1. Anand Hospitals (Anand Health Care Centre)	18,662	49,726	Nil	Nil	Does not arise.
	2. Apollo Hospital	22,96,150	23,58,626	28,15,487		
	3. Batra Hospital	25,586	21,533	Nil		
	4. Dharamshila Cancer Hospital	Nil	1,82,044	28,014		
	5. Dr. B.L. Kapur Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	6. Dr. Lal Path Lab Pvt. Ltd.	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	7. Escorts Heart Institute	17,43,887	18,32,956	17,56,743		
	8. Ganga Ram Hospital	2,500	1,32,639	98,184		
	9. Holy Family Hospital	Nil	54,836	1,09,207		
	10. Indian Spinal Injuries Centre	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	11. Jaipur Golden Hospital	Nil	1,24,119	Nil		
	12. Jassa Ram Hospital	Nil	Nil	21,166		
	13. Kolmet Hospital	28,237	Nil	Nil		
	14. Maharaja Uggarsen Hospital	Nil	Nil	5,245		
	15. Mata Chanan Devi Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	16. Moolchand Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	17. National Heart Institute	11,850	Nil	1,89,625		
	18. Pattanaik Laser Eye Institute	22,700	Nil	Nil		
	19. Pushpawati Singhania Research Institute	Nil	Nil	5,57,486		
	20. Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Hospital	Nil	14,548	Nil		
	21. R G. Stone Urological & Research Centre	Nil	Nil	1,00,367		
	22. Shanti Mukand Hospital	Nil	19,252	Nil		
	23. Sharma Nursing Home	Nil	14,156	4,897		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	24. Shroff Eye Centre	Nil	70,656	1,24,643		
	25. Sujan Mohinder Hospital	90,844	1,26,812	72,344		
	26. Tirath Ram Shah Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	27. Vidyasagar Institute of Mental Health (VIMHANS)	39,644	Nil	Nil		
	Total	42,80,060	50,01,903	58,83,408		
Numligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)	1. Apollo Hospital	1,45,000	2,60,000	88,000	Nil	Does not arise.
	2. Batra Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	3. Holy Family Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Total	1,45,000	2,60,000	88,000		
Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	1. Sir Ganga Ram Hospital	The company does not make payments directly to hospitals. Employees are required to settle their bills and claim reimbursement depending on their eligibility.			Nil	Does not arise.
	2. Moolchand Hospital					
	3. Holy Family Hospital					
	4. AIIMS					
	5. Tirathram Shah Hospital					
	6. St. Stephen's Hospital					
	7. Batra Hospital					
	8. Dr. B.L. Kapur Memorial Hospital					
	9. Naveen Upchar Hospital					
	10. NOIDA Medicare Centre					
	11. Sunder Lal Jain Charitable Hospital					
	12. Deepak Memorial Hospital					
	13. Escorts Heart Institute					
	14. National Heart Institute					
	15. Jaipur Golden Hospital					
	16. Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre					

1		2	3	4	5	6	7
Biecco Lawrie Limited	1.	Sir Ganga Ram Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Does not arise.
	2.	Moolchand Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	3.	Holy Family Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	4.	AIIMS	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	5.	Tirathram Shah Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	6.	St. Stephen's Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	7.	Batra Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	8.	Dr. B.L. Kapur Memorial Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	9.	Naveen Upchar Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	10.	NOIDA Medicare Centre	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	11.	Sunder Lal Jain Charitable Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	12.	Deepak Memorial Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	13.	Escorts Heart Institute	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	14.	National Heart Institute	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	15.	Jaipur Golden Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
IBP Co. Limited	1.	Sir Ganga Ram Hospital	85,000	70,000	2,36,162	Nil	Does not arise.
	2.	Moolchand Khairati Ram Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	3.	Holy Family Hospital	Nil	Nil	2,10,000		
	4.	Tirathram Shah Charitable Trust Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	5.	St. Stephen's Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	6.	Batra Hospital & Research Centre	1,54,322	1,72,000	Nil		
	7.	Sunder Lal Jain Charitable Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	8.	Deepak Memorial Hospital & Medical	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	9.	Escorts Heart Institute	4,20,418	9,06,670	71,000		
	10.	National Heart Institute	Nil	Nil	Nil		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	11. Jaipur Golden Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	12. Dr. B.L. Kapur Memorial Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	13. Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Total	6,59,740	11,48,670	5,17,162		
Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL)	1. Sir Ganga Ram Hospital	Nil	1,230	Nil	Nil	Does not arise.
	2. Moolchand Khairati Ram Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	3. Holy Family Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	4. AIIMS	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	5. Tirathram Shan Charitable Trust Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	6. St. Stephen's Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	7. City Clinic	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	8. Batra Hospital & Research Centre	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	9. Dr. B.L. Kapur Memorial Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	10. Israni Medical Centre.	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	11. Apollo Hospital **	Nil	86,542	Nil		
	12. Mohinder Hospital **	Nil	33,911	Nil		
	13. Virmani Hospital **	Nil	2,091	Nil		
(** other than organised)						
	Total	--	1,23,774	--		

Development of Solar Air Condition System

666. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of a new research, development of solar air condition system;

(b) if so, the details, thereof;

(c) whether the system has been developed in foreign countries;

(d) the details of the efforts being taken to develop the same; and

(e) the details of the government policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Research & development has been pursued for many years in several countries to develop reliable and cost effective solar cooling systems for air-conditioning and refrigeration. The systems developed so far include:

Vapour absorption/adsorption refrigeration systems based on solar thermal energy

Vapour compression refrigeration systems based on solar electricity

- Solar assisted desiccant cooling.

In the country, work is currently being pursued in IIT Bombay, IIT Madras and Tata Energy Research Institute both on absorption and adsorption based systems mainly for refrigeration purposes.

Several prototype systems based on the above principles have been made and demonstrated both in the country and elsewhere. Though the technical feasibility of solar cooling systems could be established, their reliability, economics and commercial viability are still to be improved.

(d) Several R&D projects have been funded by the Ministry to various R&D organizations for basic studies in the area and also for development of solar refrigeration and airconditioning systems. Some demonstration projects based on different principles have been installed for field performance evaluation.

(e) Solar refrigeration and airconditioning has been identified as one of the thrust areas under the Research & Development programme of the Ministry. Provision has been made for 50% cost sharing by the government for demonstration projects in the area for trying out various concepts under actual field conditions. Efforts are also being made under the Solar Buildings programme of the Ministry to introduce solar assisted building design principles for reducing cooling and heating loads of buildings.

Golden Quadrangle Projects

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to spent Rs. 15,000 crores to develop the infrastructure and other facilities on the "Golden Quadrangle" connecting the four metropolis of the country;

(b) if so, whether this amount of Rs. 15,000

crores was in addition to the Rs. 17,000 crores proposed to be spent for safety-related activities;

(c) whether the Ministry has decided that all the track renewal works would be completed in the next six years; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to achieve this target by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The Prime Minister has announced a non-budgetary investment initiative of Rs.15,000 crores on 15th August 2002, called the National Rail Vikas Yojana. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) With the setting up of Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF), the overdue track renewal which existed as on 01.04.2001, is planned to be renewed by 31.03.07, subject to availability of funds. However, clearance of accruals to overdue track renewal, after 01.04.01, shall depend upon availability of funds under DRF.

Statement

Details of non-budgetary investment initiative of Rs. 15,000 crores announced by the Prime Minister on 15th August 2002

On the 150th Anniversary of Indian Railways, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, on 15th August, 2002 has announced a non-budgetary investment initiative, called National Rail Vikas Yojana, amounting to Rs. 15,000 crores, to put Indian Railways on the path of fast track growth. This would include the following:

1. Strengthening of the Golden Quadrilateral to enable Railways to run more long distance mail/express trains and freight trains at a higher speed of 100 KMPH, at a cost of Rs. 8000 crores.
2. Strengthening of rail connectivity to ports and development of multimodal corridors to hinterland, at a cost of Rs. 3000 crores.
3. Construction of four Mega Bridges - two over the river Ganga, one over river Brahmaputra and one over the river Kosi - at a cost of Rs. 3500 crores.
4. Accelerated completion of Last Mile and other important projects at a cost of Rs. 763 crores.

[Translation]

Rake Point for Fertilizers

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

(a) whether the railway ministry has set up rake points for fertilizers at Rewa and Nivari in district Teekamgarh in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to set up rake points at the said place?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Traffic demand does not justify opening of Good Sheds at Rewa and Nivari station.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Externally Aided Power Projects

669. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power projects set up with external aid and production thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether power projects were also set up with internal aid but they are not producing the power that was expected of them;

(c) the reasons for under-utilization of the funds; and

(d) the steps taken to improve their working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) State-wise details of externally aided Hydro Electric Power Stations and Thermal Power Stations which were set up to 31.03.2002 and the electricity generated from these stations during the year 2001-2002 is given in the statement enclosed.

The performance of all power projects in the country has been improving. The P.L.F. of thermal power projects has increased from 64.7% in 1997 - 98 to 69.9 % in 2001-2002.

The utilization of external assistance in the power sector is generally as per the target. The position in 2001-2002 is as under :

(Rupees in Crores)

Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Actual Utilization	% of Revised Estimate
4067.57	3707.84	3987.76	107.55%

Statement**Generation of Power Projects Set Up with External Aid**

Sl.No.	Project Name	Capacity (MW)	State/Executing Agency	Foreign Funding Agency	Energy Generation During 2001-02 (Mus)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Kotha Gudam Power	1170.00	AP	IBRD	8035.00
2.	Nagarjuna Sagar Hydro Electric	810.00	AP	JBIC	1156
3.	Rayalseema Thermal Power	420.00	AP	ADB	3413.00
4.	Srisalam Left Bank PSP-II	450.00	AP	JBIC	2341
5.	Ramagundam Thermal	2100.00	AP/NTPC	IBRD	15853.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Simhadri TPP	1000.00	AP/NTPC	JBIC	5.00
7.	Namrup Expansion IInd	30.00	ASSAM	Italy	418.00
8.	Assam Gas Turbine	291.00	ASSAM/NEEPCO	JBIC	1873.00
9.	Kopli HEP	200.00	ASSAM/NEEPCO	Kuwait	544.00
10.	Eastern Gandak Canal	15.00	Bihar	JBIC	26.00
11.	Korba Thermal Power Project	2100.00	CHSGAR/NTPC	IDA	16620.00
12.	Indraprastha Thermal Power Project	247.50	Delhi	U.S.A.	815.00
13.	Dhuvaran Thermal Power Project	27.00	Gujarat	U.S.A.	1793.00
14.	Gandhar Gas Based CCP Project	648.00	Gujarat/NTPC	JBIC	3609.00
15.	Kawas Gas Based Power Project	644.00	Gujarat/NTPC	IBRD	3761
16.	Western Yamuna Canal HEP	48.00	Haryana	JBIC	232.00
17.	Faridabad GBPS & ATSP	430.00	Haryana/NTPC	JBIC	2862.00
18.	Chamera HEP	540.00	HP/NHPC	Canada	1953.00
19.	Uri Project	480.00	J&K/NHPC	Sweden	2083.00
20.	Kalindi HEP-II	810.00	Karnataka	Kuwait	2426.00
21.	Yelahanka Power Project	120.00	Karnataka	France	771.00
22.	Idduki HEP	780.00	Kerala	Canada	2766.00
23.	Sabirgiri HEP	300.00	Kerala	U.S.A.	1406.00
24.	Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project	350.00	Kerala/NTPC	IBRD	1331
25.	Chanderapur Thermal Power Project	2340.00	Maharashtra	IBRD	16231.00
26.	Koyana Power	1420.00	Maharashtra	IBRD	2976
27.	Paithon HEP	12.00	Maharashtra	JBIC	8.00
28.	Ujjani HEP	12.00	Maharashtra	JBIC	5.00
29.	Uran Combined Cycle Power	672.00	Maharashtra	Germany	3673.00
30.	Satpura Thermal Power Project	1142.50	MP	U.S.A.	7324.00
31.	Hirakund HEP	307.50	Orissa	JBIC	969.00
32.	Talcher Thermal Power Project	460.00	Orissa	IBRD	2466.00
33.	Upper Indravati Hydel	300.00	Orissa	JBIC	2968.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
34.	Talcher Super Thermal Power Project	1000.00	Orissa/NTPC	IBRD	6237.00
35.	Rana Pratap Sagar	172.00	Rajasthan	Canada	259.00
36.	Anta Gas Based Power Project	652.00	Rajasthan/NTPC	ADB	3060.00
37.	Kundah Power Project Stage I to IV	555.00	TN	Canada	1350.00
38.	Lower Mettur HEP	120.00	TN	JBIC	369.00
39.	NLC	2070.00	TN	Germany	14409.00
40.	North Madras Thermal Power	630.00	TN	ADB	4671.00
41.	Anapara 'B' Thermal Power Project IV	1000.00	UP	JBIC	12130.00
42.	Unchahar Thermal Power Project	840.00	UP/NTPC	ADB	6560.00
43.	Auriya Gas Based Power Project	413.00	UP/NTPC	IBRD	4701
44.	Dadri, GT Power Project	817.00	UP/NTPC	Germany	5748.00
45.	National Capital Power, Dadri	840.00	UP/NTPC	IBRD	6686.00
46.	Rihand Power Project	1000.00	UP/NTPC	U.K.	7675.00
47.	Singrauli Thermal Power Project	2000.00	UP/NTPC	IDA	15476.00
48.	Garhwar-Rishikesh Chilla HEP	144.00	Uttaranchal	Abu Dhabi	541.00
49.	Bakreshwar TP Project	630.00	WB	JBIC	3162.00
50.	Teesta Canal Hydro	67.50	WB	JBIC	172.00
51.	Farakka Thermal Power Project	1600.00	WB/NTPC	IBRD	8448.00
52.	Vindychal Thermal Power Project-II	2260.00	MP/NTPC	IBRD	15589

Funds Provided by REC to Bihar and U.P.

670. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided by the Rural Electrification Corporation to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for water pump set energization during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of pumpsets energized by each State during each of these years;

(c) whether no funds were released to these States during the year 2001-2002 for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During the last 3 years as also in the current year, Bihar State Electricity Board as well as Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) (erstwhile UPSEB) have not availed of any financial assistance from Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for energisation of water pumpsets.

(b) As per CEA statistics, details of pumpsets reported as energized in the State of Bihar and UP during the last 3 years are as under:

	No. of Pumpsets reported as energized		
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Bihar	1539	2282	1138
U.P.	11403	8086	14929

(c) and (d) Bihar State Electricity Board and also UPPCL have not availed of any financial assistance from REC during 2001-02 as they continue to default in repayment of REC's dues. However, Government of India has released an amount of Rs.2457.90 lakhs to Bihar and an amount of Rs.9417.00 lakhs to Uttar Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) during 2001-02 for rural electrification. Besides, an amount of Rs.948.00 lakhs to Bihar and Rs.3923.00 lakhs to Uttar Pradesh was released under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) during 2001-02 for rural electrification.

Statutory and Non-Statutory Dues of PSU

671. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge amount of Statutory and Non-Statutory dues payable to the workers & employees of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the present position of outstanding statutory and non-statutory dues towards each of the central PSUs in the country;

(c) whether any effort has been made in regard to early payment of dues;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Administrative Ministries, directed by

group of Ministers have come out with a formula in regard to the mode of payment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and recommendations given by the Group of Ministers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (f) As per available information, as on 31.12.2001, there were 73 enterprises which have dues pending to the extent of Rs. 2068.84 crores on account of salary, wages and statutory dues. Enterprise-wise details are given in the statement enclosed. The Government have been assisting some PSUs with interim financial support for liquidating employees related liabilities. A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to recommend ways and means to liquidate the outstandings. The GoM in its last meeting held on directed the administrative Ministries/Departments to assess and indicate expeditiously the budgetary support required by the CPSUs to clear the outstandings after taking the stock of the financial position of the enterprises, which can meet their expenditure out of their own revenues, or by disposal of non-performing assets. Based on direction of the GoM further actions have been initiated and the matter has been taken up with the administrative Ministries/ Departments.

CPSU wise detail of employees is given at pages & 258 to S-267 in Vol.I of Public Enterprises Survey, 2000-2001, which was laid in the Parliament on 7.3.2002.

Statement

PSU wise position of outstanding statutory dues and salaries and wages on 31.12.2001 based on information received from 240 PSEs.

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of CPSU	Total outstanding statutory dues	Total outstanding salary/wages	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andrew Yule & Co.	579.78	18.60	598.38
2.	Bengal Chemicals & Ph. Ltd.	65.00		65.00
3.	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	563.93	107.70	671.63
4	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd. (As on 31.3.2002)	78.71	-	78.71
5	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	41136.00	-	41136.00

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	2.93	-	2.93
7.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	76.96	0.26	77.22
8.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels	1233.34	-	1233.34
9.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors	1111.62	-	1111.62
10.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	4448.17	2562.54	7010.71
11.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (As on 31.3.2002)	66.34	262.50	328.84
12.	Bharat Wagon & Engg (As on 31.3.2002)	433.11	398.00	831.11
13.	Birds, Jute & Exports Ltd.	17.00	16.00	33.00
14.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd. (As on 31.3.2002)	1313.43	-	1313.43
15.	British India Corporation Ltd.	554.00	-	554.00
16.	Brushware Ltd.	48.00	-	48.00
17.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd. (As on 31.3.2002)	5041.90	250.00	5291.90
18.	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	34.00	-	34.00
19.	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	1413.65	1131.45	2545.10
20.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	196.00	-	196.00
21.	Central Inland Water Transport (As on 30.4.2002)	1503.00	1051.00	2554.00
22.	Elgin Mills Co. Ltd.	77.00	-	77.00
23.	Heavy Engineering Corporation	8044.00	912.00	8956.00
24.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	1837.00		1837.00
25.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	2744.37		2744.37
26.	Hindustan Copper Ltd. (As on 31.3.2002)	916.00	2192.00	3108.00
27.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	90.63	-	90.63
28.	Hindustan Photo Films. Mfg.	484.25	319.41	803.66
29.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	19.49	89.75	109.24
30.	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (As on 31.3.2002)	32.00	723.00	755.00

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Hindustan Steel Works Const.	7070.00	12848.03	19918.03
32.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corp.	1220.00	14.00	1234.00
33.	HMT Ltd.	1809.00	976.00	2785.00
34.	Hooghly Dock & Port Eng. Ltd.	86.34	-	86.34
35.	Hospital Services Cons. Ltd. (As on 31.1.2002)	1.64	0.01	1.65
36.	Hotel Corporation of India	-	820.00	820.00
37.	Indian Drugs and Pharma Ltd.	8873.00	1133.00	10006.00
38.	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	6931.00	-	6931.00
39.	Instrumentation Ltd.	1279.00	975.00	2254.00
40.	Jessop & Co. Ltd. (As on 31.3.2002)	1554.70	196.36	1751.06
41.	Mazagon Dock Ltd.	31.21	0.97	32.18
42.	National Aluminium Co. Ltd.	89.03	-	89.03
43.	National Building Cons. Corp.	249.83	260.88	510.71
44.	National Industrial Dev. Corp.	54.00	533.00	587.00
45.	National Instruments Ltd. (As on 28.2.2002)	165.42	727.00	892.42
46.	National Jute Man. Corp. Ltd.	12790.00	3123.00	15913.00
47.	National Projects Con. Corp. Ltd.	3067.00	1885.00	4952.00
48.	National Seeds Corporation Ltd.	265.58	189.23	454.81
49.	NEPA Ltd.	674.00	1282.00	1956.00
50-59.	NTC & Subsidiaries	30372.00	8389.00	38761.00
60.	Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corp. (As on 30.4.02)	0.70	-	0.70
61.	Praga Tools Ltd.	915.00	650.00	1565.00
62.	Projects and Development India	2194.07	-	2194.07
63.	Ranchi Ashok Hotel Company (As on 31.1.02)	6.93	3.55	10.48
64.	RBL Ltd. (As on 31.3.2002)	52.79	60.65	113.44

1	2	3	4	5
65.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	277.90	460.00	737.90
66.	Sambhar Salts Ltd.	14.95	112.46	127.41
67.	Scooters India Ltd.	16.08	-	16.08
68.	Smith Stanistreet & Pharma	136.73	64.00	200.73
69.	State Farms Corporation Ltd.	2400.00	450.00	2850.00
70.	Tea Trading Corpn.	872.00	1030.00	1902.00
71.	Triveni Structurals Ltd.	684.78	270.00	954.78
72.	Tungbhadra Steel Products Ltd.	624.17	126.72	750.89
73.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	1146.04	183.12	1329.16
Total		160086.64	46797.19	206883.83
Equivalent to Crore		1600.87	467.97	2068.84

Maintenance of Dabhol Phase-I by NTPC

672. SHRI A. NARENDRA:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI AMBAREESHA:

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has agreed for operation and maintenance of first unit of Dabhol Power Project of Maharashtra after settlement of the prevailing dispute;

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

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken;

(d) whether there has been any agreement between NSEB and IDBI led lenders on the power tariff to be purchased from DPC Phase-I;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any compensation is claimed by the Enron Company; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has agreed to a proposal made by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), to render technical assistance for operation of the Dabhol power plant on a commercial basis. NTPC is not a party to the prevailing disputes over the Dabhol Power Plant. The disputes are to be resolved by the concerned parties to the contracts relating to the Dabhol plant.

(b) and (c) A preliminary inspection of Dabhol power plant has been conducted by Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB), NTPC, IDBI, Central Electricity Authority and promoters of the projects (GE India and M/s. Bechtel) to ascertain its condition and to work out an action plan for restart of Phase-I of the project. The details thereof and any final decision in the matter is to be worked out between the concerned agencies.

(d) and (e) The Government of Maharashtra (GOM) have conveyed their decision to IDBI to allow MSEB to purchase power from Phase-I of the Dabhol power project at a Plant Load Factor (PLF) of 83% at the rate of Rs.2.80 per unit, which has been worked out based on certain

assumptions. This arrangement would be pro tem, for the period of one year and ad-hoc and will be without prejudice to MSEB's/GOM's writs and contentions in the pending arbitration/judicial/Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) proceedings. The rate and quantum of power indicated above will be subject to approval of the MERC. The price of fuel, i.e. naphtha, will be pass through in the tariff.

(f) No claim for any compensation has been received by Government of India from Enron in the context of the above initiatives being taken to restart the Dabhol power plant.

(g) Does not arise.

Performance Indian Officers in Foreign Countries

673. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Information Service Officers are posted in foreign countries to collect news for AIR and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details of officers posted at each station for the last three years alongwith the expenditure borne by the Government on each of them annually;

(c) whether these officers have not been able to

prove their talent in comparison to other private channels who give more coverage of their T.V. Channel;

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

(e) whether there is any proposal to review the present policy in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Details of the officers posted at each station for the last three years alongwith the yearly expenditure thereon is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has seven posts of Special Correspondents abroad to cover the events taking place outside the country. They play a vital role in meeting the requirements of the listeners and viewers of Prasar Bharati. The Correspondents posted in foreign countries have been providing both on the spot coverage of events and in-depth analysis of the developments taking place in the country/region concerned. Prasar Bharati's Special Correspondents abroad contribute a great deal to AIR & Doordarshan's coverage of foreign events

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise

Statement

S.No.	Name & Country	Yearly Break-up -	Pay & Allowances + Travel Expenses + Office Expenses (Amount)
1	2	3	4
1	Smt. Shakuntala Mahawal, Brussels Correspondent	2000-2001	Rs. 32.58 lakhs
		2001-2002	Rs. 36.87 lakhs
		2002-2003	Rs. 16.90 lakhs (upto 10/2002)
2	Shri A.K. Rout, Dhaka Correspondent	2000-2001	Rs. 35.57 lakhs
		2001-2002	Rs. 30.49 lakhs
		2002-2003	Rs. 14.31 lakhs (upto 10/2002)
3	Shri Mohan Chandak, Colombo Correspondent	2000-2001	Rs. 22.94 lakhs

1	2	3	4
		2001-2002	Rs. 22.10 lakhs
		2002-2003	Rs. 14.65 lakhs (upto 10/2002)
4	Shri P. John Churchill, Hong Kong Correspondent	2000-2001	Rs. 44.75 lakhs
		2001-2002	Rs. 43.50 lakhs
		2002-2003	Rs. 30.60 lakhs (upto 10/2002)
5	Shri Amitabh Chakrabarti, Washington Correspondent	2000-2001	Rs. 30.62 lakhs
		2001-2002	Rs. 31.70 lakhs
		2002-2003	Rs. 23.30 lakhs (upto 10/2002)
6	Shri R.S. Shukla, Kathmandu (retired on 31.5.2002)	2000-2001	Rs. 21.82 lakhs
		2001-2002	Rs. 20.68 lakhs
		2002-2003	Rs. 05.94 lakhs
7	Shri Ramji Tripathi, Dubai Correspondent (Retired on 28.2.2002)	2000-2001	Rs. 33.09 lakhs
		2001-2002	Rs. 40.74 lakhs
		2002-2003	---

Affect on Palace on Wheels

(c) Yes, Sir.

674. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Palace on Wheels had been affected by a sharp decline in the arrival of foreign tourists last year in the wake of the September 11 terror strike in New York and the scenario this year appeared to be dull as the tourism has failed to show signs of picking up;

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

(c) whether there is decline in the arrival of foreigners?

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

(b) During the last season a special 25% discount on the Dollar tariff to the foreign tourists and a special Rupee tariff for the Indian nationals was offered.

Basic Passenger Amenities

675. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the thrust area of Railways in 8th Plan was to provide basic passenger amenities at all stations on priority;

(b) if so, reasons for failure to eliminate deficiencies in basic amenities till date despite its commitment to the Estimate Committee to eliminate all deficiencies by 1990-1991;

(c) if so, reasons for not providing basic passenger amenities on various railway zones despite allocation and availability of funds;

(d) whether funds allocated were not utilized in full; and

(e) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) It has always been Railways' constant endeavour to provide basic passenger amenities at stations. Railways had replied to the Estimates Committee (1988-1989) - Eighth Lok Sabha that it should be possible to wipe out the deficiencies in Basic Amenities, i.e., waiting halls, benches, suitable lighting, drinking water facilities, latrines, suitable platforms, booking arrangements and shady trees by 30.03.1991.

The basic amenities, as were defined in 1990-91, were provided at the stations and it is not correct to state that commitment made to the Committee was not fulfilled. While the basic amenities in qualitative terms have been made available at nearly all stations, the deficiencies, wherever existing, are in quantitative terms. For example, a station is counted as deficient in drinking water arrangement if 10 taps are available as against norms of 12 taps at a particular category of station though the arrangement for drinking water is available. Railways are endeavouring to eliminate such cases also.

(d) and (e) The funds could not be fully utilized in some years for various reasons, such as slow progress of works due to contractual problems, delay in finalisation of plans & estimates, difficulty in executing work under traffic conditions and in the last couple of years due to regulation on plan expenditure imposed in the course of the year on account of lesser generation of internal resources.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table:

A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of the section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Annual Report of the Bharat Earth Movers, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6003/2002]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 935(E) in Gazette of India, dated the 3rd September, 2002 under Sub-section (3) of Section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6004/2002]

- (2) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Law Commission of India:-

- (i) One Hundred and Seventy-Seventh the Report on Law Relating to Arrest.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6005/2002]

- (ii) One Hundred and Seventy-Eighth Report on the Recommendations for Amending various Enactments, both Civil and Criminal.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6006/2002]

- (iii) One Hundred and Seventy-Ninth Report on the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6007/2002]

- (iv) One Hundred and Eightieth Report on the Article 20(3) of the Constitution of India and the Right to Silence.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6008/2002]

- (v) One Hundred and Eighty-First Report on the Amendment to Section 106 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6009/2002]

- (vi) One Hundred and Eighty-second Report on the Amendment of Section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6010/2002]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir,

I beg to lay on the Table of a copy of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) (Junior Security posts) Service Regulations, 2002 (Hindi and English versions), published in Notification No. No-10/16/2001-PPC in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2002 under Section 34 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6011/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): 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:-
 - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6012/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 274 in Gazette of India, dated the 20th July, 2002 under Sub-section (3) of Section 38 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6013/2002]

12.05 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA - LAID

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the

following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th November, 2002 agreed without any amendment to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th July, 2002."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th November, 2002."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2002, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 20th November, 2002.

12.05½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Seventh to Ninth Reports

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): I beg to present the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.06 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Forty-second Report

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): I beg to present the Forty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.06½ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

Tenth Report

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (ELURU): I beg to present the 'Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme on the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation - 'Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme.'

12.06 ¾ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR
AND WELFARE**

Twenty-Third report

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (SIRSA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Twenty-Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on "The Payment of wages (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

12.07 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

(i) Ninety-third to Ninety-sixth Reports

[English]

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (PANSKURA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:

- (1) Ninety-third Report on the Competition Bill, 2001;
- (2) Ninety-fourth Report on the Supreme Court

Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2002;

- (3) Ninety-fifth Report on the Repatriation of Prisoners Bill, 2002; and
- (4) Ninety-sixth Report on the Swatantrata Gainik Samman Pension Scheme.

(ii) Evidence

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Evidence tendered before the Committee on the following Bills:

- (1) Ninety-third Report on the Competition Bill, 2001;
- (2) Ninety-fourth Report on the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2002; and
- (3) Ninety-fifth Report on the Repatriation of Prisoners Bill, 2002.

12.08 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TOURISM AND CULTURE**

(i) Sixtieth and Sixty-first Reports

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): I beg to lay on the table a copy each of the Sixtieth and Sixty-first Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture on (i) Development of Tourism in the Country and (ii) Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000 respectively.

(ii) Evidence

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to lay on the table a copy each of the record of evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture on the Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

12.09 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

**(I) Committee on Welfare of Scheduled
Castes and Scheduled Tribes**

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANDHUKA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following:-

* Presented to Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha on 12th August, 2002 under Direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha when the House was not in Session. Hon. Speaker ordered the printing, publication and circulation of the Report under rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) Committee on Public Undertakings

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following:-

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri Vikram Verma ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri Vikram Verma ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister and do communicate to this

House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.10 hrs.

MYSORE STATE LEGISLATURE (DELEGATION OF POWERS) REPEAL BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): On behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Mysore State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1971.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Mysore State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1971."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I introduce the Bill.

12.11 hrs.

EMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Emigration Act, 1983.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Emigration Act, 1983."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I oppose the introduction of this Bill. The Bill is constitutionally defective. It is stated in the Bill that if the

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Bill is enacted, it will not involve any other expenditure of the recurring or the non-recurring nature. This is opposed to the facts. I may be permitted to submit that I do not oppose the principle involved in it because if the Bill is enacted properly, it will go a long way in serving the Indians who are working abroad. My State of Kerala had sent thousands of workers to the Gulf countries and they are working there. Their affairs are not properly looked after. The Indian Embassy is also not doing their service properly. Moreover, when a death occurs in my place, the cremation cannot take place because the relatives will have to come from the Gulf. That is the position.

Sir, every day a Malayali dies in the Gulf countries. It is not easy to bring the dead body to Kerala because of monetary and so many other difficulties. If the Bill has been properly introduced, I would have given fullest cooperation to support it.

MR. SPEAKER: The statement has to be very brief.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is stated in the Bill that the Government will be gracious enough to set apart Rs.1 crore. But that will not be sufficient for bringing dozens of dead bodies from Gulf countries to Kerala. Therefore, Rs.1 crore is quite meagre. It is a mockery.

MR. SPEAKER: You can discuss all these things when the Bill will be taken into consideration. We have understood why you are opposing it.

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: When discussion take place at that time he can mention all these things. You had said two things.

[English]

He has said that he is opposing the Bill because it is outside our jurisdiction. It is totally wrong because we made this Act and we have the right to amend it.

Secondly, he has said that it is in violation of the Citizenship Act.

[Translation]

Citizens have nothing to do with this, that is totally a different thing. How to become a citizen, what are the conditions, it's all included in that. This Act is not concerned with all that. Therefore, this kind of your thinking is absolutely wrong.

The other points, which he has raised as to in what manner we can help them more, about that I would like to say that he can express his views when the Bill will be taken for consideration and at that time, we will give reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Emigration Act, 1983."

The Motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

12.16 hrs.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT AND LEADERS OF OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953 and the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953 and the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I introduce** the Bill.

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** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

12.17 hrs.

**DELHI METRO RAILWAY
(OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE) BILL****[English]*

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the operation and maintenance and to regulate the working of the metro railway in the metropolitan city of Delhi and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the operation and maintenance and to regulate the working of the metro railway in the metropolitan city of Delhi and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): I oppose the introduction of the Bill because it goes against the federal structure of the Constitution. There is the State of Delhi. There is an elected Assembly there. The metro railway is confined within the metropolitan boundary of Delhi.

Normally Railways is an inter-State transport and in that case the Central Government is empowered to enact a law. But here is a case where the metro railway is confined within the limits of the metropolitan city. Therefore, it ought to have been discussed within the Delhi Administration and then the Delhi Assembly ought to have discussed it. But, without the consent of the Delhi Administration and without a discussion in the Delhi Assembly, this Bill has been brought against the spirit of the federal structure and the federal nature of our Constitution. In that case, why should there be an Assembly in Delhi?

Railways as such is an inter-State entity and therefore the Central Government is there. Here is a case where it is confined within the limits of the Delhi Metropolitan City. Even in the Bill it is mentioned that private parties are allowed to run the metro railway. But no mention has been made about the Delhi Administration. It is ridiculous. The Delhi Administration ought to have been consulted in this matter. It goes against the spirit of the Constitution. It is against the federal structure of the Constitution. Therefore, I oppose the introduction of this Bill.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: According to the Constitution of India, Railways is in the Union List. But the hon. Member is saying that it is in the Concurrent List. We cannot accept what the hon. Member is saying because according to article 246 of the Constitution, Railways is in the Union List. Therefore, we are coming up with this Bill.

Even if we accept the argument of the hon. Member, then also in respect of matters which are there in the Concurrent List, the Centre is legislatively competent to bring this Bill. Therefore, we are bringing forward this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the operation and maintenance and to regulate the working of the metro railway in the metropolitan city of Delhi and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I introduce** the Bill.

12.19 hrs.

*[English]***STATEMENT RE: DELHI METRO RAILWAY
(OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE) ORDINANCE**

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Ordinance, 2002.

*...(Interruptions)...**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: If you continue do like this, then there will be no Zero Hour. I want to conduct Zero Hour. Shri Buta Singhji, I am going to allow you to speak over this important subject. I have received notice from Shri Sumanji, Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji and Shri Ramdas Athawaleji over this subject.

First they will speak and after that I will give permission to Shri Buta Singhji and Shri Prakash Ambedkarji.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II-Section 2, dt. 21.11.2002.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I should also be allowed to speak as you have said that you will allow Sardar Buta Singh, Shri Ramji Lal Suman and others.

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to allow you also. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (PADRAUNA): I have given the Notice.

MR. SPEAKER: That we will take up later on. This notice relates to Adjournment Motion. You speak on your notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not do. You will all suffer. We are having Zero Hour after two days.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (MEERUT): In U.P., farmers are agitating on roads. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to say. We will take up this subject afterwards. I have not called you, I have called Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak. Buta Singhji, you also please sit down, I will give you the permission, Shri Sumanji, you can speak.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my only request is that instead of today this discussion should be conducted tomorrow because the issue of U.P. mills is very serious.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the day of Dussehra, in Badshahpur, between Gurgaon and Sohna, 5 people who had the skin business and were having the valid licence left from that place. They were arrested at Jhajjar Police Station. In fact the matter was that they used to give Rs.3000/- p.m. as bribe in that police station and that day a demand was made for another 10,000/- rupees.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (SIRSA): I would like to interrupt in this matter and say to speak the truth only.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Let me speak first. You can speak afterwards.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given permission to Shri Ramji

Lal Suman. I will not allow anyone else to interrupt therefore, I will not listen to your intervention. You should follow the procedure.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: This matter relates to Haryana and I belong to that state only.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your protection. These five people were arrested. Since they had not given bribe, one of them was beaten up by police and he died. Later on it was rumoured that he was involved in cow slaughter. The police and administration witnessed all these things as silent spectator. They were murdered in front of police station. Just now my colleague have said that Haryana Government have stated in its report that they were involved in cow slaughtering. It has been stated in that report that in Bhagalpur a cow died natural death and that is not related with this incident. On the one hand the people of Vishwa Hindu Parishad doubt the intention of minorities and on the other hand, after their murder, a statement of Acharya Giriraj Kishore has been published that VHP, has no regrets. Five dalits have been murdered and VHP has no regrets.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): He has not said so. This wrong statement should not go on the record.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Till today no action has been taken in this regard. The Commissioner of Gurgaon is investigating the matter. Prima facie the people are guilty and administration witnessed all these as mute spectator. The police did not open fire. No action was taken to disperse the people. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need your protection. The aim or conception for forming a new state was that no one should take one's life and no one should encroach one's right. The state will give protection to all. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a basic question. When murder takes place in such a manner in front of police station then people will lose faith in this machinery. ...(Interruptions) No other incident could be more serious than this. The members of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal have done the work of threatening the people of Minority Community. Now their target is Dalit people. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now you please conclude your speech because other members also have to express their views.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: My submission is that the all facts should be got investigated immediately through the sitting judge of Supreme Court only then the matter could

be revealed. These communalist people. ...*(Interruptions)*
This is a very serious incident.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice on both Jhajjar as well as Bihar issue. The incident of Jhajjar took place on 15th and it was Dussehra festival on that day. When I read this news in the newspaper that dalits have been murdered because they have tried to remove the skin of lively cow, I was shocked. I immediately asked my party chairman of that area, Captain Shamsher Singh Mallik to go there and inquire about the incident. After inquiring the incident he reported that it was totally wrong. He gave me the report on 16th and I went there on 17th. When I went there, I asked the Police officer on duty to show me the place where the incident took place. Dhulina Police station is at 7 kms from Jhajjar. The Magistrate was present there. I asked him about the bones of dead cow. He said no one knows about it. When I asked him whether someone has lodged a complaint regarding theft of cow, for that also he replied in negative. When I asked him about those 5 people, he told me that four of them belongs to Badshahpur which is 50 kms away from this place and one belongs to Karnal, which is 125 kms away from this place. When I asked as to how did they come, I was told that they were in Tata vehicle. When I asked whether any weapon has been seized, with which they were murdered, it has been told that no weapon has been seized. I said if they had come to kill a live cow then why did they choose a spot which is merely hundred metre away from the police station and that too at four o' Clock in the evening. I did not get reply to this question. Thereafter when I inquired about the incident I could know the mystery of it. There five persons had come. One of them had Rs.40,000 with them, the second one had Rs.10,000 and the third one had Rs.6500. They all were well to do and also possessed licence. According to the conventional rule of the police station, they were stopped at check post. Money was demanded from them. When they refused to give money they were brought to police station and after that they were thrashed so mercilessly that they died. This incident took place at 4 o' Clock in the evening and Jhajjar is seven k.m. away from that spot. The Superintendent of police there belongs to the minority community and the D.M. there belongs to scheduled caste. They came to know about it after 4 hours. When the mob were rushing towards it then why were they kept in police station even after the four hours of the incident? When I inquired about it I came to know that when they had died, one officer of the police station makes a telephone call to give twist to the incident. I would not like to mention his name however, Khurana Saheb you all are serious people. You please hold inquiry in this regard. There one leader Swami Paramhans belongs to VHP and

the other one Ramchandra is the leader of BJP. ...*(Interruptions)* I have mentioned it for the sake of information. You may omit the name. I have said. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not trying to stop you. I would like to submit that I want and I have also been requested that the Minister of Home Affairs should remain present in the House while discussion is held on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I would not like to involve any politics in it. I would like to submit only this. When a telephone call was made then it came to the light that some people had come there. You should hold inquiry in this regard. If a mob of 10,000 people had come then the ground would have been tramped and somewhere plants would have been uprooted but nothing such happened anywhere. Shri Om Prakash Chautala is a old friend of mine and is the Chief Minister. Next day on the basis of the statement of the police, he said that they had come to kill the cow. So the mob became so aggressive that police could not protect them. Not even single round was fired and no one was hurt. I would like to thank the people of Badshahpur, the Sarpanch of that village Shri Tyagi who belongs to upper caste, Shri Bhardwaj who is Pradhan of the village and one other Sarpanch Shri Virsingh who belongs to Dalit community. They all three were with me at the time of arrest. The people who had come at that time said that it was not true and it was not a matter of any religion or caste. They were deliberately killed. All the members of their families have offered their arrest at Parliament Street police station. I would like to mention the name of Shri Giriraj Kishore. Shri Malhotra ji, he has submitted that a cow is more important than a man. I would not like to compare a man with a cow. In Delhi, cows die daily in road accident as cows are left to roam freely on the roads. I would like to submit that officer cannot hold inquiry into the incident. It is a sentimental issue. Meetings are being held all over the country. There is discontentment among Dalits. It is not an ordinary thing. I would like to submit that the people in opposition should take it seriously.

Sir, the second incident is related to my state Bihar. Lakshmipur village is located in Fatehpur block of Gaya district, Bihar. Dewan Paswan is the president of our party of that block. His wife, mother and his father as well as his sister-in-law (Bhabhi) were killed on first November. They were building their small house during day time. One man went there and asked them for Rs.5,000/-. They told him that they were unable to pay that much of amount as they were constructing their house. When they did not pay that amount, that person killed them in the evening. Their dead

bodies remained in well for two days. After that police reached there, however the dead bodies remained in well for two days. The day when we reached there the Minister of the State Government Shri Shakil Ahmed had also visited the place. He was not aware of it. We reached there on third, one day before Diwali. There they called DIG and SP. They came. We asked them as to why the dead bodies remained laying in the well for two days and why they did not go there to take the dead bodies out of the well? They replied that they could not go there after 4.30. I asked them - why? They said that they did not feel safe. I said that if they did not feel safe then how Dalits of the village can be safe. They said that if their officer goes there his arms would be snatched. I asked as to what is the remedy? They replied that people of the village should be rehabilitated at some other place. I asked as who would rehabilitate them? We were waiting for dead bodies there. It is also very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a serious issue that is why I have given permission for that.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I am concluding in one minute only. Two, dead bodies were recovered from Kotch block of the same district that belonged to Dalit community. I would like to submit that one of them was a mason and other was a labourer. After enquiry as to who killed them, it was told that the killer was trying whether he could take correct aim or not. I would like to ask whether poor and dalit of this country have right to live or not? We are sitting in the House. I would like to submit that in 1977 when Shri Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister of the country, Belchhi massacre took place in which 8 persons were killed. The discussion was being held on that Censor Motion under rule 184 and when proposal of voting was raised, Shri Morarji Desai told that there was no question of voting as it is a blot on the country and would unanimously pass the Motion. I would like to submit to the Speaker that whatever have happened in Jhajjar and Bihar are not ordinary incidents as five persons were burnt alive. The right to life has been robbed and are being robbed in Bihar and such incidents are taking place all over the country. So it should be proposed by the Chair that such topics should not be discussed in the House. Whether it is the issue of minorities or the weaker sections of society, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Government of India to protect their rights and so the Government should take the responsibility.

The Government which is not able to protect the Dalits and minorities should be removed under rule 356. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not concerned with any party, the Members of Bhartiya Janata Party are present here. I do not have anything to do with what do they say about your leader however when a dalit is killed and this act is compared with a cow and road is blocked and it is

threatened to burn the police station in protest of the police action taken against the culprits, it is quite unfortunate. If such incidents are kept on occurring, I do not know what will happen to this country. So, I feel that the entire House should take it seriously and I would also like to urge the Chair to take this matter seriously.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all condemn the incidents of massacre at Dulina and Jhajjar. When such incidents occur there is need to create the feeling among people of the country that we all Indians are equal. The question is that when a cow dies, traditionally the Dalit people of the village skin the cows. The concept is that cow is alive despite its physical death. They propagate that cow is their mother. It is fine. V's do not have anything to do with if cow is their mother. It is the statement of the Chief Minister and others that the cow was dead in Dulina. It is their statement that inspite of that four-five thousand people gathered. Five people were killed there. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to say if Dalits would be killed on the issue of removing skin of a cow or any other animal, then we shall have to tell the entire Dalit community in the country that if in any village, an animal dies, then only that person would do the work of removing the skin of an animal to whom that belongs. I make an appeal to the dalits that Baba Saheb Ambedkar has refused us to do such a heinous work. We should perform our duties but such killings should not take place. Shri Om Prakash Chautalaji went there a little late and by that time four to five persons had already been killed there. ...*(Interruptions)* He announced compensation of Rs.5 lakh but this does not solve the problem. We shall be sympathetic towards those who are killed. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad announced that if anyone executes such barbaric act to kill cows then such incidents would take place. I want to say that we can also resort to taking arms in our hands and commit murders. But we would not do so since Babasaheb Ambedkarji has not taught us to do so. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Athawaleji, please sit down.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: We have accepted to live with peace but we can also launch revolution and struggle. Such killings should not take place in future and that is why we appeal to hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji to take steps for protection of dalits and ask the Chautala Government to do the same. If it is not done, then those Members should come with us. Shri Sushil Kumar Indora also belongs to Scheduled Caste. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Athawaleji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, I demand that enquiry should be conducted in this regard and action should be taken against the guilty persons. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (SOLAPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we both have signed the notice for discussion under Rule 193. So, I must also be given an opportunity to speak on this matter.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (JALORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, forty days have passed since the incident took place at Jhajjar in Haryana. This incident has shaken humanity. We have been given an opportunity to speak on this issue when several Members raised it. We are feeling ashamed of all this. In fact the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should have given a suo-moto statement on the very first day of the session, which could have enabled the dalits to know the reality and could have soothed them to some extent. But unfortunately, attitude of the Union Government was discriminatory and they did not take the matter as seriously as required. No doubt the hon. Minister has given statement that the guilty would not be spared but who would apprehend them?

As told by hon. Ram Vilas Paswanji and Sumanji that there was no cow, but five persons were travelling in a truck carrying animal hide. The truck was stopped at the police station and these persons were asked to give money. They have mentioned the entire incident that there was nothing that of killing of any cow. In one FIR, it has been mentioned that five persons were killed by the mob. FIR lodged by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad mentions that the said five persons killed cow and so the mob killed them. But any person's name has not been given in it.

The Chief Minister of Haryana has given statement. He did not visit the spot even being the Chief Minister of the State. Perhaps he did not find the incident so serious and important so as to go and see the dead persons and issue some guidelines to the administration keeping in view the situation. All leaders of the country went there. Sonaiji also went there and met family members of the deceased persons, they confirmed that no cow was killed. One person was in fact killed at that time and rest of the four were taken to the police station. They said that no one was removing the animal skin and no dead animal was recovered from them. One post mortem report was also published. But it has been mentioned in that report that it was of an animal which died 24 hours earlier. This clearly shows that at first

the police asked for money and on their refusal, the police beat them to death and persons were sent to the Gurukul, people were incited, five persons were killed by the mob, merely in order to conceal the said murder. This incident has been mentioned in all the newspapers of Punjab and Haryana. I wish to know whether the Chief Minister who has said that no one's responsibility can be fixed in this regard and he would ask the Chief Commissioner to conduct an inquiry. This inquiry is just to deceit the dalits as also the common people.

Hon. Smt. Sonia Gandhiji had demanded that a CBI enquiry should be conducted into this. The Human Rights Commission as also 32 parties of Haryana have also said that a CBI inquiry should be conducted in this regard. Subsequently, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, senior leaders of the CPM and leaders from the other parties also visited that place. Sir, I am of the view that discontentment amongst the people would increase unless CBI is entrusted with the enquiry of this matter.

I, therefore, through you, request that a discussion under Rule 193 should be held for which we have given notice so that all the hon. Members could get a chance to speak in the House and facts could be revealed in this regard. Secondly that persons of the organisations who killed these five dalits, should be punished. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is published in today's newspapers that the Haryana police is harassing and terrorising family Members of the deceased. We have also heard that some compromise is being reached upon and an agreement is being made with the Gurukul persons so that the said matter could be closed. I request that the fact should be revealed in the House and it is the duty of the Union Government to look into the matter. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister may order an inquiry or CBI inquiry into this matter and place the report on the Table of the House so that discussion could take place. The House may decide about this issue. Murder of dalits at such a large scale are being committed at a particular place, which should be checked. Dalits have been killed in Bihar and Tamil Nadu also. The guidance from the House should be taken in order to check the occurrence of such incidents. With these words, I request that a discussion may be held on this matter under Rule 193. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be some rule in the House. We listen to all their speeches quite patiently and when anyone speaks from this side, they stand immediately and interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please maintain peace and silence

in the House. Everyone would be given a chance to speak.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I condemn the murder of dalits there. The entire House should condemn it. It is an obnoxious crime. Such incidents are a matter of shame for the entire country. No dalit in the country removes skin of a live cow. It happens nowhere in the country. And therefore, saying such things is wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is also true that if some people do not remove skin from the body of a dead cow, then no one is there to do it. It is a matter of enquiry as to whether that cow was dead or alive. No dalit kill a cow to have beef. I agree to the view that what was the actual incident - should be enquired into. If he is not satisfied with the investigation and wants that the investigation should be conducted in some other manner or there should be judicial or CBI inquiry in this regard, we have no objection over this. The investigation should definitely be conducted so that truth can be revealed.

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: I am really supporting him, if he really desires. It is because Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad have come in. ...*(Interruptions)* Prof Malhotra is very right. That is why I have been saying this. Under Rule 193, I have given a notice.

[Translation]

We agree that judicial inquiry should be conducted over this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I agree with your view that we should definitely discuss about all the problems of Dalits in the House under Rule 193 for the one full day so that all members of the House could participate in this discussion. But I have objection over 2-3 things. I have objection about. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When discussion over this subject would be conducted you can put your views at that time only.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many things have been mentioned here. What the hon'ble member has mentioned about, I would like to tell him that neither the Vishwa Hindu Parishad nor the Bajrang Dal

exists as a big organisation in that entire area. It is not so. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am going to. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: In every paper it has been mentioned. ...*(Interruptions)* What is this? ...*(Interruptions)* This is a set of papers from the Parliament Library, which has clippings from all the papers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Let me express my views. If there is any such statement then I do not agree that the life of any person should be compared with that of animal, that is also not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (AKOLA): Then why don't you condemn it?

MR. SPEAKER: Prakashji, you please sit down.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I would like to tell all hon'ble members of the House, whether they belong to congress party or Samajwadi party that five persons have been arrested in this regard. Among them, one is dalit and the other four persons belongs to some other community. After their arrest, the panchayats of 400-500 villages blocked their way and thus the incident took place. Whenever any such things happens they say that in Haryana Congress Party has majority over all panchayats and he is saying that congress has full power over there. If so, then why their members are blocking the roads? When neither BJP nor VHP is in power there then why the Congress members are blocking the roads?

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: It has nothing to do with law and order. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I would like to ask him as to why the roads were blocked and such atmosphere had been created when his leader Ch. Bhajan Lal is saying that they have majority over all the panchayats?

[English]

It is a very serious thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is not the

issue of congress or BJP, but it is the issue of Dalits.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Congress has no power in the Panchayats of 300 villages.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I support Prof. Malhotra as far as his first part is concerned, but as far as his second part is concerned, we do not agree with him.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may not agree with him, but he has to speak.

[Translation]

Shri Malhotraji, you please conclude.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the question of Congress here. I am humbly requesting him that it is not a question of party.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: But it has been published in the newspaper and efforts are being made to make you accept this thing. ... (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I disagree with this. It is not a question of Congress, BJP or Samajwadi Party instead it is a question of atrocities being committed on dalits as they are being murdered. Such an atmosphere has been created there that the Panchayats of 300 villages are unitedly blocking the roads and the national highways, have been closed. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Malhotraji, once they are in majority in Panchayats. People of every village are not required to block the way. For this, handful of people are enough. Therefore don't blame people of all villages.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: But photos of dalits and their Sarpanch are being shown in TV. Don't make it a political issue. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

I am not diluting. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Let Mr. Malhotra speak, it is his right.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

rather it is being done by congress people but BJP is being held responsible for it, this is not right? Other things are also happening. Conversions are being made on this account and it is being said that it has already happened and there is no use of talking about it. Even people from other countries have been brought there for conversions whereas the five families have said that they have not converted their religion and still photographs are being shown to this effect. Many big leaders are visiting there. In fact it is being said that they are trying to magnify the issue of cow-slaughter. I am saying that at least you people should not speak like this.

I believe that we should not speak like this. The question of dalits should not be linked either with cow-slaughter or with conversion of religion. Therefore I support these three things. I request you to hold discussion over this issue under Rule 193. The inquiry should be conducted in a manner as desired by the people of that area and the culprits must be punished at the earliest. This question is very important for the country, for Parliament and for all other people, don't make it a political issue. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question which has been raised. ... (Interruptions) Just now he has said that they were unable to control the crowd. His Government is in power at the centre and his allied parties are in power there even then they were unable to control the crowd.

What was the police doing when incident took place at 4'O clock and murder took place at 6 'O clock. The police did nothing. It means it was all in connivance with police. Even today all the roads are closed. What action police is taking there and what is administration doing?

[English]

If the State Administration has failed, is it not the duty of the Central Government to intervene? Now, this is the perfect time to intervene.

[Translation]

You please don't take this issue lightly because the BJP and Vishwa Hindu Parishad have been named for this. I have got so many press cuttings. This is a set of papers from Parliament Library. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: They should have

given this name after introspection and an urgent judicial inquiry should be conducted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you resume your seat. This subject is really very serious, discussion should be held on it and the Home Minister should also give a reply on it. The hon. Members have suggested to hold a discussion on it under Rule 193. I know that there is a need to hold a comprehensive discussion on the subject. We would put this matter in BAC and I would, as soon, as possible, try to hold a discussion on it at some forum. I want that all of you co-operate in this regard. I have 26 such important subject with me on which the hon. Members have to raise the questions. The subject of each MP is important. I would like that some of these subject should come for debate in the House and in the public. Hence everybody would like to continue discussion on the current topic, is it wrong? Notice of Adjournment Motion was brought, initially I thought to permit only three persons but I also gave permission to five-six more persons. I don't think there is a need to held discussion on this subject. Now we shall take on another subject. Sir, I would give a chance to other Members when the discussion under the rule 193 would start.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers are getting ruined in our constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should co-operate with me to take up this question. There is an urgent need to hold discussion on such a subject. Injustice has been done to the dalits. I am trying to understand it and its reply should be given during discussion. Hon. Minister would not give an abrupt reply. I would certainly hold discussion on this subject. All of you should cooperate with me. Now the other subject I have with me is regarding farmers, and I am taking this subject.

[English]

Otherwise, it is one O'clock now. I may adjourn the House for lunch.

...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, please give me only one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Then not a single other subject would be taken up and it is not a good thing. I want to continue working as per the rules framed by the House. Now I have with me the subject of farmers raised by Shri Ram Nagina Mishra. Besides I am also taking two more subjects. One subject is of Shri Dharmraj Singh Patel which is the -

[English]

- Problems faced by sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

Second subject with me is of Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana which also concerns the -

[English]

Problems faced by sugarcane growers in U.P.'

[Translation]

Now the discussion on these subjects would be held, then your subject would be taken up.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All the subjects cannot be taken up collectively.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to raise an important issue regarding the need to take necessary steps for release of Indian fishermen detained by Pakistan authorities. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to take up two-three subjects. If you continue to make noise then no subject would be taken up. I would adjourn the House at one O'clock. This is the question of the farmers.

13.00 hrs.

If you do not want to continue, then I would adjourn the House and loss is all yours. I have called the name of Shri Ram Nagina Mishra. Ram Nagina Mishra ji, you speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA): Will there not be any discussion on women? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Naginaji, you speak.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise such an important subject. Today, the farmer of U.P. is dejected. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): A College girl in Delhi has been raped. I have given

a Notice in this regard and you are not taking such an important question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If someone thinks that talking in a loud voice would make me give permission then it is not so. I am calling turn wise.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Sir, the population of Uttar Pradesh is more than 16 crore. The sugarcane is its main crop. There are 125 sugar mills. Today the situation is very precarious there. All the mill owners have threatened to close down their mills. Uttar Pradesh Government had fixed the price of sugarcane at Rs.95 per quintal. The mill owners have said that they would not pay the increased prices. The last year's price is necessary to be paid to the farmers. This year private mills have declined to procure sugarcane at that rate and they have also taken a stay from the High Court against it. Sugar mills are not ready to pay more than Rs.64 per quintal to the farmers of Uttar Pradesh who is already reeling under pain. Mills owe billions of rupees to farmers. The mills in my janapada alone owe one billion rupees. All the mills are closed. Today even the sowing of wheat in thousands and lakhs of acres of land has been affected due to the closure of the mills. The farmer is burning his crop of sugarcane in Muzzaffarnagar. The situation has taken a very ferocious turn. All the mills are closed.

If the mills are closed down, farmers won't have any other way out then to die. Mills already owe billions of rupees. The most important of the discussions that are to take place is the problems of the farmers. I would request the Government of India to mediate in this regard to make the sugarcane mills functional again and to arrange for providing the remunerative price of sugarcane to the farmers. Sir, the price has been fixed at Rs.95 per quintal and the farmers are not ready to sell their sugarcane below it. Due to the closure of mills sugarcane is being procured at the rate of Rs.30-40 per quintal, which is coming a problem to the farmers. I would request the hon. Minister to immediately intervene, to ensure the functioning of all the mills in Uttar Pradesh only then the farmers would be benefited.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (PHULPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support hon. Member Mishra ji view. On one hand the farmers are in the grip of draught and on the other sugarcane is produced in plenty in Uttar Pradesh and it is also the largest sugar producing state in the country. However the sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh are on the verge of disaster today and the sugar mill owners are not procuring the sugarcane by making an association. The sugarcane crop is standing ripe in the farms and he does not know where to sell it. It is unfortunate that neither the Union nor the Uttar Pradesh Government is able to take a

decision in this regard. The issue has been taken to the Supreme Court. In such a situation the farmer who is already facing devastation due to drought would be forced to burn his standing crop, which would lead him to commit suicide. I demand from the Government of India to immediately issue an order that the sugarcane be provided at the rate of Rs.95 per quintal.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by the hon. Members with regard to the plight of farmers in the country. The condition of farmers in Uttar Pradesh is a matter of great concern today. That is why I have given this notice as their condition is likely to worsen in the next two three days.

Sir, today, the farmers are dependent on sugarcane. Their entire life depends on the sugarcane crop. As the hon. Members have already said today, there is need to immediately solve their problems. Whereas this Government is giving incentives to the mill owners, they are bent upon ruining the farmers. We would be doing gross injustice to the farmers if we do not save them from ruination today.

Sir, I hail from western Uttar Pradesh where sugarcane is grown on a large scale. Today, the farmers of Western Uttar Pradesh are so agitated that they have launched a movement and have come out on the roads. They are compelled to commit suicide. As has been said the other crop could not be sown, although it should have been sown, because the mill owners did not buy sugarcane of the farmers and the crop is still standing in the fields. Today, due to the wrong policy of the Government, the mill owners are not buying the sugarcane of the farmers and the latter are compelled to burn their crop in the fields.

Sir, on the one hand, farmers are dying of hunger in Rajasthan and even fodder is not available for their cattle, on the other hand the farmers in Western Uttar Pradesh are burning sugarcane for the fodder of their cattle in the fields itself.

All this is happening due to the wrong policies of the Government and not only the farmers of Uttar Pradesh but those of the entire country are getting ruined. Sugarcane farmers in Western Uttar Pradesh have not yet received their payments.

Sir, sugarcane is the most abundantly grown crop in Western Uttar Pradesh. The entire economy of the farmer, there depends upon the payment made to him in lieu of the sugarcane crop. Be it sending his child to school or getting his daughter married — all depends on that only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH): Sir, students from various parts of the country have come to the capital, New Delhi. They are demonstrating on the streets demanding jobs for everyone. ...*(Interruptions)*

Shri Moinul Hassan has given a notice on this important subject. He should be allowed to speak.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (MURSHIDABAD): Sir, I have given a notice on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugarcane farmers of the entire country are on the verge of ruination due to the wrong policy of the Government. If the farmer of my constituency in Uttar Pradesh does not get payment for his sugarcane, his daughter cannot get married, his child cannot go to school and the situation becomes so worse that some farmers cannot even afford to feed their family.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I demand that the Government take immediate steps to make the mills operational there. If the mills do not start functioning there, the people would die of starvation. Sugarcane farmers would be compelled to commit suicide. Through you, I make this demand to the Government. Thanks.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to express my views on the issue of farmers. It was only yesterday that the hon. Prime Minister stated in this House that the country's godowns are full of foodgrains but perhaps the hon. Prime Minister is oblivious of the plight of the farmers who by virtue of their hard work have made our foodgrain godowns overflow.

The Government have fixed the minimum support price of paddy at Rs.530 per quintal for the current year and Rs.20 per quintal have been fixed to be given as additional drought relief bonus. Thus the Government have announced Rs.550 per quintal as minimum support price for paddy.

Eastern Uttar Pradesh from where I am elected is predominantly a paddy grown area. Even sugarcane is grown in abundance there. Paddy has come to the market since 15th October, 2002, but the middlemen are offering a price for paddy at the rate of Rs.375, Rs.380 or Rs.390 per quintal to the farmers. They should be actually getting Rs.550/- per quintal and should have been awarded for record production of paddy achieved in certain districts due

to their hardwork despite severe drought conditions, but due to the wrong policies of the Union and the State Government their carelessness and connivance with the middlemen, the farmers are being widely looted.

Sir, the condition of sugarcane farmers is equally pitiable. Today, the sugarcane farmer right from Meerut to Balia and from Deoria to Ghaziabad, is compelled to burn his crop because the Union Government have not so far formulated any policy with regard to sugarcane mills. The Government have fixed the price of sugarcane at Rs.62/- per quintal, but the Hon. High Court of Uttar Pradesh has issued an order directing that the mill owners should purchase sugarcane from the farmers at the rate fixed by the Government of India. Now, a precarious situation has arisen due to this decision of the Union Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude within two minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane farmers were offered a price of Rs.95/- and Rs.100/- per quintal last year. Given the current year's severe drought situation, if they are given a price of Rs.62/- per quintal, they would have no option but to burn their sugarcane.

Through this august House, I would like to say that the Government, the sugar mill owners and sugarcane farmers should collectively chalk out a clear cut policy and at least the last year's price should be restored to the sugarcane farmers. Moreover, the policy of Government with regard to procurement of sugar is also wrong. It would create problems for the sugar mill owners too if the Government do not continue with procurement of sugar from sugar mills. Be it the sugar mills of cooperative sector, or those of the sugarcane sector. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a serious issue. It is no use giving speech in the House if the Government do not give their reply on this. I, would therefore, like to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you moving forward while speaking. First you go back.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Most humbly I want to request you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot be so. I will adjourn the House if you come into the well. You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers are calling for protection. The Government has lost sense on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the Government, but first you take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Most humbly, I want to submit that you must have come across the print as well as heard electronic media to learn the state of agony of farmers. They are compelled to commit suicide. On one hand, where drought hit farmers should be extended relief, they should be consoled, on the other hand, the men in Government are ridiculing their state of agony. This is cruel waggery with the farmers, a humbuggery with them. Yesterday, Hon. Prime Minister gave a statement in the House, we want to ask the men in Government that if they have got even a bit of respect to the Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions) Today, the Minister of Agriculture, Government of India should make the things clear on the Table of the House. We want to know as to how the problems of the cane growers would be tackled. The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office is present here. Hon. George Saheb is sitting here. He has been our leader. He has taught us the A, B, C, D of politics. We want to call upon George Saheb that from Uttar Pradesh to the entire country, you have fought for the cause of cane growers, so you should see as to what is the state of cane growers in the country. I, humbly request you that on this point. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want? Do you not think that everybody should get a chance?

...(Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTIC AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is already concerned about the issue of sugarcane. I shall convey the feelings of hon. Member to the Minister concerned. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We can not take up the discussion right now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I would like to inform the Government, through you, that five Indian fishermen were arrested in the Veeraval side of Pakistan Border recently. These people hail from Kunduvanipeta village in Srikakulam District. It relates to my constituency in Andhra Pradesh. Even recently the hon. Minister of Fisheries of Andhra Pradesh informed the Andhra Pradesh Assembly also that they have been pursuing it with the Centre.

In this regard, I wrote a letter to the hon. Minister of External Affairs to pursue this matter to get these people released immediately. Their parents are crying. This is the duty of the Ministry of External Affairs to pursue this matter at the earliest, without any delay.

I am requesting the hon. Minister of External Affairs, through you, to get these people released immediately. Parents of these people are crying. They depend on these people only. They do not have any assets and properties to live. That is why, I am requesting, through you, again to the hon. Minister of External Affairs to help them.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a student of Maulana Azad Medical College was molested in broad day light in capital Delhi. The culprit is still at large. The entire woman community is engulfed by a sense of fear following this incident. ...(Interruptions) Not only of Delhi, but women community of entire country is engulfed by a sense of fear that while in Delhi, which is the pride of the nation, the heartland of the nation, girl students are unsafe, women are unsafe, then what will be the condition in other States?

In the present state of affairs, be they school girls, college girls or working women, they have a sense of insecurity. They thank God while they return their home safely. The law and order situation in Delhi has totally deteriorated. That is why the criminals do not even wait till nightfall to execute their plot. They commit crime in broad day light. Although, no Minister of the Government remains here to listen important issues during Zero-hour, I, through you, Sir, want to say that police are unable to catch the criminals and if sometimes, they, at all are caught, the judicial process is so lengthy that punishment is not sentenced to them in time. ...(Interruptions) Women make 50% of the population of the country. They are equally important as men when we talk of development. I want to know as to what the Government is going to do for the safety of the women of the country. We also want to know as to

what will be the punishment for a rapist. Will it be a capital punishment under section 302 or a life term? We want that it should be determined so that no rapist dares to do so.

Will the Government dismiss the State Government in which such incident takes place? If not so, then what will the Union Government propose to do to ensure safety of women. The "Empowerment of Women Year" was also observed, despite all this, nothing has been done for the women. We want to know as to what the Government propose to do for the safety of women.

13.17 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
Till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Seven
Minutes past fourteen of the Clock*

(SHRI P.H.PANDIAN in the Chair)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up 'Matters under Rule 377'.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for construction of a Bridge on river Koel at Village Nagfani on National Highway No. 23 in Jharkhand**

[Translation]

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT (LOHARDAGA): There is South Koel river along N.H.23 in Jharkhand. Around village Nagfani along this highway, the South Koel river floods the area during rainy season. All the ways to go across the river are blocked during rainy season. One has to go 100 km to go across the river. This is the routine every year. This area is in Gumala area which is very backward.

The Union Government, through the House, is urged upon to have a bridge constructed near village Nagfani on N.H.23 to facilitate transportation to the public during rainy season.

- (ii) **Need to sanction adequate funds for early completion of Daitari-Banspani rail line in Orissa**

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (KEONJHAR): There has been an inordinate delay in the completion of Daitari-Banspani

155 kilo metre railway line in Orissa. The ongoing railway line is passing through the backward areas of the State, which is endowed with rich mineral resources. Once the line is completed, it will facilitate the transportation of iron ore, manganese, bauxite and several other minerals to Paradeep Port for export purposes. The State will get royalty and foreign exchange, which will be added to the national exchequer, from the export of these high quality minerals, which are in great demand in the international market. Besides, it will provide direct employment to the local people who are passing their days under dire poverty.

In view of this, I demand that adequate amount of Central assistance may be sanctioned to expedite the construction of Daitari-Banspani line during 2002-03 financial year.

- (iii) **Need to construct a new bridge on river Rapti at Km. 262 on National Highway No. 28 in Gorakhpur District, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR): Sir, in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh, a 410 meter long, 9 span cantiliver bridge was constructed on Km. No.262 of N.H. 28 over Rapti river in the year of 1964. The said bridge, after 38 years, is in a deteriorated condition whereas the traffic has increased manyfold as compared to that during 1964. Being narrow and weak, the bridge is not even in a condition of bearing 40,000 P.C.U. load. Some old bearings of suspended span of the bridge were repaired during the year 1999-2000. This is the only bridge to go to Bihar, Bengal, North-Eastern States and to Nepal also. In addition, Gorakhpur being a major tourist center of northern India has a pretty tourist inflow. Traffic is blocked for hours as this is the only bridge for N.H. 29 and N.H. 28.

Therefore, through the House, I urge upon the Government of India to have the proposal of construction of a new bridge on river Rapti on Km. No. 262 of N.H. 28 included in the annual plan of Ministry of Surface Transport.

- (iv) **Need to grant financial assistance to the Government of Orissa for providing relief to the people affected by drought in the State**

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): Sir, a serious situation has arisen in Orissa as major part of the State is facing acute drought situation this year. The State of Orissa experiences drought, cyclone, flood or some kind of natural calamities or the other. But the current year's drought has

crippled the economy of the farmers and agricultural workers in the drought prone districts. On the other hand, timely aid and assistance has not reached these needy people. With the failure of crops, the farmers do not have any kind of employment to earn their livelihood. Under the circumstances they are leaving their homeland and migrating to far off places like Surat, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi. The plight of these hungry people of the drought affected areas are beyond description.

I request the Central Government to undertake relief and rehabilitation work on a war footing. Food for work programme should be extended to all the districts which are reeling under the impact of drought. Employment should also be generated under Central Schemes to stop any further migration.

(v) Need to accord Clearance to the pending Railway Projects of Bihar for all round development of the state

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Sir, like roads railway lines are also in deplorable condition in Bihar. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to provide adequate funds through Ministry of Railways for laying new railway lines, gauge conversion and doubling of railway lines, construction of road overbridges/under-bridges for early implementation of following schemes, these schemes are:-

(1) Rajgeer, Islampur (2) Daniyavan, Biharsharief, Sheikhpura, (3) Deoghar, Sultanganj.

Alongwith this electrification of following railway lines should be taken up :

(1) Quel, Sahebganj, (2) Gaya, Quel (3) Rajgeer, Islampur (4) Daniyavan, Biharsharief and Sheikhpura.

Construction of bridges at Quel, Sirari, Shekhpura, Barsaligang, Nawada, Tilaiya, renovation of old bridges at Gaya and construction of railway under bridge near Karauta.

Through this House, I draw the attention of the Government and request for according sanction to these schemes and start work at the earliest.

(vi) Need for effective implementation of laws relating to untouchability

[English]

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (OTTAPALAM): Sir, even after more than 50 years of our Independence, and despite the existence of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the Protection of Civil

Rights Act, the abominable practice of untouchability is prevalent in many parts of our country especially in the southern parts of Tamil Nadu.

In the southern Districts of Tamil Nadu, several teashops continue with the discriminatory 'two-tumbler' system under pressure from Caste Hindus. Though this contemptible practice is widespread, it has been escaping the attention of the authorities, mainly due to the unwillingness of the authorities concerned to come down strongly on this heinous social evil. At times they are found to be in connivance with the perpetrators of this hateful act. The victims, in majority cases, refuse to get their complaints or they do not complain at all for the fear of repression by the caste Hindus that may be followed.

I urge upon the Government to take note of the seriousness of the situation and take effective measures to ensure that such inhuman practices are done away with.

(vii) Need to provide relief to farmers whose crops have been affected by drought in Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (KHERI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my parliamentary constituency district Kheri is completely in the grip of drought. Kharif crop in large scale has been damaged there. Power shortage still persists and sugarmills owe outstanding money of crores of rupees to farmers. The Government is forcibly recovering revenue from the people. The economy of the area is badly affected and rural labourers are compelled to flee to cities.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to make arrangements for rural employment on war footing and provide adequate compensation to farmers through crop Insurance Scheme for the losses suffered by them.

(viii) Need to look into problems arising out of proposed evacuation of Scheduled Tribe people living at Mashrul near Radar Centre in Bhowargarh, District Nasik, Maharashtra

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Sir, radar centre is situated at Bhowargarh in Dindori tehsil of Nasik district in Maharashtra. Population of around 25 thousand is living in their big private houses in an area 13 km. away from Bhowargarh. People belonging to scheduled Tribe community have also purchased land in this area for constructing their houses. A new problem has arisen there. The officers deployed at radar centre have issued notice to these people that within the radius of 900 metre of the radar

centre, there should be no settlements. In such a situation Government of India will have to spend crores of rupees for providing compensation to these people. The collector of Nasik district has reported to conservation Department that there is no need to shift these old settlements and ban construction of new houses because radar centre is 13 km away from his colony.

Sir, through you, I urge upon the Government of India to pay special attention for solving this problem related to 25 thousand people by removing fear inculcated among them.

- (ix) **Need to take up the case of Indian evacuees from Kuwait with the United Nations Compensation Commission who failed to get compensation due to expiry of time limit**

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, a large number of Indian evacuees from Kuwait consequent to Iraq-Kuwait war have failed, due to their ignorance, to re-apply in time to the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) in new forms prescribed by the UNCC. These evacuees are facing great hardships. The Government of Kerala and others, including myself, have approached the Government to urge upon the UNCC to extend the date for compensation claims. I once again emphatically urge upon the Government to take up the matter with the UNCC and prevail upon it to extend the date. I also request the Government to consider the plight of the Indian evacuees and formulate and sanction special measures for assistance to and welfare of these Indian evacuees.

- (x) **Need to declare the birth anniversary of Sant Guru Ghasi Das on 18th December as a National Holiday**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR): Sir, my submission is that Sant Baba Ghasi Dasji was born on 18th December, 1756 at village Girodपुर, Tehsil Baluda, District Raipur in Chhattisgarh. He dedicated his whole life to remove the ills prevailing in the downtrodden sections of the society and brought a ray of hope in their lives. His followers are spread not only in Chhattisgarh but in the entire country. He founded the Satnam Dharam and established the insignia of "Guru Gaddi" and gave the message of the construction of Jai Sthamba in every village. He had given a new life to his wife Sapura Mata by giving her the nectar of Satnam and also enliven a dead she-calf and a dead person in village Tailashi adjoining Bhandarpuri

by giving them nectar of Satnam. Astonished by his said miracles, the people of that society became his followers by accepting the Satnam Dharam. Several years back, the State Government of Joint Madhya Pradesh had declared 18th December as public holiday on the occasion of birth anniversary of said Baba.

I request the Union Government to declare 18th December as national public holiday so that the followers of Babaji may get an opportunity to pay their reverence and homage to him.

14.21 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST (SECOND) ORDINANCE

AND

SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST BILL*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Item Nos. 23 and 24 together.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House disapproves of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (No.3 of 2002) promulgated by the President on 21 August, 2002."

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to regulate securitisation and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this Government has now taken the path of Ordinance for avoiding Parliament and evading the Standing Committees.

The Standing Committees were set up to scrutinise the important Bills. I am not saying that all the Bills should be sent to the Standing Committee, but important Bills like this should be sent to the Standing Committee. Without any

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

scrutiny by the Standing Committee, this Ordinance was first promulgated in June and the Bill was also introduced. But that Bill could not be passed. Then again, it was promulgated on 22nd August because the Ordinance was not replaced by an Act within two months of its promulgation.

Five Ordinances have been promulgated during the inter-Session period. Even on the day of summoning the House, one Ordinance was promulgated. The House was summoned in the evening and the Ordinance was issued in the morning. Thus, gradually this Government is avoiding Parliament as well as the Standing Committees.

The main purpose of bringing this Ordinance was to curb the menace of Non Performing Assets. I do not understand why it is called an asset, if it cannot perform. This had been promulgated first in the month of June. Already five months have elapsed. In spite of having an Ordinance for five months, in spite of having an institution in place, there has not been any curb in the increase of Non Performing Assets.

In the current year the increase in the Non Performing Assets is about 11 per cent. Now it stands at Rs.70,904 crore. The borrowers have defaulted in the current year in spite of having an Ordinance that had been promulgated. After promulgation of the Ordinance, the Government has already started taking action. But what is the result? How could the Government not curb or reduce or take any stringent measure against the defaulters?

In this very House we have been demanding and asking that some stringent measures should be taken against the defaulters. We have also been demanding that the names of those defaulters should be placed on the Table of the House. Their names should be disclosed. You know this better than I do.

I raised the issue of the Indian Bank in this House. In one year that particular Bank earned a profit of about Rs.500 crore, but in the very next year, that is, in 1996-97, that Bank incurred a loss of about Rs.450 crore. Why did it happen? I read out a list of companies which took loans of huge amounts of Rs.10 crore, Rs.15 crore and Rs.20 crore. You know who are the owners of those companies which defaulted. That is the reason why that particular Bank incurred such a loss. This is not the case of one particular Bank; this is the case of almost all the nationalised banks.

Very recently, the Reserve Bank of India has come out with a report particularly on Non Performing Assets of nationalised banks and other financial institutions. If you go through that report, you will be able to know how this

menace has been increasing. In 1992-93, the total amount of NPA was Rs.39,253.14 crore.

In 1993-94, the amount was Rs.41,000 crore. How is it increasing every year? But in the next year, 1994-95, there has been a reduction. Again, it increased in 1996-97 and again, there was an increase in 1997-98 when the figure rose to Rs. 45,652 crore. In 1998-99, it was Rs.51,000 crore and then it went up to Rs.53,000 crore and then to Rs.54,000 crore. Now it stands at Rs.70,904 crore. If you see the NPAs of nationalised banks in non-priority sector, it is 56.90 per cent in the case of Allahabad Bank. I am not talking of the priority sector nor of the small scale sector nor of the agricultural sector, I am talking of non-priority sector. In agricultural sector, it is only Rs. 10.04 crore. In non-priority sector, the figure against Andhra Bank is Rs. 50.68 crore. In the case of all the nationalised banks, the percentage of NPAs in non-priority sector is more than 50. In the case of State Bank of India, it is Rs. 48.51 crore, and Rs.62.85 crore in the case of the State Bank of Travancore. It is alarming to see how it is gradually increasing.

In the case of development and financial institutions, particularly of IDBI, in March, 1988, the amount was Rs.5,101 crore. In March 2001, it increased to Rs.10,880 crore. In March, 1998, the figure for ICICI was Rs.2,811 crore which increased to Rs.5,988 crore in March, 2001. Similarly, in the case of IFCI, it was Rs. 2,663 crore which increased to Rs.6,077 crore. It is more than double. The same is with the case of IIBI and SIDBI. The current figure of SIDBI is not available but the figure of 2001 is available. However, in the case of all financial institutions, there has been an increase in the percentage of NPAs. The percentage of IDBI is 14.8. It is 21 per cent for IFCI and 16.1 per cent in the case, of IIBI. This is the situation in regard to the Non-Performing Assets.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister on one point. We also feel that there is an urgency to look into it because in this very House, he described the NPAs as loots and not bad debts. It is correct. He has realised now that these are not bad debts. If these are loots, then how are the nationalised banks permitted to write off a certain amount of this bad debt? I have the figure of the amount written off last year. An amount of more than Rs. 450 crore has been written off regarding the State Bank.

The Minister has correctly described it as 'loot' and not 'bad debts'. If it is loot, then how had the Bank been permitted to write off a certain percentage of NPAs? Whose debt has been written off? I would also like to know from the Minister as to what action has been taken against them;

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

as to how many have been prosecuted; and as to how many have been arrested for looting the money. If it is loot, then some legal action should have been taken. How much money has been recovered since the promulgation of this Ordinance? It is because the main purpose of promulgation of this Ordinance was to recover the money from the defaulters. How much has been recovered?

The Minister had stated that the total amount of NPA of SBI as on 1st April, 2002 was Rs. 15,485.85 crore. The total amount recovered was Rs. 4,137 crore. It is because we had the Debt Recovery Tribunal. The Act was enacted a few years back. What is the amount recovered after setting up the Debt Recovery Tribunal?

There was a lacuna in that. The Debt Recovery Tribunal was not able to tackle the situation. That is why the Government felt that there should be another organisation and there should be another Act for the securitisation of assets. The main purpose of this Bill is to reduce the NPAs and to recover the amount which is lying as NPAs.

The total amount recovered by the State Bank of India from 1999 to 2002 was only Rs. 4,137 crore, out of Rs. 15485.85 crore. It is just more than one-fourth. The amount which was written off in 1999 was Rs. 414 crore, in 2000 it was Rs. 414 crore and in 2001 it was Rs.984 crore. Why was there a sudden jump? It has jumped to Rs.984 crore from Rs.414 crore. Then, during the year 2002, an amount of Rs. 2,492 crore was written off. What is the criteria for writing off bad debt?

If this is not bad debt, then how was the State Bank of India allowed to write off the bad debt? These are the questions on which we would like the Minister of Finance to enlighten us.

He will apprise us of that. What was the urgency in promulgating the Ordinance? Why was the Ordinance not replaced in the last Session? Who prevented the hon. Minister from passing the Bill to replace the Ordinance in the last Session if there was any urgency? It was re-promulgated. Why was the Session adjourned earlier? ...*(Interruptions)* We did not want that the Session should be adjourned. Who was responsible for that? We, in the Opposition, are not responsible for that. My friends, you are responsible for that. So, why was it not replaced? What action has been taken since the promulgation of the first Ordinance? This is not a good convention. One Ordinance was promulgated and it could not be replaced. Then, it was re-promulgated when the first one was not replaced in that Session. We have the example here that one Ordinance was promulgated thrice.

Now I come to the practice of avoiding the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is here to scrutinise such an important Bill. This is an important Bill. But the

Standing Committee has not got any opportunity to scrutinise such an important Bill. Then, what is the use of having the Standing Committee on Finance if that Committee has no power to scrutinise such an important Bill? So, I am not against taking stringent measures. I want more stringent measures should be taken because this is the demand of the House. For the last several years, we have always been asking that those who are defaulters, should be punished. They should be arrested. How many of them have been arrested? Their list should also be laid on the Table of the House so that the people will be able to know about those who have looted the money. As the hon. Minister has stated about it on the floor of the House those defaulters have looted the public money, the money of the people of our country.

I hope the hon. Finance Minister will answer these questions. With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (No.3 of 2002) promulgated by the President on 21 August, 2002"

"That the Bill to regulate securitisation and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully agree with the sentiments expressed by hon'ble Shri Basu Deb Achariaji. He has expressed his concern over the increasing NPAs in various banks and financial institutions of the country. He has explained the situation very well. If we compare the speech of Shri Basu Deb Acharia, with the speeches delivered during the last 10 years on different occasions by various speakers of different parties of this side or the other side or by the third front, we find that the language used by Shri Basu Deb Acharia, is no way different from what BNP Members or the Congress Members have been using all have expressed the same sentiments. With a view to generate new employment opportunities, for growth of industrial economy and increasing GDP from more than 6 per cent, we have formulated a financial system in this House. Though our intention was good but still everyone of us has expressed his concern over implementation of this system.

What is the situation today? Many speakers including Shri Basu Deb Acharia had presented various figures in regard to NPAs on different occasion. According to them sometimes the level of NPA was Rs. 10,000 crore, sometimes it was Rs. 25,000 crore, sometimes it was Rs. 50,000 crore or 1 lakh crore. I believe that the present figures of NPA is not the result of last 2-3 years. This was

not generated when hon'ble Jaswant Singhji became Finance Minister or this was not due to Shri Yashwant Singhji. I would like to quote some figures before you. I also remember that we held a discussion on this subject some 15 years ago and at that time BIFR was constituted. If we see the functioning of BIFR or Debt Recovery Tribunal, we will find that its functioning is not satisfactory. There is a saying in our Marathi that - "rogapeksha upchaar mahaat" which means giving treatment without having any serious disease. We have constituted BIFR and Debt Recovery Tribunal. The function of BIFR was to revive the sick company, protect its employees and strengthen its assets but what was its result? I would like to quote some figures before you.

[English]

The position of the bank at BIFR as on 31st March, 2002 is this. Schemes implemented are 11. I am referring to one particular unit. The amount involved is Rs.14 crore. Average time taken for approval of scheme is around seven years.

[Translation]

I am mentioning about Allahabad Bank.

[English]

Winding up orders has been issued in 41 cases. The amount involved is Rs. 173 crore. Average time taken to conclude the case by BIFR that is, the unit is not viable and eligible for winding up is around eight years. By the time security took charge of the bank, assets get deteriorated. Hearing is in progress in 59 cases and the amount involved is Rs. 294 crore. It took about 10 to 12 years for completion of the process. The reference has been rejected in three cases and the amount involved is Rs. 10 crore.

[Translation]

The situation is that the Bank of Allahabad had provided information about 114 units involving Rs.491 crores.

I agree that the disease is dreadful but only one effort was made in 15-20 years to cure it by setting up BIFR

[English]

which is almost a total failure. I will give you the total figures for that also to subsequently.

[Translation]

that the Debt Recovery Tribunal should be strengthened.

[English]

That is also almost a non-starter.

[Translation]

Now the Government have made one more effort in form of an experiment. I accept that this cannot be fool proof one.

[English]

Let us come out concretely and positively as to what are the corrections we can suggest.

[Translation]

that in this particular clause No.7 there is need to carry out these corrections. That Bill had not been sent to the Standing Committee and I agree that it was not right but I feel that the House would have to think over the strategy for taking a good and speedy step. Within what time Finance Minister or the Government presents a Bill or motion before the House. It depends upon the urgency of the existing situation. How many months should it take to dispose of it?

[English]

Either we can reject it fully or we can make some corrections but there has to be sometime limit.

[Translation]

If it remain pending for two or three years then the problem would remain unsolved rather it will deteriorate. Is it possible?

[English]

So, there could certainly be an ordinance. But the correction is to be made. I do not know about that. The hon. Minister of Finance may correct me subsequently in his concluding speech.

[Translation]

It has been asked whether this Bill has been brought after a study of two-three years? Various Committees were constituted on it and I would like to know about the recommendations made by various Parliamentary Committee and Commission wise in this regard?

[English]

I have gone through report, perhaps of the Estimate Committee, 1997-98.

[Translation]

They also paid attention towards this problem. They said that the NPA's and the number of wilful defaulters is increasing at an alarming rate and no recovery is possible. He has beautifully described it by drawing an analogy with a person who is pretending to be sleepy. It is impossible to awake him vis-a-vis one who is actually in sleep.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

[English]

If the industrial unit itself is sick. You cannot correct it. You can put some more input.

[Translation]

You can provide him working capital

[English]

or you can restructure the whole credit portfolio.

[Translation]

You can certainly cure a sick person and donate him blood but one who pretends to sick then it is very difficult to cure a person or that industry which pretends to be sick. I would like to say the hon. Members that this ailment in Indian industry i.e. the NPA's.

[English]

If we want a list of defaulters, it is available everywhere. It is available with me. It is available with the Reserve Bank of India. It is also available on the website

[Translation]

That list is still available if you check the website and you would find names of very big companies and cooperative groups and you won't find even a single sick company among them. The industrialist or the corporate houses or PSU's which owns more than one companies i.e. have a turnover of over 100 crore rupees, you won't find even a single sick company under them

[English]

because they want to perform. They want to contribute for the industrial development of the country.

[Translation]

But which among these listed companies has the same mentality. They approach the Government through various means and try to create such atmosphere.

[English]

I cannot understand it at my level.

[Translation]

The people complain that those who had given us long term loan did not give us the working capital on time.

[English]

We are debating on that argument.

[Translation]

They had given us the working capital but did not give the Rs.25 crore, demand for which was subsequently made, hence it is the reason for our turning sick.

[English]

People are giving that sort of explanation. If you go through this list, you would find all such people there only.

[Translation]

They have developed this mentality and tendency and they are trying to mislead law makers in such a manner.

[English]

I do not understand in which country all such types of legal provisions exist.

[Translation]

I give you personal loan then I seek a personal as well every kind of guarantee. I get those ones that transferred in my name as a condition for payment.

[English]

I should recover the money immediately or I should take over the possession of the asset in the case of large public sector banks or financial institution there is no such provision. What is the reason.

[Translation]

There is no such provision. If the hon. Minister wants to make such a provision then I would say it is wrong. What have been written in this Bill? Bill says that if a company is a wilful defaulter, it should go for securitisation and establish a new system. Government should acquire the assets of such company and hand them over to any other well established company. There is a provision what is there in it? If any such case comes to our notice that the efforts are being made to divert and siphon off the assets of a company then we should try to takeover such company. What are the reasons of falling these companies sick or being refused to BIFR or the mounting NPA's?

[English]

There may be some reason.

Due to that if a particular unit becomes sick, certainly we can consider over it, if we try to understand we will find that hardly there may be ten percent companies

[Translation]

and NPA whether thing are due to the companies falling sick due to Government policy or any natural calamity but by and large we are concerned about two issues and one of this is about employees

[English]

I would urge the hon. Finance Minister that

[Translation]

as to whether we can issue such a correction, provision or guidelines in regard to the safeguard of the interests of employees including employment security of a company whose assets are sold out by a financial institution to some other company.

[English]

If that company is to wound up permanently,

[Translation]

we can offer VRS schemes to employees of that company and take care of their future. My second suggestion is that what would happen to those companies where the small investor have invested their money by purchasing shares particularly when you have paid attention to NPA's only. What is the position of those who have invested in debentures. The hon. Finance Minister should also consider about small investors who have invested more than four thousand crore rupees in the listed companies.

Similarly, I would like to make one more submission and would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister.

[English]

We must think about the other side of the system that the authority must go with accountability

[Translation]

in that how many of the officers who give loans have been scrutinised. Whether there is any accountability for them? Whether there exists any provision that while providing small working capital in the name of project financing at the time of giving finance, loans or advance,

do we have any check on end use of funds. Whether this Bill or another Bill. This lacunae will remain in law. Hence, I would also like to request you to think over as to how much amount the Government have spent in bailing out various bodies like UTI, IFCI, IDBI and various public sector banks during the last 2, 5 or 7 years and if we count then we would find that

[English]

more than Rs.40,000 crore we have contributed through bail-out

[Translation]

where this Rs.40,000 crore have come. This has come from the budget. If so, we have not been providing this money to the financial institutions but to the corporate and mischief makers whereas money could have been spent on building hospitals or on some social welfare scheme.

[English]

I would request one more thing that when you pass another bail-out to some other institutions, you say this is the last, this is the end

[Translation]

and with it an accountability clause should also be included. Even today the nominee directors are there even in financial institutions or mutual funds.

I would also like to say that this situation is not prevailing here only. I would also like to know from the hon'ble Finance Minister that the correction which the Government want to bring, whether it will be applicable on State Financial Corporation also? What is the position of State Financial Corporation?

[English]

Out of a total of Rs. 11,084 crore loans and advances Rs. 5777 crore are NPAs.

[Translation]

This is the position of State Financial Corporation.

Finally, I would only like to say that I have got the figures of NPA and many other figures but I am not reading it out. I would only say that

[English]

Let us come together.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

[Translation]

A system of loot has been developed here and I am afraid we may support it willingly or unwillingly. I would like to appeal to the House as to what measures are being adopted to recover money from the defaulters.

I would request all members to unanimously approve this Bill.

15.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of mounting Non Performing Assets, a euphemism for bad debts of banks and financial institutions has bedevilled, rather ravaged our financial system and economy for long. The rise in NPAs was contained for some time - I would like to remind Shri Kirit Somaiya - after the prudential norms were implemented in the year 1992-93. But of late, there has been a consistent increase in the level of NPAs, which is a matter of grave concern for us as it renders the very financial system vulnerable.

Sir, despite the tendency of some banks to understate their NPAs - Shri Basu Deb Acharia gave us the figures - there has been a tremendous increase in the level of NPAs in the last few years. Only in the last year, it rose from - if my figures are right - Rs.63,741 crore as on 31st March 2001 to Rs. 70,904 crore as on 31st March, 2002, a whopping increase of Rs. 7,163 crore, which is a 11 per cent increase in one year, and represents as much as 11 per cent of the advances by the banks.

Sir, bank credit is a veritable catalyst for economic growth - we all realise - and NPAs of a staggering magnitude, an impediment in the free flow of such credit as these restrict the recycling of funds to the new borrowers, besides, of course, causing losses on account of non accrual of interest, which by the present level goes to as much as Rs. 5,000 crore a year, high servicing and litigation costs. An economy can least afford this because economy grows only when the bank credit is easily available to the enterprises.

Sir, given the enormity of the problem any genuine effort to protect the interest of lender banks, restore their health and cut down on the scale of NPAs will have our support. We believe that in the present scenario of globalised economy, the banking system cannot be deprived of the necessary reform system and processes. Accordingly, we accept the concept of turning financial

assets into securities tradable in smaller sizes as also we recognise the need to realise immediate liquidity in the hands of the banks for further lending to new borrowers. And we also do realise and feel the need to make a statutory provision for enforcement of security interest in case of default.

15.03 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

Sir, while we, in principle, support the need to set up Asset Reconstruction Companies to negotiate with banks and financial institutions for acquiring distressed assets and develop markets for such assets, we support the provision for providing for such companies, where the banks will offload their bad assets for converting into cash through a sustained recovery technique.

Sir, however, after a study of this Bill, that is the present Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill and two Ordinances on this subject, I am sorry to say that one does not get proof of a well-considered, comprehensive approach of the Government to the issue of lowering the NPAs.

There is rather, discernible, a simplistic approach to a very intractable, to a complicated problem. And if one were to go through the provisions, one again feels as if the courts had been made the whipping boy.

One gets a feeling that, perhaps, it is the diagnosis of the Government that it is only because of the courts that the NPAs have risen to this alarming proportion, and the remedy they have thought of is to shut the door of the courts. That is not appropriate. If there have been occasions where the judicial process has been found wanting in understanding the financial implications of various things, the need was not to oust the jurisdiction of the court, not to oust the jurisdiction of even the Debt Recovery Tribunal, but to reform this. Here, we find a new jurisprudence being propounded. The securitisation companies, stepping into the shoes of the bank, would request the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and the District Magistrate to take action. I do not find this word 'request' anywhere in legal jurisprudence, and you have not provided it. Rather, this word 'request' you have used as a synonym for directing the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate as also the District Magistrate to take action as per the whims of the securitisation company. As I have said, we want that the institution of securitisation companies to develop. Very briefly, sharing the sentiments of the hon. Minister and other Members, I have said we have got to

move forward. We have got to even bring about a little more stringent law. I am using that word. But, at the same time, we must really weigh the pros and cons of our objective. Are we able to or will we be able to achieve that objective through the provisions of this Bill?

This Ordinance was introduced. The first Ordinance was promulgated on 21st of June. It is five months down the line. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us what has the Government achieved during this period. Have you constituted the Asset Reconstruction Company of India Limited which you had announced? I think all that you have really achieved is a challenge to the provisions of this Bill in the Supreme Court. That is our fear. Our concern is, our desire is that when you frame a law like this, you need not really rush through with the provisions. That is exactly the point I would like to reiterate. That was the point which was raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia also.

It was with a purpose that we had set up the institution of Departmentally Related Committees because we felt that in the plenary, we are not in a position, at times, to debate at length about the various provisions of the pieces of legislative measures which come before this House. Therefore, it was after many, many years of protracted thought and discussion, a decision was taken that we have Departmentally related Committees where these Bills go for in-depth discussion. The Standing Committee would, on the basis of the informed opinion elicited from the public, come out with its recommendations. But, of late, what do we see? One can understand and I do acknowledge the right, prerogative of the Government to issue Ordinances. Wherever there is an emergent need of an Ordinance, yes you need an Ordinance. Then, the constitutional provisions require the Parliament to pass those Ordinances within the stipulated period. We never come in the way.

But, of late, what has happened? This particular Ordinance was there. Just two days back, and even on the day the House was summoned, you issue more Ordinances. You force the President also to sign the recital. The recital says that since the House is not in Session and emergent provisions are required, we are promulgating this Ordinance. I would say that it is a fraud with the Constitutional provisions. Rather, you are taking that route to keep the Parliament off from discussion.

Well, since this Ordinance is before us, we do not really want to restrict or to come in the way of the Government in the passage of this Bill. As I said, we would even support it. But for many months now, I would say, the amendments were there. Yes, I would say that some of the amendments suggested by me may not be acceptable to

the Government. But, where is the forum to discuss those amendments? If I am not mistaken, I recall a statement by the hon. Finance Minister also at one of the meetings of the Chamber of Commerce, which he attended. I do not remember whether it was CII or FICCI or ASSOCHAM. But at one of those meetings, he said, 'well certain provisions, which warrant an amendment, have come to our notice and we would do that.' Where are those amendments? Again, I would say, the Government is, taking advantage of the fact that the Bill is before the plenary of the House, it is being passed and since we are not obstructing the passage of the Bill, they would want us to forget what they had said.

There is a provision here that the provisions of this Bill shall not apply to matters where the debt is below Rs. 1 lakh. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us whether he really wants to look at people only at that level or the big fish who have taken the major part of bank credits and have not repaid them. I do not know; if Shri Kirit Somaiya who is much better informed than me about this matter, would have gone through the entire list, but has he gone into the causes of the NPAs? Even the advanced countries do have this problem but here it is a problem that is acquiring menacing proportions. Therefore, we have to think differently. At the same time, I would like to ask whether we are really concerned and whether we have given a thought as to what are the causes.

I have an objection to the proposition that you are barring the jurisdiction of the courts. Is that what a civilised society's response should be like? If the courts have not delivered the results, bring about reforms in the judicial process. That is what we are repeatedly asking for Session after Session. What is being done? You are doing away with the Courts? You are doing away with even the Debt Recovery Tribunals. That is what my objection is. Why do you have to place the securitisation companies and the asset reconstruction companies of par with the banks or the financial institutions whose assets you acquire? If the banks could not achieve something, you want the private companies to achieve that using an extra-constitutional provision. That is my objection. My objection is not to the basis of it but to what you want to do. I for one cannot just accept that a private company directs a court to attach a property and hand it over to itself. Why do you at all have to have that? If those were the powers you would delegate to somebody, why do you not delegate them to the banks? There may be a little contradiction in what I am saying but I am conscious of what I am saying.

I would say, if this is how you go for an overkill - if

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

that is the right use of the word, why do you bring in an agency like this whom you pay an additional amount to the extent that it is negotiable. I am sure, with all my sense of appreciation, I know, none can influence our hon. Minister of Finance but I know that the Government is not free from all sorts of influences. With this Government, scam after scam has come to our notice. Hypothetically, I would say, if you choose a favourite of yours and delegate him the authority of an asset reconstruction company and if an NPA worth Rs.100 crore were procured at even Rs.10 lakh - I am deliberately giving the figure - what are we doing, whom are we fooling and whom do we want to impress that the balance sheets of these banks are all right and we can overcome the insurmountable problem of NPAs? Is that the way of doing it? This is my serious reservation. More than a reservation, it is a very serious doubt I have in mind. I would certainly urge the hon. Minister to clear it and assure this House about the guidelines.

If I remember correctly, there is a recommendation of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation that whenever the Government comes out with a piece of legislation to the House, it must also be ready with the rules thereunder. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us that the rules are ready, the guidelines that would be issued by the Reserve Bank are ready, that the day the Bill is passed, the guidelines and those rules would be promulgated and right from that day onwards action would be taken.

There are one or two submissions that I would like to make about the causes. As I said, there might be a little repetition but for the sake of emphasis I would like to say this. I do admit that one of the major causes of NPAs is the tendency amongst borrowers, perhaps, particularly the ones with the mentality that my friend from the other side referred to, not to repay the loans.

Then, there is the instance of diversion of funds to other projects. There is siphoning of the funds, misappropriation and fraud. In this category, it is not just the borrower alone, invariably, it is the officials of the banks who connive therein and it is because of that this problem has acquired the menacing proportion that it has and stares at us threateningly.

People have talked sarcastically about the success of the Debt Recovery Tribunal. As I said, maybe there is a need to sensitise the Presiding Officers and others about the financial matters, but the situation does not warrant that you cut them down to size. Have you ever considered a very stark reality that it is because of the non-cooperation of the officials of the banks, who go to represent the cause of the banks in the Tribunals, that the matters take time, that the

22 Debt Recovery Tribunals and the 5 Appellate Tribunals have not been able to give us the results that we expected of them; that there are over 40,000 cases pending involving an amount of over Rs. 50,000 crore? Have you ever tried to go into that matter? All that we are told here is: 'no, no, do away with the courts and the matters will be solved'. I would say that it is a very complacent approach and that would not bring about the results that we really want to.

Besides these, the other causes for the NPAs are the external ones and that is where I would like to deviate a little from the other hon. Members so that we must distinguish between the two. Where the borrower is the guilty person, where there is a deliberate attempt on his part to gobble up the funds of the banks, be strict against him to the extent possible. My hon. friend from the BJP had referred to the change in the policy of the Government and that is the point I would like to stress. There may be a very few cases - I know a very few cases - but there are cases like this and there is always the likelihood of cases like this. I will give you the example. Take for example the small-scale industries. I want to know whether we were not really happy with the achievements of the small-scale industries. I want to know whether they were able to generate revenue for the country the way we really wanted from them when we extended certain benefits to them. But in this globalised economy, we all know what is the fate of the small-scale sector. So, with the sudden change in the policy, if those small scale industries have suffered because of the policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I have to make some more points. Sir, I do not want to refer to the Business Advisory Committee. I suppose, you too were there in that meeting. At the Business Advisory Committee meeting we said that more time is required for this Bill and we were told that we need not change the allocation of the time, but full time has to be given for this discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): The allotted time maybe there, but even then if there are substances, then you can increase the time.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am the first speaker from my Party and others are yet to speak. I suppose, you will give us the indulgence of really having a detailed discussion today. That is the point that I began with. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, in the policy I give the latest example from the place from where I come. Just by the fiat of one executive

order, the Government of India told the Chandigarh Administration that though you do not have the power to repeal the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act, because that power lies with the Parliament, there are non-descript provisions where you could exempt certain buildings from the provisions of this Act, apply that en bloc. You apply that in wholesale and declare that all the properties where the monthly rental is above Rs.1500, they shall not come within the purview of the Act.

Now, what happens to those companies? A young entrepreneur may have taken some building on rent for Rs. 10,000 and he sets up an establishment there. Today, he is asked to go out because of the change in the policy of the Government. He has taken some loan from the bank. Since his production will stop, he will be of the road. Your prudential norms say that – I do not dispute those – if there is a default even in the payment of the instalment or in the interests for 90 days, you call it sub-standard. If there is a default in payment of even interest for 90 days it is sub-standard. After 12 months if one cannot pay it is doubtful and then he comes loss asset. The utmost concern that we should really have is loss asset. This is just a hypothetical example which I am giving; then you will have large number of such examples in the next few days in Chandigarh. They will all be declared defaulters and you will give those absolutely arbitrary and whimsical powers to a reconstruction company to take over the management, to do away with the Managing Director and appoint a Managing Director of their own; to do away with the Director and appoint a Director of their own and to do away with the Manager and appoint a Manager of their own and sell it off. Just 60 days' notice is enough. That is why I say this. If we have chosen the system of rule of law, the rule of law just does not mean that you frame a law, how stringent and how unreasonable it may be, and you enforce it. The rule of law encapsulates respect for law, respect for the principles of natural justice. You hear the person, you give an opportunity to the person.

Where do we find those things? I will refer to those provisions, Sir, with your permission very briefly because you have checked me once. But this is the point I want to make and that is what I find missing in this Bill and that is where I have my apprehensions and my concerns that in your anxiety to mop up those Rs. 75,000 crore, which anxiety we should really demonstrate – but, we on the other hand should not lose on the swings the gains on the roundabout, you took this step.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in fact the NPA recovery should not be NDA recovery. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: And then, besides external factors that I was citing, business failures beyond your control are there. There can be earthquakes, natural calamities, labour strikes etc. I am not wanting to refer to the labour matter, at the moment. But those provisions, those matters all come in your way.

Then there is product obsolescence and also technology obsolescence. When I talk of technology, I would again like to give a very homely example. C- DOT was a premier organisation of the Government of India. People were using the technology of C-DOT and we were feeling proud about it that here is one organisation, a public sector undertaking which is producing these telephone switches and exchanges of such a marvellous quality. But what is happening of late? Because of the shift in the policy of the Government, C-DOT is at sea. The technology of C-DOT was being used by various people and well, I am sure, this House knows as to what predicament those people are in now. Whose fault would it be? If a person using the technology of C-DOT, had taken some loan from the Government and then because of that shift in the policy of the Government, that man suffers and you will declare his loan to be NPA and take action against him and deprive him of everything and sell his property. By whom they are sold – they are by a private securitisation company. Similarly the case of interest of third parties has not been taken care of.

I will again give the example of telecommunications. A company has the licence from the Government of India to start cellular service and who are all involved in it? That company may have taken some loan from a bank and they just default and that becomes NPA. It is alright that we must take some measures to arrest that increase. But who all would be affected if you just come with that stick to close the factory for that take-over? He is not only a licensee of the Government of India but the Government of India is the licensor; the question of spectrum would be involved, the bandwidth would then lie idle if that industry, if that enterprise is closed and that law would come into effect. And also lakhs and lakhs of subscribers who are having their telephone connections – whether land lines or mobile phones through that company – will be affected. Have we taken care of such instances, such possibilities that could arise?

When I say that I would like to come to the other point thereon. What is the role of banks in this? I agree that the Narasimham Committee and the Andhyarujina Committee gave their reports which reports

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did merit discussion and consideration. They did an excellent work. But they also talked - besides saying you do away with the courts - of financial reforms and the reforms in the banking system. What reforms have you brought about? That is what I would like to know from you.

Sir, I would like the hon. Minister to tell us what directions he has issued and what results he has achieved thereon for the efficient management of credit portfolio by the banks and for the sanctioning process. I said it earlier and we all know what all goes in to get a loan from the bank. Has he put a stop to those practices? I am not taking a partisan line. I know that it has been going on for years and years and for decades. But has he been able to put a stop to it? Or, it has rather increased. Our experience in many fields here is that things have gone from bad to worse. The magnitude of the problem has widened. It has increased.

Sir, what steps have been taken to verify the antecedents and credentials of the borrowers? Has he set in place an information system amongst banks to provide them information about the previous defaulters? There are instances where one man takes loan from one bank and on the basis of the same property, he takes loan from another bank. Has he put in place some information system for the banks and the financial institutions, where both are also involved in various cases, in various projects, to exchange their information with each other and their opinions about the borrowers with each other? I know that they lay emphasis on collateral security. Here again, you want to just thrash the person who provides collateral security, but I feel that is no panacea. It rather leads to a long-drawn legal battle only.

Now, I come to post-sanction responsibilities of the bank. Has he provided about the need to have close monitoring of accounts, to put in place a system of quick identification of the non-performing advances and timely action to arrest that and to combat NPAs? That is what I would like to know from the hon. Minister. What about the effective control, the monitoring by the banks and supervision by the Board of the NPAs? In this connection, if I am not mistaken, there was a recommendation some time back to separate the CEO from the Chairman. Has he taken some action in that regard or would he still continue to have the Managing Director-cum-Chairman of those Boards? Are we going to bifurcate those powers and make it more professional so that the banks really become an important vehicle of the developmental processes that we have set in place in our country?

Then, if the banks still default, what action does he

take against those banks? We all say that banks do connive. What action does he take against them? Has he taken action against some of the - I will not use the word 'delinquent' - banks whose practices border on delinquency? Has he restricted their opening of new branches or expansion of their business if he has found them guilty of those practices?

Sir, I understand that the corporate debt restructuring mechanism is already in place for a year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what success we have achieved therein. What is the level of progress? How does it augur well for the future? What are the portends thereof? With what confidence do we move forward in our present legislative measures?

With this, I will just refer to some provisions because we were deprived of the right to raise these matters in the Standing Committee on Finance. I would like to refer to some clauses. The first thing I would refer to is complete freedom to the asset reconstruction companies to enter into any negotiation, into any terms for taking over the loan. In principle, I do not object to it, but as I gave the example that a loan or an NPA worth a thousand crores of rupees could be disposed of even for a pittance. It is in that regard that I have suggested an amendment. I do not stick to that amendment as such, but I gave that to highlight the point. You have to have a cap thereon that if you were to act as an agency for the bank, this is the amount of commission that you could get on it. I had suggested four per cent. I know that it could be found very low in many cases and no person would come for that, but at the same time, I just do not want only four per cent to go to the bank and 96 per cent to go to the person who is forming that company. So, somewhere you have to strike a balance on that.

Sir, I am skipping over many things which I really wanted to speak on at length.

I am coming to clause 6. They say, "That the Bank or financial institution may, if it considers appropriate, give a notice of acquisition of financial asset." Why should you say, "If it considers appropriate. ...", and why should it not have to give a notice to the borrower saying that it has taken over the assets and about what the position is? Then the other consequential changes thereafter, let me say, are not very major ones - it is more of procedural, more of introducing that element of fairness in the entire process. This should not be made contingent to the notice.

Clause 7 (3) provides:

"In the event of non-realisation under sub-section (2) of financial assets, the qualified institutional buyers of

a securitisation company or reconstruction company, holding security receipts of not less than seventy-five per cent, of the total value of the security receipts issued by such company, shall be entitled to call a meeting..."

That is almost impossible. If you really mean something, reduce that from 75 per cent to 51 per cent. That is what I have suggested.

I have spoken about the courts. I would not like to again refer to the provisions thereon. That is a very, very major part.

Coming to clause 13 (4), you are giving sweeping powers to them, and that has to be taken care of. The role of the Debt Recovery Tribunal should not be minimised. As I have suggested in one of the amendments, you can proceed provided the Debt Recovery Tribunal has not really stopped you from doing it.

When you issue a notice for 60 days, the person should, at that stage, have the right and not after the event is over. The person, the borrower or the aggrieved person should have the right at that stage to go to the Debt Recovery Tribunal and say, "Well, I am being proceeded against unfairly. Please protect my interest." Let the Debt Recovery Tribunal fix any short time. I am not saying that you should fix some years. I do not want more time to lapse. You can fix three months time, and within the three months period, the Debt Recovery Tribunal should reply saying, "Well, in this case, you can proceed against him; in this case, you cannot proceed against him." If that be so, well, then the normal course has to follow. If you are providing a special provision, at the same time, you must provide for special safeguards thereon. That has not been taken care of. That is my grouse thereon.

I am now coming to appeals. The appeals are provided for only after the damage is done. What meaning that appeal would have? I am not coming on the question whether you have to deposit 75 per cent or not because you have given the power to the Debt Recovery Tribunal to waive it, and that is good enough. A provision like that may stay, but do not be pre-emptive in your approach. Let the person have some right. There can be a legitimate grouse for somebody to have defaulted for a period of 90 days. Therefore, just do not declare it as an NPA and do away with his entire business and takeover everything.

The only role that you have given to the Debt Recovery Tribunals is, after the securitisation company or asset reconstruction company has taken action, if still some amount is overdue, if the entire thing has not been

satisfactory, then you can still go to the Debt Recovery Tribunal. That is the position that we have reduced the Debt Recovery Tribunals to. That, in my submission or in my humble opinion, is a very unfair provision.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Please speak in Hindi also.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : But I wanted to say that it's a good provision in this regard. It is necessary because till today, amendments are made in haste. Hence an effort has been made to bring amendment in that because it is not in the interest of people. The Government have fixed Rs. one lakh limit on which this will not apply. But is that sufficient. I want to ask why do not the Government provide this for small scale industries? The Government should see where all it's applicable and what are the shortcomings. This has been done for agricultural land, it is good. Reserve Bank has been given some rights on policy matters. But the Government should see these things. You are giving suggestion but I particularly want to mention clause 9, 13, 14 and 15. I find some shortcomings therein. These will come up with the passage of time. Due to these the matter went in Supreme Court and it has accepted it. But what directions were given by it and after our decision whether this matter will again be sent to the court? But I would like to ask why it was necessary to send this matter to the court? The necessity was felt because you have said that we will not abate the case before the court, there are many such problems in this? I do not want to go into the details as to what you have said because other members also have to speak. I know that we have got more time and we can discuss this upto 8'O clock also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The other members of your party would also like to speak. You have taken 35 minutes though allotted time was only 25 minutes.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I do not want to go into the details of those things but I would like to say that this Bill should have been sent to the Standing Committee for scrutiny and asked to submit its report within 15 days. The Committee would have considered it and suggested amendments and we could have discussed those suggestions. We have given the suggestions. Banatwallaji has given the suggestion and you have accepted it. I myself was not present in that meeting but it was published in the newspaper that the Government will bring some amendments in it. Even today I would say that if the Government need 15 days time, it may take it and after that discussion should be held over this. You can say this even today. Normally it happens that when the hon'ble Minister move the Bill at that time he expresses his views about the provisions which he has accepted or going to accept. But the Minister did not do so. Now he is saying all these while

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giving reply. He should have said all these things earlier itself. It will increase our faith that the feeling of majority is recognised. All are united to pass this Bill. All are concerned with this problem and want its solution unitedly. It should not be such that in future allegations are levelled against us that instead of solving the problem we have aggravated it.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and with these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (ELURU): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. This Securitisation and reconstruction of Financial assets and enforcement of security interest Bill, 2002 has come before this House for discussion and passing to replace an Ordinance promulgated by the Government earlier.

Sir, the main issue here is the NPA. But I feel, NPA is only a part of the whole thing. The Government should have tackled the larger issues, I had been repeatedly telling the hon. Finance Minister about it, like the sickness of industries and how those could be revived and reconstructed. This phenomena of sickness is not typical to this country alone. All the developing countries of the world are passing through this phase. There are sickness of industries in those countries and as well there are consequent NPAs also. But they are able to solve the problem with the help of a proper expertise and by a particular method of operation.

Sir, here I find the Government has pumped in a sum of Rs. 20,446 crore till the end of March, 1999 in the banks in order to maintain the Capital Adequacy Ratio of the banks. The Government also has pumped in a sum of Rs. 2500 crore in the Indian Bank, the UCO bank and in the United Bank of India in view of the recommendations of the Verma Commission. But what has happened today? Let us look at the UTI. UTI is an organisation which is meant to help the small investors who do not have enough money to invest in the stock market. But today we do not know how much more money the Government would have to pump into the UTI in order that this organisation regains its financial health. The same is the case with IFCI. Today we can see very well as to what has happened to IDBI. So one cannot simply blame the borrower alone without holding responsible the lender.

Shri Somaiya and Shri Bansal have dealt with a number of issues. We should have tackled this issue by holding both the borrower as well as the lender responsible for this state of affairs. There are a number of units that are getting sick. Now the experts that we have in the banks and in the boards of various other organisations should have been able to foresee the position and should have told the authorities accordingly. I also know of a number of cases in other countries where the experts are able to guide the people, the small investors about certain things like quality, packaging and marketing of products and about what was lacking in them.

If something is required, they go out of the way and help in order to see that the industry improves and survives. On the contrary, the people who are put on the Boards of these companies here simply go without giving any assistance which results in the companies becoming liabilities and not assets. So, unless we improve these things, we will not be able to solve this problem.

In Japan, about two or three years ago I was there, more than ten thousand units had become sick due to change of technology, and various other problems the like of which we are now facing in the country today. But the system there is that they allowed amalgamation and mergers and they took quick action. The banks and financial institutions have been able to do it there. However, nothing of that sort is in place here and once a company slips into sickness, it will become permanently sick.

Today I can say that more than Rs.75,000 crore are lying idle. It is the money of the banks and financial institutions. The equipment is lying idle and there is this problem of unemployment. All these factors are the causes of sickness. Unless we take some remedial measures and work out some methodology, we cannot tackle these issues and help them. In some of the cases, it has also been mentioned as to how people have been made to face problems by not doing enough planning and not giving enough resources, and stopping them in the middle and creating problems. In some cases we can also examine various reasons. Probably the investor may not have enough capabilities, maybe the financial support has not been enough and maybe the technological changes and—as Shri Bansal has said—natural calamities have also had their effects. Of late you have seen so much of drought, floods and earthquakes in the country and these are causing a lot of problems.

In addition to that, in the last two or three years we have been facing different types of problems which have been a result of the process of globalisation. We are

exposed to international conditions which has led to a lot of problems, and they have not been able to take proper care of that. We are giving high interest rates. We are now trying to reduce them step by step. Still, we are nowhere compared to them. Your exposure has to be comparatively in smaller units. You have to ensure that competitiveness goes up by merging entities together, or by giving additional support, or by doing different things. There are some remedies under WTO, but we have not taken those measures.

At the time of borrowing, one knows what type of protection he has got. At the same time, the Government support has already been reduced and he is faced with other types of problems. There are remedies like anti-dumping. You can take other measures to support them but those things have not been effectively worked out. They have been exposed to these cyclonic types of conditions. That is why in these times you cannot simply say that action should be taken against these people.

As some of our friends have said, we have to identify the wilful defaulters. You cannot take a universal view. Without going into things you cannot ask them to go ahead and do it. You have to create certain conditions, and make certain suggestions. We have to see that these things are not implemented unless they take proper care of these things. This is an important thing that I hope will be taken into consideration.

There are a number of cases today in which you can see that project evaluation has not been done by lenders and the borrower is made to face the consequences of that. Also, the time given for those people is not sufficient to take care of that. That also they have to take into account. Today BIFR is there but I think it is not sufficient. We have a large number of cases which require help and sufficient support. You have to see as to how you could give them competitive strength in order to maintain international levels. For that you have to work out a method.

NPAs for developing countries vary between two to three or four per cent whereas we have about 6.74 per cent of NPAs. This has to come down. More importantly, we must be able to reduce industrial sickness by resorting to different types of measures. If some institution is lending money in agriculture, it must have an expert in agriculture who knows how things work in that field. Somebody lending money in some other sector must have with him an expert in that field. These experts should be able to guide the institutions at the right time so that the levels of sickness do not go out of hand. If necessary they have to pump in some more money in order to support the company, and see that it gets revived and starts working in the right direction.

So I feel the more important thing is that you should have experts. The financial institutions should have proper people who could really run and guide these institutions well. They should not simply look at interest and lending rates. That is not the criteria on which we should be able to have these people. They should also reduce their expenses. Now-a-days, we are giving a lot of retirement benefits and other things.

As regards agriculture and small scale sector, Rs.1 lakh which you have provided is not sufficient. You should be able to give special provision for agriculture which is passing through various levels. There should be some sort of provision through which we could take care of them. Same is the case with the small scale sector. This sector gives the biggest employment. This sector is exporting so many items. We need to give them some support and sympathy. Today, the small scale sector is one of the biggest exporters. It has the employment potentiality.

In view of all these things, I feel that the financial institutions and the banks should be strengthened with proper expertise. We should give them proper support in order to see that they perform well. They should not be discriminated against.

Another important thing is that the Asset Reconstruction Corporation requires some liquidators. They should appoint proper receivers who should have proper knowledge and experience. The banks cannot simply go and take over each company and run it. I know one of the State Finance Corporations had financed a number of lorries. Within a couple of years, they got back all the lorries in damaged condition. They were not suitable for use. They did not know what to do with them. That is the stage which will come. If they go on taking over all the companies, they cannot run them because they do not know what to do with them. They do not have the expertise. Therefore, the Asset Reconstruction Corporation should be properly planned. It would require a lot of support and expertise. We should have proper type of people. We cannot simply give them weapons when they do not know where to use them, how to use them, and when to use them.

With these things, I think that we should proceed with proper precaution and see that they utilise it carefully. This is my request.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, I rise to support the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill, 2002.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

Sir, the debate was started by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. He basically pin-pointed two aspects - arrest wilful defaulters and take a very stringent action against them. As a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance, I had asked a very pertinent question to the Chairman of the Union Bank of India. The question was what percentage of his NPA is stuck up with wilful defaulters and what percentage is stuck up with BIFR.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble member is disclosing Committee Secret, this is wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please speak without giving any reference.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, this is not a matter pertaining to the Committee. I had asked him just as a Member of the Committee. His reply was very surprising to me. He said that 70 per cent of his NPA is stuck up with BIFR and only less than 30 per cent is with the wilful defaulters. Sir, I will give you the report given by the Government. The amount of accumulated losses of all the registered cases as on 31.7.02 with the BIFR is Rs.80283 crore.

This is the accumulated loss stuck up with the BIFR. If you take the number of cases or references registered, in the private sector the number of cases registered with BIFR is 3838 and in the public sector, it is 185. Therefore, totally there are 4023 cases pending with the BIFR. Then, the period of pendency starts from less than one year to less than fifteen years. You will be surprised to know that there are 23 cases which are pending with the BIFR for more than 15 years; 12 cases for more than 14 years; 20 cases for more than 13 years; 12 cases for more than 12 years; 15 cases for more than 11 years; and 24 cases for more than 10 years.

I fully agree with the hon. Member Shri B.B. Ramaiah when he mentioned that basically the sick industries are the main cause of this NPA. With regard to the NPA, now the credit accounts for about 40 per cent of the GDP. If you assume that the gross NPA is 15 per cent, the NPA affecting the GDP is less than four per cent. It is 69 per cent in Thailand and 34 per cent in Malaysia. So, it is not true to say that the NPA is going to bring in a catastrophe to the country. Not only in India, the NPA aspect is affecting

countries like Japan also. You will be surprised to know that the real level of NPA in China is 50 per cent. In India it is less than 20 per cent. But I do not say that it is a very comfortable level. It is not at all. I do not say that it is a very good thing to happen. But I mean to say that because of certain procedural defects the level of NPA is increasing every year.

As you know, in India you will find that there are so many sick companies, but you will never find a sick promoter. Whenever a promoter thinks that he is not supposed to pay, naturally what he will do is that he will lock up his industry, he will bring it to the BIFR and he will see to it that it stuck up three permanently.

So, I fully agree with the Government that a very positive step has been taken by way of introducing this Bill because without this Bill the banks do not have a level playing field at the international level. This is not a problem pertaining to India alone. Everywhere in the world this problem exists and every country has taken certain measures. India should also take those internationally accepted measures which have been taken by other countries. But, unfortunately, the Indian banks do not have a level playing field to recover these loans. I do not say that any method is a perfect method. No method is one hundred per cent perfect. Just like that, the Bill introduced by this Government also may not be a hundred per cent perfect measure. But it is definitely an improvement upon the previous Acts and rules.

I would like to briefly dwell upon the point of what impact the NPA has already had or is going to have on the economy of this country. The erode the current profits through provisioning requirements, they reduce the interest rate; and they limit the recycling of funds and set in asset liability mismatch.

So, these are the three basic things. But when these are the three basic things, what is wrong in allowing the banks to have an Asset Reconstruction Company and to realise their dues? I know that these Asset Reconstruction Companies are not a new phenomenon in India. This is a phenomenon which is there in the United States. This is a phenomenon which has started in the 1980s. In the 1980s, it started in the Scandinavian countries also. In Mexico, it started in 1995. In the Asian countries like Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, they introduced the ARCs after the banking industries in those countries collapsed after 1997-98. At the same time, I do not say that this system has achieved a phenomenal success. But it has achieved a certain level of success. If we introduce this measure, we will definitely have a minimum level of success.

I will give one example here. We have asked so many bank Managers, General Managers or the Chairmen. They said that once they sent the notice of acquiring their asset, those industrialists, who never showed their face to the bank people for the last ten to twenty years, are running up to the bank people and they are asking for a negotiated settlement. They are coming for negotiations. At least, on the basis of a one-time settlement, some money is being realised. A hundred per cent NPA has now turned into a profitable asset. A hundred per cent NPA is now becoming 20 per cent NPA, 50 per cent NPA or even 70 per cent NPA. Is it not an improvement in having a recovery of 20 per cent or 50 per cent of the NPA? Only by issuing such a notice, the banks have been able to recover a lot of amount.

I fully agree with the hon. Member Shri Bansal when he raised certain points with regard to the attachment procedure etc. I also raise the same points. With regard to the attachment procedure, the procedure followed is this. The attachment procedure is this that when it is attached, it is to be attached by the District Magistrate. But my point is this. As per clause 14, it is the District Magistrate or the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate who will actually take possession of these assets. Is there any possibility to get back those assets from the hands of the District Magistrate or the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate? Will it be possible easily? So, I appeal to the hon. Minister to consider this aspect.

15.58 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

Next, Shri Bansal has accused us with regard to one thing. He said in a manner as if ours is the only political party which is beset with the scandal and the country does not have any faith in us; theirs is a political party which did not have any scandal during their time and people had all faith in them and so they kicked them out of power in the last two elections. He said in this manner. I am just asking this question. When there are political parties, will there be no pressure on the District Magistrate not to release the asset? So, this problem might be there. So, I appeal to the Government that it should just think over the matter.

The second point is this. I also fully agree with Shri Bansal with regard to provision of 75 per cent payment of the dues before going for an appeal. Why should anybody, who is having 75 per cent of the money as arrears with him, who can pay it back, give that industry to the banks? Why should he do it? The banks will very gladly accept 75 per cent money. They will release it. They will very gladly accept

even 50 per cent money. So, what is the point in just having such a provision that unless he is having 75 per cent money, he cannot go on an appeal. I do not think that this clause is perfect.

16.00 hrs.

It is because anybody who is having 75 per cent of the money with him is the person who is going to lose his industry. This has to be reduced. I think 25 per cent will be very reasonable if he pays it. Then, he should go on an appeal.

Then, anybody can say that this is a draconian law because it is possible to remove the Board of Directors and the Chairman immediately. I have very strong reservations about this provision. So, as Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal said, they should also be given an opportunity to make an appeal because in a democracy, this sort of draconian provision should not be used.

I again agree with Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal regarding the question of wilful and non-wilful defaulters. This should be reconsidered.

Sir, I would not like to repeat all those points that have been raised by other hon. Members. If there is a change in the policy of the Government and if there is some natural calamity or if some foreign countries do not meet their obligations and do not make the payment, the industry should not be punished for that. So, I appeal to the hon. Minister that he should reconsider this clause also and there should be a distinction between wilful and non-wilful defaulters.

Now, I would like to make two or three suggestions. The Sick Industrial Companies Act provided a lot of support, to sick industries. This law should be repealed immediately. Of course, the Government has already brought a Bill for this and so, it should be repealed at the earliest.

By this way, another provision has been made through the Companies (Second Amendment) Act. I would request the Government that the National Company Law Tribunal should be constituted immediately. It should have the powers of the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, Company Law Board and High Court. The basic aim is to reduce the time taken to decide a case. If any industry has been referred to BIFR, the NCLT should be able to dispose it off quickly. It should not be struck up in any court for 20 to 30 years. If that is the case, what will happen to workers? I thank the Government for bringing in a corpus of Rs. 100 crore through SICA Bill which will provide some compensation to workers. This amount of Rs.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

100 crore is very small and I appeal that this should be increased.

Then, the banks are sitting over heaps of money. They are thoroughly demoralised now and their only activity is to recover the debt. They are totally unwilling to give loan to anybody. Sometimes they do not even want to have more deposits because they are unable to pay the loan.

Then, we are reducing the rate of interest every year on deposits. I would like to know as to why the lending rate is not being reduced in the same way. The banks are taking more interest from the persons who take loan from the banks, but at the same time, I would like to know why they are not paying more to depositors. The intention should be to lend money at a cheap rate to the industry so that globally our industry will be competitive. But the lending rate is not being reduced. So, this point needs to be considered by the Government.

Then, there should be a Credit Exchange Rating System. I would like to suggest that one bank should know what a person is doing with the other bank.

The bank should be given full responsibility and autonomy to decide to whom they should give loan and to whom they should not give. There should be no pressure on them in this regard. They should have full autonomy in this regard.

With these words, I support this Bill and appeal to the hon. Minister to bring forward minimal changes here for improving it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my first objection is to the Ordinance route. I remember when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sitting on this side, he once described the Congress Government as the 'Ordinance Raj'.

Now, what has happened to this Government, I do not know. Even when the Standing Committees have been set up, not only this one, but also so many other important Bills like the Unit Trust Privatisation Bill and SEBI Bill came through the Ordinance route. Neither can we discuss this in the Standing Committee nor time is given here. There are only two hours and I have 20 points to make. I think, all the points are very important.

What is it that this Bill is going to serve? I am just quoting the first reaction of the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association, Shri Dalbir Singh:

"This mode of dealing with NPAs would not benefit the

banks as delinquent assets will only be transferred to the ARC. But they have to wait till such time as the company disposes of these sticky assets."

This is an objection of the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association. There are very many economists and others. They hold the opinion that this Bill is not going to serve any purpose. Rather it would complicate the situation further. I feel that this Bill needs to be judged in the backdrop of other reforms. What are the other reforms? Take the Banking Reforms Bill. When the Government is trying to bring down its stake, the Banks will have to go to the capital market and that has already started happening. And we are making a reference to a particular incident only. The defaulters try to take over the bank. The defaulter himself is trying to take over the bank. Perhaps it is one of the most important problem that of the NPA being faced by banks and financial institutions. A wilful defaulter is actually planning to take over the bank. He owes the money to the Bank.

Ultimately, we raised this issue publicly. The employees had raised this issue and the RBI had to intervene. This is going to happen because what I suspect about is the will of the Government. There has not been any dearth of provisions of law. Who will do the evaluation? We have seen that the Government appointed somebody to evaluate the Centaur Hotel. They evaluated it. It was sold at Rs. 85 crore. After about three or four months, it was sold to Sahara. A profit of Rs. 30 crore was made by this company.

When the Computer Maintenance Corporation was handed over to the Tatas, the price in the capital market was manipulated and brought down. We know other stories about how the companies were taken over and all these things. An absolutely wrong impression is being created by telling 'BIFR', 'BIFR', 'BIFR'. The BIFR referred companies account had less than 10 per cent of the NPAs. I put it on record. This is the evidence of the Chairman of the BIFR. At the end, they say that if we take into account the public sector banks, the private banks, the old private banks, the new private banks, the financial institutions, it can again go to anywhere around Rs. one lakh thirty crores to one lakh fifty crores.

BIFR referred companies account for about Rs.10,000 crore. The BIFR is not eating up. Who are eating this up?

I am referring to a Rajya Sabha debate. That debate was somehow raised about a particular group that it had been defaulting to the tune of Rs.11,000 crore. This is the debate of 23rd July in the other House. I can name that

company; it was Essar Group. It was a corporate war between two groups of people and the Finance Minister said that the IDBI had classified the accounts of Essar Power as non-performing as on 31st March 2001. But it was upgraded as performing assets as on 31st March 2002. Rs.11,000 crore have been made to be shown as Rs. 7,000 crore. This is about one group. There are some hundreds of such groups, which owe to the banks hundreds of crores. Who will evaluate a company taken over by the lender? We know the evaluation process. There is no transparency. There is no uniformity. It is only selective.

I have mentioned only about Centaur Hotels, CMC, etc. I can mention about CAG's observation on BALCO. There are many others. Who will evaluate? Can the House be assured that no company, directly or indirectly related to this particular NPA, should be allowed to participate or have any relations with ARC? Can the assurance be given? No. That is the loophole. There, the will of the Government is suspected that after the Bank Reforms Bill, the dilution is made in respect of the Government stake and the defaulters themselves from behind the scene will operate and try to catch hold of the management of these particular banks.

The hon. Finance Minister described the NPA menace not as a debt but as a loot. If a loot takes place in the society, what is done? Criminal punishment is given. Is this Government prepared to punish these offenders as criminals? Even in Pakistan, you can say there is no democracy, the defaulters had not been allowed to participate in the elections. There are many countries in the world where such loots are never allowed. There is a deterrence. What is the deterrence here?

Till today, one company is taking loan from one bank, goes to the other, and the same defaulter commits a fraud to the banking system. They are put on the Board of Directors. The same people are put on the Board of Directors of the financial institutions, who have never been paying to the Banks. Is it the sincerity of this Government that the same people, instead of being punished, are being rewarded, are being promoted to higher positions, promoted politically, encouraged and patronised? So, the point is that there are so many loopholes. This Bill is not going to serve any purpose. This is not my feeling but this is the feeling of the bankers' community, the feeling of the IBA Chief, the feeling of the eminent economists.

There is a reaction to this Bill. The IBA Chief says that they have submitted another Bill. I am trying to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): He is also drawing my attention.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You may please finish with him first.

The IBA Chief has stated at one place that the bankers have submitted a proposal as a foreclosure law.

Is it a different one? What has happened to the suggestion made by the bankers? They believe that the Debt Recovery Tribunal is to be strengthened in terms of infrastructure, in terms of providing necessary number of judges and in terms of some changes in the legal system. IBA says that a separate recovery cell, which is taking away the responsibility from the branches and undivided attention on losses, is helpful instead of the proposed legislative measure. So, what we want to know is whether the banking community, particularly IBA, had made any alternative proposal about foreclosure. They had suggested that the present system is working well and rather it should be strengthened, instead of going in for new provisions.

What is the experience of ARC throughout the world? In China it has failed. It is failing in most of the countries. It has failed in respect of the State Financial Corporation because the banks do not have the expertise. Even if that can be taken over, when will it be taken over? It all depends on the market, the perception of the market. Everything will show on discount. Who will calculate the quantum of recovery? The apprehension of the banking community is that this is not going to be helpful at all and whatever can be obtained is only a junk. Ultimately the banks will continue to suffer these losses. It may be that, this way or that way, such provisions, deterrence may be helpful in future but what will happen to the past NPAs? During this time, what has happened is that the public sector banks have been improved both in terms of gross NPAs and in terms of net NPAs. Kindly look at the private sector banks, which have opened with a clean slate. In the case of both the new private sector banks and the old private sector banks, NPAs are rising. Virtually, loot is taking place. Those who have some knowledge about the scam will understand the cases of the Global Trust Bank, UTI Bank, the proposed merger and how RBI has intervened, ICICI and Madura Bank. These are cases of serious corruption and the private sector banks are continuing with these NPAs because of the corrupt practices and scams continuing.

The core of this Bill was prepared on the basis of the recommendation of the Expert Committee - Andhyarujina Committee - which actually worked on certain Chapters of

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee, particularly the second one. But there was a suggestion, not about the ARC but about the ARC Fund. Now, it has been repeatedly said that the ARC will be private in character. ICICI is being assigned as the nodal agency and a pilot project is being worked out. A small one has started operating with Rs. 10 crore or something like that. Even Shri Narasimham himself, who has prepared this Report, was simply amazed by this meagre amount and said that this is not going to serve any purpose at all.

So, there is a serious reservation not only on my part but also on the part of many of those who know that this is not going to serve any purpose. I want an assurance about the valuation. Is it transparent, authentic, suitable and acceptable to the secured creditors?

How is the Government going to assure this House about such a provision regarding the valuation acceptable to the secured creditors? Had there been an occasion to interact with the IBA chief and to interact with all those who are having reservations about these provisions, we could have done it in the Standing Committee and made appropriate recommendations. Had it been so, the court could not have or would not have intervened in the way it was done. But we are being deprived of the opportunity to lay before this House our viewpoints and the collective viewpoints of important people who matter.

Can this Government assure that no person associated with any company or unit, who had been a defaulter, will be allowed to have any relation in the Asset Reconstruction Company? I have reservation about this. Suppose the Asset Reconstruction Company is working well and it never dupes, what will happen to those proceeds? Electricity company's obligation and such other obligations will have to be fulfilled. What about the workers' dues? I find there are dues to the workers of the companies, which, wilfully or otherwise, default. Although the RBI has demarcated it, any such demarcation between the wilful defaulter and the non-wilful defaulter is not going to be helpful. Rather it would be misused. I suspect the Government's intention whether they will ensure uniformity in the matter of application of several provisions. Will it be non-arbitrary? How is the Government going to assure about the misuse that may take place? Misuse is taking place in respect of evaluation in the Public Sector Undertakings. There should be some uniformity with independent companies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am concluding.

We have the experience of classification of assets, prudential regulations and income regulations. I remember, once the RBI had come out with a 17-point format for transparency and for greater disclosure of the banks in the balance-sheet. But it was never accepted. Why? Is the Government prepared to look at that 17-point format of RBI, which, according to the RBI, would have ensured better transparency in the balance-sheet because there is fudging in the balance-sheet. Whatever profit is made by putting huge amount of deposit in the Government securities and in the Government fund and whatever property remains, are shown as profits. Now, the banks are not properly working.

About the application of recovery procedure, will it apply equally or selectively? I think there should be a categorisation in the matter of recovery. Say, for example, A, B, C, D & E. Those who have defaulted with more than Rs.50 crore and above should come under category 'A'. That should be the first target.

Those with an amount between Rs.10 crore and Rs.50 crore should come under category 'B'; those with an amount between Rs.5 crore and 10 crore should come under category 'C'; those with an amount between Rs.1 crore and Rs.5 crore should come under category 'D'; and those below Rs.1 crore should come under category 'E'. But I suspect that it will be just the other way round. The small fish, the more weak, the more helpless will be targeted. Those who have their people or their corporate friends representing the political arena will not be touched at all. They will not be touched at all because they are helpful in getting election fund. They are helpful for various other purposes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am concluding. I would not take a long time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is because on this Bill, the time allotted is only two hours. So many Members are there to speak.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): It would not be justice if such a less time is allotted for this Bill because this issue relates to crores of rupees. Sufficient discussion should be held over this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who are discussing the issue. Right now there are many members who want to speak over this. They should also get the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The private sector banks are not fulfilling their obligations but still their NPAs are rising. We do find that in such a situation most of the banks have become risk averse. They are not providing anything to agriculture. I had occasion to interact as a Member of a Committee with agriculturists in certain parts of our country and the 18 per cent lending obligation is not being fulfilled by any of the private sector banks. In the case of some private sector banks, they are failing in this totally.

There would be need for amendments in respect of several other laws like the Contract Act, the Transfer of Properties Act, the Stamp Act, etc. I have some apprehensions and there is a piece of news that after this piece of legislation with so much of loopholes and with lack of sincerity on the part of the Government to punish the offender, there is a move to bring in a Bill on lender's liabilities. Let there be some lender's liabilities to balance whatever is proposed there. What will happen to the cases pending in the DRT? That is my specific question to the hon. Minister. The CBI had made a study. It says that the NPAs and frauds are almost the same, where wilfully or otherwise money is taken and siphoned off, where a car is purchased or a house is purchased somewhere and it is not the person who is going bankrupt. The companies have become bankrupt but no promoter has ever become sick. They are the friends of the Ruling Party - I am not saying whether of this side or that side. They are always found to rub shoulders with the powers that be. They are patronised and protected. There is no intention in this Bill to punish them. So, I propose that all the offenders should be punished appropriately. Those who are defaulters and do not comply with the provisions of the law should be punished appropriately. Those who have taken money and siphoned it off should be put behind the bars. One who has taken money and has not paid back should never be allowed to have any further loan. In order to ensure this, credit information bureaux should be set up.

This Bill should not be seen in isolation. My apprehension is that if you look at the Banking Reforms Bill along with this Bill, there lies the suspicion that this Government is out to leave these defaulters scot-free and absolve them. This is the apprehension. This apprehension is not in my mind alone. I had occasion to speak to many chiefs of banks. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. You have taken half-an-hour.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am concluding.

With this apprehension in mind, I believe that appropriate amendments should be accepted. I had once made a suggestion to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary

Affairs that some time be given for us to sit together and prepare the necessary amendments so that this Bill could be made more purpose, more meaningful and more effective. If you do not do that, we shall think that you have no sincerity of purpose in bringing this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful that you have given me an opportunity to speak. I support this Bill on behalf of my party Shiv Sena. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that Cooperative Banks should also be brought in its purview. It should not be restricted Nationalised Banks only. Since enactment of this law or promulgation of this Ordinance the number of NPAs have increased. Though we may have difference of opinion with General Musharraf but he made an announcement that the people who will be responsible for NPA, will be put behind the bars. He is our enemy and we will not leave him. If he has some good thinking then we should accept that. I was saying that NPAs level has increased.

Now the borrowers of loan have started giving the money hence we cannot say that this Act is not being implemented properly.

[English]

This is the mutual understanding between the bank and the borrower.

[Translation]

Now the borrower need not go to the court. The borrower and the bank should make some settlement among themselves. This should be the feeling. I hope that under the leadership of hon'ble Minister Shri Jaswant Singhji, who is present here and whom we respect more, there will be improvement in NPA and banks. Mr. Minister Shri Anand Adsul is also with him, he is also associated with banking sector, I hope that there will be improvement in banks under this Government. ... (Interruptions) An action should be taken against the persons who are involved in banking scams. An action should also be taken against those bank officials who give loans to people by going 'out of the way' and by violating RBI rules. The hon'ble Minister had stated that the total amount of NPA is Rs.83,000 crore. This is not a debt instead it is a loot. I would like to tell you that the big industrialists about whom it has also been stated in the report of Onkar Committee that:

[English]

"There are sick banks and unpaid workers, but there are hardly sick promoters. There lies the heart of the matter."

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

[Translation]

There are more than 89 Industrialists who are responsible for increasing this NPA. The figures which I have got according to that the NPA of Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India is Rs.10,880 crore, Industrial Finance Corporation of India is Rs.5988 crore, Industrial Development Bank of India is Rs.6077 crore, Small Scale Industrial Development Bank is Rs.1021 crore and SIDBI is Rs.179 crore. Sometimes the people who join NPA try to direct the Banks. I request the hon'ble Minister to check this practice. ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister is also sitting, you are sitting as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can certainly draw his attention but address the Chair.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Alright, I will address you. But who have indulged in the scam as has happened in Maharashtra, I request the hon. Minister to ensure that action be taken against those involved in scam even though he is treating everybody with the same angle. The overdraft payment also involves fraud in which the top level officers including the bank manager work in collusion with tainted persons. Sometimes that money is not recovered and in this way crores of rupees have not been recovered and this should certainly be looked into. I do not want to name anyone but as per my information and even the Minister might be aware about a company which has taken loans as big as 900 to one thousand crore rupees out of which about 5-6 crore rupees have deposited in another account which is termed as NPA later on or the Unit becomes sick.

It should be probed into whether the unit is sick or not and it should also be enquired whether or not the company is generally a sick unit and it should be directly inquired through CBI. Further I request him to hold investigation into as to how these unscrupulous people pay under in one time settlement under ODS in the care of settlement or it is classified under NPA.

The probe should also be held in regard to knowing the reasons for a company falling sick. In this age of industrial recession a unit should not be revived by providing the Government assistance in a hurry, rather, the claims of its sickness should be thoroughly looked into, else all companies will follow the same trend.

Today Bank rates and interest rates on deposits are falling and the deposits are under the threat of being non-returnable. Common man deposit his hard earned money in banks and similar is the case with small investors,

workers, daily wagers or employees or small businessmen. Likewise people working at small level also deposit their money with banks. However, sometimes the banks become defunct.. Banks are insured but the sum for which they are insured is around one lakh. If a bank become defunct then a person who has a deposit of five or ten lakhs only get one lakh rupees. Hence I would request the hon. Minister to increase the limit of insured sum to five lakhs or ten lakhs. Similarly, the money is received to the depositor after four to five years in case of bank becomes defunct. Though it is a separate thing if the merger of the bank takes place. It has occurred in my constituency. The same problem arose before the Basant Rao co-operative Bank but it was saved in time. Hence I am of the opinion that attention should be paid towards the problem of timely payment of the insured sum to the people and provision be made to ensure that depositors get their money within six months.

Common man is subjected to many queries when they approach the banks like IDBI, ICICI etc. for seeking loans but when big industries submit their proposal in this regard no time is lost in giving them loan even though they may declare themselves bankrupt later on. However several queries are made when small businessmen go to banks to seek loans. Sometimes the bank employees also ask to be bribed but they do not have any proof to prove this charge. Hence I request the hon. Minister of Finance to issue directions to stop this practice.

There were 8232 bank branches in India in 1969 but their number has increased to 45,800 now in which a total of 969889 crore rupees are in deposits. This gives you an idea as to how much progress has been made. In 1969, Rs. 3607 crore were given by banks as loan but as on 31st March, 2002 this figures has reached to 480681 crore rupees. The loan amount outstanding against the people as per the official figures, is 80000 crore to 1 lakh and 30 thousand rupees but as per my estimate this may be around 1 lakh and 50 thousand crore rupees.

Lastly, I would like to add one more thing. Recently the rate of interest of banks has decreased. Common man who deposit their money in banks should get more interest. Secondly, a peculiar law is in vogue in our country that a person has to pay income tax on the interest accrued on his deposited sum and in this way he has to pay tax twice. It is against law.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak and hope that the hon. Finance Minister would pay attention to my suggestions.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, I would like to express my views on Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill, 2002. We all know that for banking, money is the raw material. This raw material has been disbursed by the banks on the false pretence, by influence and on so many considerations.

Sir, my colleagues, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal expressed the view that the list of defaulters should be published by the Government. Though the list was not published by the Government, I have a list of defaulters published by the All India Bank Employees Association. Sir, it is a book containing 1,100 pages of defaulters' list. In the back cover page, it is mentioned that there are 110 accounts over and above Rs. 100 crore; there are 254 accounts over and above Rs. 50 crore; and there are 12,090 accounts above Rs. 1 crore. ...*(Interruptions)* They are from all over the country. Sir, I was examining some of the names. They were penniless before obtaining loan. What I saw is that defaulters to the tune of Rs. 200 crore, to the tune of Rs. 300 crore, to the tune of Rs. 400 crore have become rich due to their wilful default.

I would suggest that the secrecy clause should be removed from the Statute Book and the defaulting borrowers should not be allowed to hold any public office. This is a suggestion of the All India Bank Employees Association. Wilful default should be declared as a criminal offence. Before obtaining loan, the capacity to repay should be assessed by the bank. When there is no capacity to repay at the time of obtaining loan, is it not the intention to cheat the bank? You know that you will not be able to pay Rs. 100 crore. You know that you will not be able to pay Rs. 200 crore. So, that is a criminal intention to cheat. They fall squarely under section 420 of the Indian Penal Code.

Sir, they have acquired such assets out of these loans. There is a provision in the Prevention of Corruption Act regarding acquisition of wealth disproportionate to income. Why do you not amend the law to include acquisition of asset proportionate to the loan so that you can charge them criminally and get all the assets? That is acquisition of wealth disproportionate to income and this is acquisition of assets proportionate to the loan.

Sir, in the list of defaulters is a person who has a Rover car and a dozen Benz cars. He was penniless. He could be examined for the whole day.

As has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, now, at least, through this legislation, we will be able to confiscate or take possession of the assets, whatever is available, proportionate to the loan.

I know about these banking cases because I was handling them before I came to Parliament. The Finance Minister is here, and I would like to refer to my last case. One individual, who was doing cashew-nuts export business, got a loan of Rs. 228 crore from the Indian Bank. He got the loan not only from the Indian Bank, but also from a bank in Singapore. With interest, the total loan comes to Rs. 348 crore. He filed a petition before the Debt Recovery Tribunal saying that the judge was not duly qualified to handle his case and he got a stay order. That was the day before I filed my nomination papers. The Indian Bank asked me as to what they could do. I told them, "Please wait. I will appear, on behalf of the Indian Bank, in this last case, before I go to Parliament." When it came up before the Bench headed by the Chief Justice, I told the Judge, "Here is a man who defaulted to the tune of Rs. 348 crore and he obtains a stay order. My Lord! You should hear it with aggression because I am arguing this case with aggression." I get only Rs. 50,000 as fees, whether it is a case involving Rs. 300 crore or Rs. 1,000 crore, and a lawyer does not get more than that. The bank gives Rs. 50,000 as fees. The Judge vacated the stay. The person concerned was arrested in France last year. The Government was not able to bring him back to India because there was no treaty between India and France for exchange of these offenders.

I will say that banks should take serious steps through the Debt Recovery Tribunals. We know that the Debt Recovery Tribunal puts a proposal in front of the party concerned and the bank saying, "The one-time settlement is this much. If you accept the proposal, we will waive the interest." That is how, they escape and they do not pay any interest. After five or seven years, they do not pay any interest to the bank. Now, it has to be made a criminal offence under the banking laws or under the relevant provisions of penal laws, like the Prevention of Corruption Act. Recently, a cricketer was charged for having acquired wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income. Though he was not a public servant, the cricketer concerned was charged for it. Then, why do you not charge all these fellows and put them behind bars? Why do you not charge and confiscate all their properties? With that money, let the Government give aid to all the States for tackling problems arising out of drought and flood. These fellows are sitting coolly. They are sitting coolly because some parties go to them and get donations from them. They should not be

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

allowed to live coolly and they should be disturbed. If an ordinary official or an ordinary citizen commits theft or act of bribery, he is immediately arrested, his house is searched and recovery is made under clause 27 of this Bill. Similarly, under a criminal case, they must be arrested, recovery should be made under clause 27, and they must be produced under the Indian Evidence Act. These persons should be intimidated. To tackle the demonstrators, you direct the paramilitary forces to intimidate them. Here, in their case, nobody goes to intimidate them. He engages a lawyer and he sits coolly; in the court, there is an adjournment after adjournment and they forget about it. Now, I do not get the same spirit that I had about two years back because it does not yield results.

Sir, I have spoken on a number of occasions on this subject. I am not envious about their unhealthy and filthy richness. What I would like to say is that the provisions of this Securitisation Bill and some other provisions, that may enable the banks to handle the defaulters on a criminal law, will not be sufficient. There is nothing in this Bill to terrify the defaulters. If you allow such things to continue, then such people will contest elections and get elected to the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

As per the Employees' Association of the Indian Bank, they were handling the accounts and they would have been disturbed and affected by these accounts. They are not getting their pay. They are being offered VRS schemes. So, I would say that though this Bill is a welcome measure, yet it is not sufficient. If a criminal law is coupled with this Bill, then the provisions of this Bill would yield results.

Wilful default is a crime. The person beforehand only knows that he would not be able to pay. Now, if a person gets a loan of Rs. 1,000 to buy a cow, he will repay the money; if he gets a loan of Rs. 10,000/- to buy a motor pump, he will repay it; if he gets a loan of Rs. 1,00,000 to buy something, he will repay it, but if he gets a loan of Rs. 10,00,000, he will not repay. I have handled a number of such bank-related cases. The person concerned will feel as to why should he pay. He would sit coolly and pay some Rs. 40,000/- to a lawyer who would prolong his case for years to follow. So, I would say that this Bill should be coupled with a criminal law. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to pilot a criminal legislation in order to enable him to implement the provisions of the Bill and get back the money that is due to the country.

Sir, we should take a vow, the Parliament should take a vow to recover all that is due to the Government. Shri Rupchand Pal said that a company owes Rs. 11,000 crore to the Government. Is such a company a privileged one to

get a loan? Are persons in the management of that company citizens of this country? The company has looted public money. A public servant, an ordinary citizen is arrested and put behind bars for a sum of Rs. 1,000/-. Now, if a person who has looted Rs. 11,000 crore worth of public is allowed to live freely in the society, then we are not running a Government. They must feel the existence of a Government. They must feel the pinch of law.

I would like to say that the hon. Finance Minister might tackle this problem by piloting a legislation where there would be provisions for punishment to the defaulters.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill, 2002. As has been pointed out by my able colleague and I also request, through you, to the Government that it is not a good practice to get the ordinances issued by hon. President without taking Parliament into confidence. It is nothing short of making a mockery of the Parliamentary democracy and it can not be justified on any ground.

The step towards ensuring the repayment of bank loans is certainly a good step. As per my information the figure of loan has increased to 70 thousand crore from the 63 thousand crore upto March, 2001. How the amount of loan been repaid and used in productive areas of the country, it would have been helpful in improving the financial condition of the country.

Today, the problem is that a caucus of loanees has emerged in our country. If somebody seeks loans for the cottage industries and agriculture purposes then it is not given. I beg your pardon, hon. Jaswant Singhji the reality is that the truly needy, that is, common man do not get the loans and he faces a lot of problem to avail it. The credibility of those institutions for which we had been hopeful in getting justice has been put under question mark. I request you to pay need to this aspect.

Today, the loanees can be divided into two categories - one who intentionally do not repay loans and one comprising of those people who are not in a position to repay their loans. The Government, through this legislation, seeks to provide rights to the banks to intervene in the management of the defaulting industries but today the banks themselves are a part of corruption. However it would further lead to arbitrariness and corruption. The credibility of banks has been put under question mark due to their style of

functioning. There is a need to set up an independent agency in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I don't want to speak long but would certainly like to say one more thing. Today several industrial groups take loans from banks under various names. It is kept confidential. The loans are taken by single industrial family or group under various names and does not repay the loans which is not a good thing at all. Unless the rules of taking loans from the banks are made transparent nothing would be achieved. I urge upon the Government to make the functioning of banks transparent. Care should also be taken to check that the intervention of bank in the management bodies of the industrial houses. So as to avoid aberrations in the field. The practice of providing loans to the same industrial houses under various names should be stopped. The Government should make stringent laws in this regard.

I would like to submit that stringent measures should be adopted to realise the money from those who have formed a caucus for taking loans from banks so that the poor could be benefited.

17.00 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE): Sir, I support this Bill. This Bill is a welcome measure. Sir, now-a-days, people collude with banks and get loans. The poor people and the retired Government employees deposit the money for getting some interest. But the banks misuse their money as they give loans to the defaulters.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, nearly Rs.9000 crore are looted by the defaulters. In my Constituency, two persons, namely, Shri Ethiraja and his brother, Shri Nandagopal got loans amounting to nearly Rs.500 crore. They have a company called Binny Limited which got a loan of Rs.2 crore from the Indian Bank. The same people and the same company got a loan of Rs. 70 crore in the year 2000. In the same year, the Indian Bank gave a loan to Shri Ethiraja of nearly Rs.3 crore. In the same year, the same persons - Shri Ethiraja and Nandagopal- got a loan of Rs.10 crore from ICICI Bank. Again the same persons got a loan of Rs.6 crore in the name of Binny Textile Limited in the year 1999. In the year 1992, the same persons got a loan of Rs.20 crore from IDBI in the name of Binny Limited. Again, Shri Ethiraja got a loan of Rs.50 crore from State Bank of India. So, like this they got loans worth nearly Rs.500 crore.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: This is very revealing.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You are giving very interesting report.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: So, these particular persons have looted the Government money. Around 10 to 15 years ago, they were just lorry drivers and now they are big business people.

Sir, whoever is the defaulter, he should be put behind the bars. This is my request. The hon. Minister should take action against the defaulting persons.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill is a part of the initiation made by the Government for facing the situation arising due to globalisation and the World Trade Organisation commitments. By having a vision of the future, late Rajiv Gandhi during his tenure as the Prime Minister had brought forward various Acts. Various Acts were enacted to protect the industries which may become sick due to the globalisation. One such Act is the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. That Act was enacted knowing that there will be some sickness due to the globalisation and new financial situation. But subsequently that enactment was not properly implemented by the Governments which were governing subsequent to 1996. During the Congress regime, Recovery of Debt Due to the Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 was also enacted. This was also a successful enactment but the implementation was very shabby because subsequent Governments did not create enough Benches. Therefore, there was accumulation of many cases pertaining to NPAs. But we were continuously having the international commitment of UNCITRAL and also laws to be made on the basis of cross border insolvency as we are party to the Resolution of United Nations passed on 15th December, 1997 and the International Monetary Fund Orderly and Effective Insolvency Procedure. These are all commitments which we have made. Now, we have got the knowledge of the problems we are facing when we are coming forward with this type of legislation.

We were having the commitment to pass laws under the Directive Principles of the State Policy, article 39 (b) and (c). On the recommendation of the Expert Committee of the Reserve Bank of India under the Chairmanship of Shri P. Tiwari, this SICA was enacted. But, subsequently, we find that the Government started allowing a lot of lifting of the quantitative restriction. Therefore, many companies have fallen sick. The final result is that there are more number of

[Shri E. M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

cases from the private companies. Public sector companies are having 268 references and the private sector, 5181 references. Totally, 5449 cases have been referred to the BIFR. In the same way, the number of references registered is 3838 in the case of private sector and 185 in the case of public sector. The accumulated loss of registered cases as on 31.7.2002 comes to Rs.80,283 crore.

The enactment is made properly, but the implementation is not done properly. The talisman for stopping the accumulation of cases is to create more Benches and to appoint more Judges. ...*(Interruptions)*

By appointing an appropriate number of judges and creating more Benches in various sectors as per the legislation, the problem of accumulation of cases can be very easily tackled.

As regards the banking cases, the Act says that everything should be properly dealt with between twelve and fifteen months. But it takes about seven years because an appropriate number of Judges has not been appointed in various forums. Now, the same situation is going to continue after this Act also. With this Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, I can very simply say that we are creating new forums. It is just like putting old wine in the new bottle. In no way it is going to help us in certain areas. In certain other areas it will be helpful.

Now I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the definition part which defines the terms secured creditor, defaulter and non-performing asset. These are the three definitions which are to be dealt with very carefully. I will just read out the definition of 'default'. It means:

"non-payment of any principal debt or interest thereon or any other amount payable by a borrower to any secured creditor consequent upon which the account of such borrower is classified as non-performing asset in the books of account of the secured creditor in accordance with the directions or guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank."

This means the total power is in the hands of the secured creditor.

Similarly, the definition for 'non performing asset' was not there in the previous Acts. But, here it is given as:

"an asset or account of a borrower, which has been classified by a bank or financial institution as sub-

standard, doubtful or loss asset, in accordance with the directions or under guidelines relating to assets classifications issued by the Reserve Bank."

This means the entire power is now in the hands of the executive and also the Reserve Bank, so that they can fluctuate between what is doubtful, what is a loss asset and what is sub-standard. This type of ambiguity should not be there in the legislation. The legislation should come out very clearly whether you are going to take it as a non-performing asset if it goes beyond 50 per cent of the total asset and also what is the percentage of the debt that they should have.

This sort of a clarity should be there in this type of a legislation while giving powers to the Executive, especially to the Reserve Bank. Under the compulsion of the political situation, anything can happen.

There is a creation of two new companies. Who is going to handle that company? Clause 3 (b) says:

"having the owned fund of not less than two crore rupees or such other amount not exceeding fifteen per cent of total assets acquired or to be acquired..."

It means that a person, a wilful defaulter can very easily create a company and then transfer the asset in the name of the company by taking advantage of this particular clause. This type of a loophole should not be there. The company which is created for the purpose of securitisation and reconstruction of companies should have something, some experience in that aspect to see that the securitisation company acts totally dynamically to bring forth the company back to the normal position.

In this connection, I just quote a portion of the law of the United Kingdom. It is called the U.K. Insolvency Act, 1986 - Administration Order Procedure. Section 8 (3) (d) says:

"A more advantageous realisation of the companies assets then would be effected on a winding up..."

This should be the purpose. The purpose of this enactment should protect the company from going in for a winding up or insolvency. It should bring forth revival to the company. I would like to know whether that aspect is taken into consideration or not. This is the question that has to be answered now.

I would like to show another clause.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: It is a very important point that I am making.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken ten minutes.

SHR! E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: I will take a few more minutes only.

Coming to the point, I would like to say that the secured creditor has got two choices. One is that he can use clause 13 and transfer the assets to the two companies or either of the two. The other choice is clause 14. He can move the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and take over the assets for himself. And, according to clause 15, he can take over the management for himself. Clauses 14 and 15 will be published in the newspapers. Clause 13 is also known to us. What will be the position of well-run companies which are incurring losses due to fluctuation of the market? Every company is functioning according to the sentiment of the market. Suppose a company could not fulfil the obligations within the short period. A banker or a financial institution, who or which has got some motive, can immediately apply clause 13 and issue a notice prescribing the period of 60 days and take over the company for himself/itself. Will it not be an authoritarian law in the hands of a few people? They can sabotage a good risk-taking company which is taking money from the open market.

Next, I would like to draw your attention to the exemption clauses to show how the exemption clauses are drawn up. This will expose how the legislation is made. About exemption, clause 31 (i) says:

"any security interest created in agricultural land "

This is sufficient. Many hon. Members have mentioned that many companies have given agricultural land as security. Such people are exempted from this enactment. In the same way, exemption will apply to any security interest for securing the repayment of any financial asset not exceeding one lakh rupees. What will happen for the ordinary, small companies? It should be more than rupees one crore. This type of a default will make every small companies, small entrepreneurs insolvent or winding up will be there. In the same way, clause (j) says:

"any case in which the amount due is less than twenty per cent of the principal amount and interest thereon..."

There is also a conflict. The same Government is bringing forth another law which says that if there is 50 per cent net default, then that company will be treated as an NPA. In the same way, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the companies, which can just make some book-keeping, can very easily escape from the clutches of the law.

They can just shift the burden. Now we see that many banks are earning profit, but it is only book-keeping. They are transferring the debt to another company and in that way they show that they are earning profit. Therefore, this Bill should be properly looked into and small companies which are coming up well by taking risks and goodwill and which are having good share value in the share market should not be penalised by some people sitting in banks. They can very easily apply Clause 13 of this Bill and see that those small companies, which are competitive to another big company, are closed.

With these words, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister wants the debate to be concluded in another 15 minutes. So, I request the remaining five Members to take only five minutes each.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, does the Minister desire so or you?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister desires that, not me.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee we agreed to complete the discussion today, but since this is an important Bill, we will cooperate with the Government. As more hon. Members want to express their views, kindly allow them. You are also a party to the decision of the BAC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I spoke only for eight minutes.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, you are always speaking. You should not talk too much.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is my duty to defend the Opposition and express our views forcefully. We want to help the Government not to fall into any trap. If they do not want it, then that is a different matter. So, you should cooperate with us.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, several members have criticized the ordinance route the Government is taking recourse to. The Bill which has been introduced in the House today, was introduced earlier on 21st June and 21st August. It seems that it would be passed today itself. I have objection to the title of the Bill. A Bill should not have such an incomprehensible title. The name should be so simple that a common man can pronounce easily and remember. I feel there is lack of intelligence and common sense in his Department. It's name is Securitization

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill, 2002. Will it become Law? They do not know how to name a bill. In Hindi its name is "Vittya Asttiyeon ka Partibhootikaran aur Punergathan tatha Partibhooti hit ka Pravartan Vidheyak, 2002." The name of the bill does not reveal the nature of the bill. My submission is that most of the members who have expressed their views on this bill are very learned and some of them are economists also. However, without going through the bill, they can not tell by its title what is it all about. What type of this bill is?

My second objection is in regard to this grave aberration that people who have taken loans by adopting fraudulent means are not repaying. This loan has been termed as non performing assets. I have doubt about it. Villagers took the loan but they are unable to repay it. Such loans have been classified as non performing assets. I have doubt about it also because the defaulters would be arrested on large scale thereby. But how would it be possible? We come to know the figures from some knowledgeable persons.

Hon'ble Jaswant Singh was in other Ministry. At that time also we raised the issue as to how the amount of Non-Performing Assets is increasing. Earlier common people got cheated by Banking and UTI and now Banks are being looted. However, no action has been taken in this regard. Since then we have been launching agitations to put check on NPA and reduce it but no action has been taken. Now the Government claim that they have brought this bill on the basis of Narsimhan Committee's report. This report was submitted in 1998 and after issuing ordinance in 2002, the bill has now been introduced. I have been stated that Rs. 62,000 crore are involved in it but as per the official figure, this amount is Rs. 83000 crore. As per their claim non Performing Assets are worth Rs. one lakh thirty thousand crore to one and half lakh. An agency has conducted enquiry in this regard. The Government should clarify about it. On what basis that agency is giving these figures or there is any aberration in it. Why there is such a difference between the figures? It is not a matter of 2, 5 or 10 crores rather the estimated figure of 1,30,000-1,50,000 crore is almost double of the official figure of 83,000 crore. I failed to understand these figures. I was really surprised to note as to how they manipulate the figures to double. Law is not applicable to all equally. If Rs. 5000-10,000 are outstanding against a villager, he is arrested and sent to jail but there is no law to recover money from other defaulters. ...*(Interruptions)* It should be clarified here.

There are many institutions like FICCI, ASOCHAM, CII and huge amount is outstanding against them. What is the

percentage of this loan in total NPA? Shri Jaswant Singh does not attend meeting of FICCI and ASOCHAM very often but hon'ble Prime Minister regularly attends these meetings. Whether the presence of hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister in such meetings would help in any way to recover these loans? This is the biggest treachery to the country. Law is not being applied equally. If a poor man fails to repay the loan, he is sent to jail and his property is attached but there is no law to recover loans from such defaulters. Now the Government are saying that law is being enacted and all their assets would be seized. ARC is also being prepared. Banking Associations are saying that A.R.C. will not serve the purpose. Rather, they will get one more chance, they will sell their property and thus the money can not be recovered.

A Scam had taken place once in my area. I have read clause 13 of this bill which states about the steps to be taken in this regard but it is not clear. We all may be aware of the Urban Cooperative Bank Scam. In that case Gandhi Maidan and railway platform were mortgaged as security of the assets. If enquiry is conducted, Boat club may also be mortgaged as such. How will it be sold and how the loan would be recovered? It has created uproar in the entire country and the matter was taken up to Supreme Court. It was not an ordinary case. Rather, it was a big fraud. However, no corrective measure regarding such fraud has been taken in this bill and, therefore, first of all its name should be amended. We all should think about a new name for NPA. There are some problems in the investigation conducted by CBI, Roopchand dada was mentioning about it.

[English]

"However, what is really worrisome is that an indepth study conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the growing phenomenon of economic offences reveals that frauds in banks result in NPAs".

[Translation]

NPA has increased because of the fraud.

[English]

"The CBI yesterday revealed that all NPA is not synonymous with fraud. There is no doubt that frauds in banks result in NPA."

[Translation]

It means fraud has taken place and NPA was a result of it. It is a financial matter, notice etc. would be issued to

them but strict action would not be taken against them. Their property, if any, would be seized. But if the property would be like Boat club then, how the loan would be recovered. Therefore, why do not you name it as Loot Recovery Act. It has been stated in Rajya Sabha that it is not a debt rather it is a loot, why it was named as NPA? The bill should be named as loot recovery bill. Public money has been looted and we will make all efforts to recover it. Government should take stringent steps to recover it. Why it is not treated as criminal offence. It would be sufficient to seize their property only and they will be spared. How the debt would be recovered then? Thus economic crisis and NPA will continue to be mounted.

Government make tall claims about economic growth that it would be raised to 8%. Even Hon'ble Prime Minister promises to achieve the target of 10%. However, the expert say that it would be less than 8%. And in fact the economic growth remains 5.4% or 5.5%. Any economist or sociologist or any learned person will say that with the increase in NPA, economic growth can not increase. Even a lay man can understand this simple formula that if NPA increases, economic growth will decline. Both are inversely proportional to each other. Therefore, why do the Government not take stringent action to tackle this problem. Otherwise knowledgeable people are aware about this type of law. Everybody has expressed apprehensions about it. This bill is inadequate to recover the NPA. It seems that a substantial amount is lying as NPA and a part of it can be recovered from capitalists by fear of this law. It goes on and members of BJP are expert in it, capitalists are with them. Why Government are not treating it as criminal offence in all cases? Why such people are not imprisoned for such offence? Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have also stated from the Chair that it should be treated as criminal offence.

There is no transparency and accountability in the working of banks. Bankers do not staff banks, it is staffed by the civil servants, who do not have the ability and skill of bankers. Banks appear to be meant for civil servants. Therefore, when they will bring a comprehensive Bill for Banking Reforms, I would ask them to ensure transparency in the working of Banks. Why there is so much secrecy in the Banks, the name of the borrowers and amount taken by them should be made public.

Hence, if the country is to be saved, stringent laws should be enacted to stop the loot of public money, especially in view of the fact that a few people are getting richer and richer while the common man is suffering and the economic condition of the country is worsening. Those who have pilfered public money should be imprisoned as long as the money from them is not recovered.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Member, Shri Prabodh Panda.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the offenders and the defaulters should be criminally dealt with. They should be dealt with as per criminal offence without any mercy. That is the desire of the people and the collective desire of this House also. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All the Members are not here now. If all the Members are here and if they say, then I can give a ruling.

Now, Shri Prabodh Panda.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have given me a chance to speak on this Bill, Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill, 2002.

Sir, I am also a member of the Standing Committee of Finance. Such an important Bill should be discussed in the Standing Committee first. So, my appeal to the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, is that this Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee so that the Standing Committee can scrutinize and undertake an in-depth study of this Bill.

Much has been said about the huge amount of NPA. ABEA has done a brilliant thing by publishing a big volume of the list of defaulters, which could have been done by the Government itself. It is understood that the Bill seeks to impose liability on the secured creditors to act on the security held by them and to have recoveries in the financial sector. Much confusion has been raised. Even the Members from the Treasury Bench have raised some important points. They are already confused. So, it is not understood how far this Bill will serve the purpose. Rather, there is a lot of confusion. I do agree that there should be a differentiation between the wilful defaulters and those who are unable to pay.

17.33 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA in the Chair)

A lot of clarifications are still to be sought on a number of issues. For instance, it is still not clear as to which of the authorities has to notify; whether the originator of the deal has to notify himself.

A large number of cases are pending before DRT. The

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

hon. Member, Shri Rupchand Pal has also mentioned correctly that a large number of cases are pending before the Debt Recovery Tribunal or the Civil Courts. I want to know whether an appeal to DRT against this Ordinance-based action would be permitted or not. That is not clear. The banks are issuing notices only to the borrowers. And whether any notification is to be issued to the guarantors, which is not clear. The second charge holder has resorted to enforcement of security interest in a case where the dues of the first charge holder also remains unpaid.

In case of joint financing, confusion prevails. On how to resolve the case, if one banker classifies an assets as NPA, another treats it as a standard asset. So, all these confusions are there. All these should be clarified. That is why, I request the Government, through you, to please refer this Bill to the Standing Committee. After the Standing Committee gives an in-depth study, let the Bill come to this august House.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question of mounting non-performing assets has been receiving serious attention since long. In due course of time, the non-performing assets have attained very dizzy heights. The non-performing assets of banks and financial institutions are presently estimated at more than one lakh thousand crores of rupees. Such is the serious problem that the Bill wants to deal with. The Bill is indeed a long awaited and badly needed legal measure to meet this colossal question of large scale NPAs. In due course of time, of course, there have been several mechanisms and channels like reference to the semi-judicial body, namely, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, Debt Recovery Tribunals, corporate restructuring, *Lok Adalat* for small amounts up to Rs.5 lakh and so on. This Bill is an attempt at almost redefining of the relationship between the creditor and the debtor and is of far-reaching importance.

It is unfortunate that in case of a legal measure of such far-reaching consequence, the Government sought the method of promulgating an Ordinance to deal with the situation. Perhaps, this was because the Government did not want to face the stern legislative method that a Bill has to go through or the process that the Bill has to go through. I understand that the provisions of the law were cleared by the Cabinet even before the Budget Session, but still the Government did not think it necessary to come to the House during the Budget Session itself with the Bill. It waited for the adjournment of the Budget Session and for the prorogation of the Budget Session. It was only in June that the Ordinance was promulgated. Thereafter also, in the

Monsoon Session, there was no sense of priority, I believe, with the Government in order to see that the Ordinance is replaced by a proper Bill.

My objection therefore is twofold – firstly, to this Ordinance *Raj* and secondly, of course, that a Bill of such far-reaching importance and far-reaching significance is replete with several deficiencies.

In the first place, the Bill has only a limited applicability. The provisions of the law are applicable only in cases of secured credit. They are applicable only when the banks have some collateral security. Now, look at the nature of the non-performing assets. We find that merely 35 per cent of the non-performing assets are such which are backed by collateral security. In other words, nearly 65 per cent of the non-performing assets are outside the scope of the provisions of this Bill because we do not have a collateral security or a secured credit in those cases.

17.41 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a serious deficiency. The Bill addresses itself only to the question of about 30 per cent of the non-performing assets that are backed by collateral security and is blind to the fact that about 70 per cent of the non-performing assets not backed by collateral security are beyond the pale of this particular Bill.

This Bill also fails to distinguish between the wilful defaulters and others. There is a need to bring about this particular distinction in the interests of the national economy itself. I do not want to go on elucidating about it but there are questions of wilful defaulters and there are questions of those who are genuine but have come into default. Certain safeguards therefore are also necessary for bringing about a distinction between a wilful defaulter and others.

This Bill rolls the red carpet to corruption. The red carpet to corruption is freely rolled. There are many provisions of this Bill that would definitely lead to more and more corruption. There are no safeguards in the Bill to avoid corruption. For example, there is this vital question of pricing the assets that are going to be transferred from the bank to the asset management company. In the matter of pricing, we hardly find any guidelines whatsoever or any provisions in the Bill. Therefore, this, I am afraid, rolls the red carpet to corruption.

There are several other provisions that would lead to

more and more corruption and greater problems as far as our economy is concerned. For example, there is the vital question of identification of the borrower against whom the provisions of the Bill are to be invoked. This is at the discretion of the bank and the bank may invoke the provisions of the Bill against one and may not invoke it against the other at its discretion, for reasons one could understand well.

There are also no safeguards whatsoever with respect to the misuse of the provisions of the Bill and borrowers trying to profit by the same.

For example, there is no ban whatsoever in the Bill on the borrower purchasing the asset, repurchasing the asset, reacquiring the asset from the Securitisation Company.

We had one very nasty incident in Mumbai. The Centaur Airport Hotel was sold for a pittance and the buyer then in a matter of few months resold it at tremendous profit to itself. There is a heavy loss to the exchequer. Here, even learning from this, there is no provision in the Bill to impose a ban that the borrower cannot reacquire the asset from the Securitisation Company after it has been transferred to it by the bank.

Sir, the Government has taken the recourse to promulgation of Ordinance. Therefore, the question of the Bill going to the Standing Committee and so on did not arise. As a result, there are so many loopholes and several legal hurdles that we find. The matter of Ordinance is agitated before the court and a legal question has already come up that banks cannot initiate any action under the provisions of the Bill or the Ordinance if they have already initiated other legal proceedings under any other law to recover the dues. There is a necessity that here the matter ought to have been clarified when we are trying to replace the Ordinance by the Bill, when such hurdles have already come up and are being agitated in the court of law. The then hon. Minister of Finance promised to one and all in most unequivocal language that when the Ordinance would be replaced by the Bill, a review would take place and the necessary modifications would be made. One does not find any review whatsoever having taken place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, we can go on. I have nearly 18 amendments of mine covering the various aspects to show the hurdles, the loopholes and the deficiencies in the Bill. If the Bill had gone to the Standing Committee, I am sure, the hands of the lenders would have been further

and properly strengthened in order to see that the question of the NPA is effectively met.

Sir, I would like to conclude by saying that we cannot totally rely upon legal provisions. Much will depend on the level and the quality of the governance in the banks. Take for example the State Financial Corporations. These State Financial Corporations have the power to acquire assets, sell or lease them similar to the powers incorporated in this Bill and yet one is not happy with the financial health of the State Financial Corporations despite all these powers that they have. This shows that hand-in-hand with legal provisions, one has to also deal with the question of improving the quality of the governance of the banks and the financial institutions.

Sir, I conclude by appealing to the Government that, even at this late stage, it should consider the question of reviewing the various provisions so that the Bill really turns out to be a landmark in this herculean task of meeting the Non-Performing Assets.

MR. SPEAKER: May I now call upon the hon. Minister because the time is short?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, please allow me for two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, we have to complete this Bill by 6 o'clock and thereafter one more Bill is also to be discussed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, please give him five minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: The other Bill will also take five to ten minutes only. It is a very small one. Let this Bill be completed by 6 o'clock and let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, he may be given the first chance to speak in the discussion on the next Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to accept the suggestion of Shri Kirit Somaiya.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: A number of hon. Members have already spoken on this and they have made lots of points. It is clear.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, my name is included in the list.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, my name is also included.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, we have no time today. By 6 o' clock Bill is to be completed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, please give two minutes to each.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. But only two minutes each. First, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan would speak for two minutes.

[English]

Only two hon. Members will speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Thank you, Sir. I thought I will not be getting time. Since I am the penultimate speaker, I will confine myself to raising only important points.

This is the second attempt by the Government to improve the position of NPA. The first attempt was through the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Many of our industries had become defunct. The loans to those industries had become defunct and the Government came with a new Bill to revive and rehabilitate the sick industries and for that purpose a Board was constituted and a High Court Judge was appointed as Chairman. Even at the outset, that legislation was defective, defective in the sense that it was not given any powers. It could not function because even the staff was not provided and even the number of members of the Bench was also reduced to a nullity. The result was that the cases were pending for 12 to 15 years before the Board. The result was that the NPA situation did not improve. In spite of the fact that the matter was brought to the notice of the Government, the Government did not act. So also, now they have come with another Bill. It will have the same fate in the sense that it will not function.

The first point that I want to submit is, there is no power for the banking or financial companies. They do not have any power to implement the decision. They do not have any power of recovery. They will have to approach the District Magistrate and only through the District Magistrate the penal provisions, even if they are small penal provisions or fines, would be imposed. They could be imposed only through the Metropolitan Magistrate or the District Magistrate as the case may be.

The net result will be complete failure and there will be no recovery and the capitalists, as described by various friends, will continue as such. Until and unless this Bill is revised, no purpose will be served.

Now, you will see that the idea for bringing out the legislation is there for about ten years. When the reforms were introduced in India, naturally there will be reforms in the banking sector also. But the Government acted very slowly. Now they have come to the conclusion that there are certain areas in which the banking and financial sectors do not have a level-playing field as compared to other participants in the financial market in the world.

So, we are lagging behind. Why did we not act earlier? Now the legislation that is brought before us is defective. It is weak inherently in the sense that they cannot act with this Bill.

That is the opinion of the banking industry also. They have expressed in clear terms that this legislation will not serve the purpose. Moreover, this could have been prevented had the Bill been referred to the Standing Committee. We would have discussed it in the Standing Committee, we would have suggested methods and we would have made amendments to the Bill, but that was not done. The Government did not refer the Bill to the Standing Committee for their opinion, for their amendments and for their scrutiny. If it had been done, it would have been better. So, on these grounds, I request the Government to reconsider their position and bring in a new legislation by which the noble ideas the Government claims can be implemented. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Narsimhan Committee and Anthiarujnia Committee gave a number of recommendations. The loans given by a number of financial institutions are not repaid. Shri Jaswant Singh ji has introduced the Bill with a view to improve the situation. I have considered the Bill seriously and I am supporting it only when I have found it good. But the Bill ought to produce some results once it is passed. The Government are aiming at some improvements through the Bill. The large companies which take loans up to Rs.500-1000 crore and even 10000 crore do not repay. That amount is not recovered. The Bill seeks permission to seize the property of such companies which is a good thing. But the law should not be applicable to sick and small industries where the investment is up to Rs.50 crore. They should be given as much support as possible so that the companies may develop. The sick industries should be provided as much help as possible so that the companies may develop. I support the Bill. Shri Jaswant Singh has assumed the charge of this Ministry very recently. Before him, Shri Yashwant Sinha held the charge of this department. It was different then. Now that he has become the Minister, more

and more improvements are anticipated. I hope that the coming budget will be a well improved one with all your suggestions.

Shri Adsul ji has become the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. He should do something for us. Sick industries need to be given more and more support. I support the Bill and thank you but you should also be obliged to us.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to all the hon. Members who have benefited the Government by their views. Sir, I was very brief at the stage when the Bill was taken for consideration and I will be equally brief at this stage, mindful of the time of the day. But while I will be brief, it will not be at the cost of my providing answers to the very valuable suggestions which have been given, by the hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I have to interrupt for a minute.

I am extending the time of the House, with the permission of the House, till this Bill and the next Bill are passed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you extend the time of the House till only this Bill is passed and not till the passing of the next Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is a very small Bill. There is no debate required on that Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the next Bill is on a very important subject. Members would certainly like to speak on that Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you please extend the time of the House till the passing of this Bill only. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It was decided in the Business Advisory Committee that the next Bill would also be passed because the next Bill does not require lot of discussion.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There are many points on the next Bill. It will take time. So, you take up the next Bill tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The hon'ble Members wanting to speak on it may not be present as they would not be aware of it.

MR. SPEAKER: It was fixed in the meeting of BAC.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: But it was not announced that the Bill would be taken up after 6.00 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): The Bill to be taken up next was referred to the Standing Committee. So, it is not very much complicated that way. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Anyway, we will take up this issue after passing of this Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am so sorry that the Minister is saying so. This decision was not taken that the House would sit after six o'clock. So, the Members who were to participate in that discussion, perhaps thinking that the Bill will not be taken up today, have gone away.

18.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am extending the time till the Bill is disposed of. Thereafter, I will again take the sense of the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to all hon. Members for the interest that they are demonstrating in the legislations that we are bringing forward. I am also very grateful for the interest that has been shown here. I do entirely agree with all hon. Members who say that recourse to the path of Ordinance is not a good path. Of course, it is not a good path to the extent that the Government can avoid it. We do avoid it; all Governments, at one stage or another, have to take recourse to this path because of the exigencies or circumstances. I do not wish to go into the details.

After all, I was here in this very House when the system of Standing Committees was instituted. I was a Member of that Committee. We all have to reflect ourselves, we have to reflect as to whether the time taken in the Standing Committees for the Bills that have been referred to them is really the time that should be taken because in

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

the process, the whole purpose of the Standing Committee is really rather being defeated. However, that is a different subject and I will not dwell on that at all.

Now, as I had shared initially with all the hon. Members, Sir, when the Bill was to be taken up for consideration, this Bill is essentially for securitisation of financial assets so as to generate immediate liquidity, and it is also to enforce security which, at the present moment, there are no powers for because all the hon. Members are aware of the time consuming judicial processes, which is part of the total judicial system that we all have. This is also part of the fact of life that the commercial environment, both within the country as also globally, is changing. This results in what I would call an asset-liability mismatch as well as in mounting levels of non-performing assets (NPAs). I do not wish to go into the non-performing assets (NPAs) ratio with GDP. As a ratio of GDP, India's non-performing assets (NPAs) are really much lower than some of the countries. I do not want to get into that debate at the moment.

I will here go immediately into some of the substantial questions. I wish to assure all hon. Members – some have suggested that this Bill or the Ordinance is not sufficiently harsh or effective; other hon. Members have said that it is already too harsh and, therefore, there should be legal provisions to ensure that it is not misused. Both viewpoints are held by hon. Members – that as we proceed down this path, the Government is committed to constantly reviewing, constantly improving the provisions that Parliament is today enabling us to. Yes, Sir, I did publicly say that if there is any provision that we find requires a second look and needs a revision, the Government or the Ministry of Finance will have no hesitation to have that second look and have such a revision.

Why have we adopted the path of the Ordinance? We believe that a climate had to be created within the country so that there is a sense of responsibility created, both in the borrower as also the lender, that we cannot continue down this path in the manner in which we are continuing without a very major national cause. I wish to also assure hon. Members, particularly, hon. Members Shri Kirit Somaiya and Shri Rupchand Pal, that yes, we have put one lakh, but that does not mean that we will start at one lakh. I assure hon. Members that we will start with the larger non-performing assets (NPAs).

[Translation]

Shri Raghuvansh Babu was very angry with us and was agitated as to why are we abandoning so much assets

and why it is given such a long name. The name is very complex. Such assets cannot be called liabilities. He knows what I am saying.

As far as big borrowers are concerned, action would definitely be taken against them and the Government are not going to discriminate against small debtors. It is true that there are some borrowers who have taken huge debts, but only three months have passed since I took charge of the Ministry of Finance. I am aware in this regard. Please trust that we in the Ministry of Finance do act without fear and favour, neither we make any discrimination nor do we worry.

[English]

We have to act without fear and favour and the Finance Ministry acts only in the interest of the country, to the extent that God gives us the ability to do them.

Sir, I also want to make it clear that the State Financial Corporations will also be covered under the provisions of this Bill.

[Translation]

As Shri Banatwalla said, now he is not present, that such provisions already exist in State Financial Corporations. One hon'ble Member wanted to know whether it would have any impact on the workers?

[English]

I wish to assure the hon. Members that employees will not be affected with this change and no employee, either in the management or a worker, will be affected on this account.

Sir, there was a question relating to write-off. I think, the hon. Mover of the Motion for disapproval asked as to why there is a write-off. Is it arbitrary? It is not arbitrary. Write-off is a provision that banks adopt really to take benefit of the taxation structure and it is not really as if money is written off. It is an adjustment and the loan that is outstanding is pursued even after it has been written off. The hon. Mover of the Motion of disapproval wanted to know whether the rules have been notified or not. Yes, they have already been notified under the Ordinance and the Reserve Bank of India is already in the process of issuing guidelines. The Ordinance governs. I wish to make it clear, the relationship between the lender and the borrower and if there is any third party involved, then that third party can always approach a court of law in this regard.

Sir, an hon. Member just now mentioned about taking the assistance of the Metropolitan Magistrate etc. I wish to inform the hon. Member that the Bill provides that whenever necessary, banks can take the help of the Metropolitan Magistrate for taking over the assets. It can do so. But no court decision is required for this purpose. Let that thing be clear. It is not an expiratory measure. We are determined to create a climate of sense of mutual responsibility.

Sir, there were some other queries also. Out of the 27 Public Sector banks, during the pendency of the Ordinance, 25 banks have issued notices in respect of about 10,000 odd borrower's accounts. The banks have reported that there is a positive impact of the Ordinance and some borrowers have approached for a compromise or a negotiated settlement. The Financial Institutions have issued notices in respect of 123 borrower's accounts and particularly IDBI has reported that now there is a movement for one time negotiated settlement.

Sir, I wish to share two more additional points. I recognize that the complexity of the laws as such and the complexity of commercial crimes as such is that we need to really go beyond the immediate legal framework that is available.

It is my conclusion in the Finance Ministry that perhaps the time has come wherein entrusting all such cases only to the Central Bureau of Investigation may not serve the purpose because of the complexity of the commercial, at times, fraud that we are confronted with. Therefore, when I got this job, we have taken a decision that the Ministry of Finance, of which the Department of Companies Affairs is now a part, shall substitute immediately steps to establish what we have termed as a Serious Frauds Offices and this Serious Frauds Office will incorporate all these various aspects. I am happy to inform the House that we have made a significant progress in this regard. We have been in consultation with the Ministry of Law. I hope to come forward to the Parliament with a legislation in this regard which is well thought out. I assure the hon. Members that will not be an Ordinance because I do wish to share and have the benefit of your views.

There is a second aspect that I wish to share which is, just as the borrower has the responsibility - it is my view in the Finance Ministry and it is the collective view of the Government - the lender also has the responsibility. We must now recognise that whereas the borrower has the responsibility and obligation, which is both commercial and moral, to repay what he borrowed, the lender has an obligation to continue to service the borrower positively, supportively and not always as if the two are combative halves of a different organisation. We wish to move away from this kind of attitude. So, we are also thinking in terms

of a Lenders' Liability Law so that lending of moneys from public institutions and banks cannot be selective, cannot be subjective; that they must be governed by commercial considerations; and in the process of servicing loans they must continue to observe norms just as the borrower must continue to observe norms.

It is for this and various other reasons that I commend this Bill for the consideration of the House. I appeal to all hon. Members that do please give us your consent. If there are any suggestions, amendments, provisions, improvements that we have to carry out, I assure the hon. Members, we will do so as we proceed down this path.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, while moving my Statutory Resolution, I clarified that we were not against the contents of the Bill. We are against the Ordinance route that the Government is taking recourse to.

At least five Ordinances have been promulgated during this inter-session period. Some of the Ordinances were not required to be promulgated on the eve of the Session. The Government could have come with a Bill and that Bill could have gone to the Standing Committee for scrutiny. We are passing such an important Bill in three-four hours. Most of the points that we raised here remained unanswered because of paucity of time. That is why, my appeal is that this Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee.

We realise the problem that the Standing Committee takes too much time to report back to the House. Some time limit can be imposed, say three months, within which the Standing Committee can come back to the House with its report.

This should not be the general instruction but for important Bills which are required to be passed urgently, it can be done. We also want that such measures should be taken up to curb this menace for reducing NPAs and for tackling those who have looted the public money. The Finance Minister himself has described that these are not bad debts but this is just loot. Therefore, some punishment should also be given to them. Why could those defaulters who have looted the public money not be prosecuted criminally? This question is also there.

The Government should consider the suggestion made by various hon. Members and myself to strengthen this Act in future. Of course, we cannot completely stop all these things but we can reduce them. If there is a political will, we will be able to reduce them and utilise this money of NPAs for better purposes like education, health, etc. We need money. We are in dire need of money.

I hope that the Minister will definitely consider our

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

suggestions to improve this Act in future so that we are able to tackle the problem of non-performing assets and the problem of wilful defaulters.

Sir, with these words, I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Statutory Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the question is:

"That the Bill to regulate securitisation and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

**Clause 3 Registration of Securitisation
 companies or reconstruction
 companies**

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 6,-

after line 22, insert –

"(7) every application for registration made under sub-section (2) shall be disposed of by the Reserve Bank within three months of the receipt of the said application." (44)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No.44 to clause 3 moved by Shri G .M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment No.44 was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

**Clause 4 --- Cancellation of certificate of
 registration**

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 6,-

after line 41, insert –

"(f) has acquired financial assets under sub-section (1) of section 5 the total aggregate amount which exceeds three times the total amount of its owned fund and the fund raised under section 7, without the prior approval of the Reserve Bank." (45)

Page 7, line 8,-

after "the Central Government"

insert "and the procedure for filing and hearing of such appeal shall be in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Central Government in this behalf" (46)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos.45 and 46 to clause 4 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment Nos.45 and 46 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

**Clause 5 --- Acquisition of rights or interest in
 financial assets**

MR. SPEAKER: I think, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal is not moving.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

Page 7, -

after line 32, insert –

"(2A) The securitisation company or the reconstruction company shall have the same rights and powers with

respect to any goods manufactured or produced wholly or partly from the secured assets forming part of the financial assets acquired under sub-section (1)." (32)

Page 8, -

after line 2, insert -

"(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in the registration Act, 1908 or the Indian Stamp Act or any of the corresponding Acts in a State, the acquisition of the financial asset of any bank or financial institution by a securitisation company or reconstruction company under sub-section (1) shall not be subject to any registration fees or stamp duty." (33)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos. 32 and 33 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment Nos. 32 and 33 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 --- Notice to obligor discharge of obligation of such obligor.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I beg to move:

Page 8, line 3, -

for "may, if it considers appropriate",

substitute "shall" (3)

Page 8, lines 9 and 10, -

for "where a notice of acquisition of financial asset under sub-section (1) is given by a bank or financial institution, the obligor",

substitute "The obligor" (4)

Page 8, -

omit lines 15 to 22 (5)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

Page 8, lines 3 and 4, -

for "may, if it considers appropriate, give notice of acquisition of financial assets by any securitisation company or reconstruction company,"

substitute "shall, within two months of acquisition of financial assets by any securitisation company or reconstruction company, give a notice of the fact of such acquisition" (34)

Page 8, lines 15 to 17, -

for "Where no notice of acquisition of financial assets under sub-section (1) is given by any bank or financial institution, any money or other properties subsequently received by the bank or financial institution,"

substitute "Any money or other properties received by the bank or financial institution subsequently to the acquisition of financial asset under sub-section (1)" (35)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos. 3, 4 and 5 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and amendment Nos. 34 and 35 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment Nos. 3 to 5 and 34 and 35 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 7 --- Issue of security by raising of receipts or funds by securitisation company or reconstruction company

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I beg to move:

Page 8, line 37, -

for "seventy-five"

substitute "fifty-one" (6)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

Page 8, line 37, -

for "seventy five per cent"

substitute "sixty per cent" (36)

Page 8, line 39, -

after "passed in such meeting"

insert "by voting in person, or, where proxies are
allowed, by proxy" (47)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 6
moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and amendment Nos.
36 and 47 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of
the House.

*The amendment Nos. 6, 36 and 47
were put and negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 was added in the Bill.

Clause 9 --- Measures for assets reconstruction

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I beg to move:

Page 9, lines 5 and 6, -

omit, "or take over of," (7)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

Page 9, -

after line 13, insert -

"provided that where a securitisation company or
reconstruction company takes action under clause (b)
or clause (d) of this section, it shall not be lawful for the
borrower or his agent to buy or acquire any interest in
the business or the secured asset." (37)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No.7
moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and amendment No.
37 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment Nos. 7 and 37 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 10 to 12 were added to the Bill.

Clause 13 --- Enforcement of Security Interest

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Except amendment
9, I would like to move all other amendments.

I beg to move:

Page 10, line 17,-

omit "without the intervention of the court or tribunal",
(8)

Page 10, line 30. -

after "sub-section (2)", insert -

"and the Debts Recovery Tribunal has not passed an
order to the contrary under section 17" (10)

Page 10, line 30, -

for "may take recourse",

substitute "may apply to the Debts Recovery Tribunal
having jurisdiction for granting permission to
take recourse" (11)

Page 10, -

after line 41, insert -

"Provided that the Debts Recovery Tribunal, on receipt
of the application under sub-section (4), hear the
borrower as to why such permission should not be
granted and decide the matter within four months." (12)

Page 11, line 2, -

for "secured creditor"

substitute "Debts Recovery Tribunal" (13)

Page 11, line 3, -

for "by him",

substitute "by the secured creditor" (14)

Page 12, lines 3 and 4. -

for "without first taking any of the measure specified in clauses (a) to (d) of sub-section (4) in relation to the secured assets under this Act",

substitute "in the manner prescribed under sub-section (4)" (15)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

Page 10, line 23, -

for "sixty days" *substitute* "ninety days" (38)

Page 12, line 2, -

omit "proceed against the guarantor or" (39)

Page 12, line 4, -

add at the end -

"or proceed, if need be, against the guarantor after taking any such measure" (40)

Page 12, -

after line 10, *insert* -

"(14) where the secured creditor has taken any action against a borrower under the provisions of sub-section (4), the secured creditor shall be deemed to be the owner of the secured assets for the purposes of suits by or against the borrower and shall sue and be sued in the name of the borrower.

(15) where the secured creditor apprehends that the borrower may remove the secured asset from its rightful place, the secured creditor may apply to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or the District Magistrate in whose jurisdiction any such secured asset may be situated for an ad interim injunction restraining the borrower from so removing the secured asset without the prior permission of the secured creditor." (41)

Page 10, line 32, -

after "borrower"

insert "with all the rights the borrower possessed over the secured assets" (48)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos. 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and amendment Nos. 38, 39, 40, 41 and 48 moved by Shri G .M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment Nos. 8, 10 to 15, 38 to 41 and 48 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 13 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill.

Clause 14 --- Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or District Magistrate to assist secured creditor in taking possession of secured asset

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I beg to move:

"Page 12, line 14, -

for "request, in writing".

substitute "apply to" (16)

Page 12, line 18, -

for "request",

substitute "application". (17)

Page 12, line 18.-

after "him"

insert ",hear the parties and decide within three months whether to". (18)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos. 16, 17 and 18 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to the vote of the House.

The amendment Nos, 16 to 18 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 14 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14 was added to the Bill.

Clause 15 - Manner and effect of takeover of management

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I beg to move:

"Page 12, line 27, -

for "is taken over",

substitute "is sought to be changed". (19)

Page 12, lines 30 and 31, —

omit "as many persons as it thinks fit" (20)

Page 12 line 33, -

for "to be the directors",

substitute "directors in number one more than the
existing directors": (21)

Page 12, line 35, -

omit "to be the" (22)

Page 12, —

omit lines 37 to 44 (23)

Page 13, line 5, —

for "alone",

substitute "in consultation with the existing
management". (24)

Page 13, line 21, —

for "taken over"

substitute "changed" (25)

Page 13, line 22, -

after "full",

insert "withdraw its representatives and" (26)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos. 19
to 26 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to the vote of
the House.

The amendment Nos. 19 to 26 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 15 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*Clause 15 was added to the Bill. Clause 16
was added to the Bill.*

Clause 17 — Right to appeal

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I beg to move:

"Page 13, lines 33 and 34, —

for "any of the measures referred to in sub-section (4)
of Section 13 taken by"

substitute "a notice issued under sub-section (2) of
section 13 by" (27)

Page 13, line 36, —

for "forty-five days"

substitute "fifteen days" (28)

Page 13, line 36, —

for "measure had been taken"

substitute "notice had been received by him"

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

"Page 13, —

after line 36, insert —

"Provided that the Debts Recovery Tribunal may allow
an appeal after the period of forty-five days, but not
later than ninety days after the measure had been
taken, if the borrower satisfies the Debts Recovery
Tribunal that he had sufficient cause for not making
the appeal within the period of forty five days" (42)

Page 13, line 39, —

for "seventy-five per cent"

substitute "forty per cent" (43)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos. 27,
28 and 29 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and
amendment Nos. 42 and 43 moved by Shri Banatwalla to
the vote of the House.

*The amendment Nos. 27 to 29, 42 and 43
were put and negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 17 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill.

Clause 18 – Appeal to Appellate Tribunal

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I beg to move:

"Page 13, line 37, –

after "under" insert -

"section 13 or" (30)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 30 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 30 was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 18 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 19 to 36 were added to the Bill.

Clause 37 – Application of other laws not barred

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

"Page 17, -

after line 25, insert –

"(2) A bank or a financial institution or a securitization company or a reconstruction company may, notwithstanding any recovery proceedings initiated under the provision of any law, other than this Act, for the time being in force, take any action as it may deem fit under the provisions of this Act and, on such action being taken, the recovery proceedings taken under any other such law shall stand abated:

Provided that notwithstanding any such abatement, anything done or any action taken under the recovery proceedings which stand abated, shall be deemed to be valid and shall not suffer from any legal infirmity."
(49)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No.49 moved by Shri Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 45 was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 37 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 37 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 38 to 41 were added to the Bill.

Clause 42 – Repeal and Saving

Amendment made:

Page 18, -

for lines 20 and 21, substitute.

Repeal and Saving	"42. (1) The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest of (Second) Ordinance, 2002 is hereby repealed." (1)	Ord. 3 of 2002
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(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 42, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 42, as amended; was added to the Bill.

The Schedule

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: No.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: 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.

18.31 hrs.

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (AMENDMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 and the Information Technology Act, 2000, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 and the Information Technology Act, 2000, be taken into consideration."

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (MURSHIDABAD): Sir, only on two points I would like to have clarification from the hon. Minister. There is almost a consensus on passing this Bill. So, I am speaking only on two points.

The first point is about a report that I came to know. It is a fact that when the Working Group was constituted, they have reported that there are a lot of cases pending in different courts in different parts of the country. There is a Report known as Bombay Report. Nearly seventy thousand cases are pending which are worth Rs. 6,000 crore. So, my question to the hon. Minister is that how to speed up the disposal of the cases. My second question to the hon. Minister is regarding Section 141. I suppose this is a little bit harsh because there is no difference between the Executive Director and the ordinary Director. So, there is scope to harass the common people through this Section. I would like to request the Finance Minister to address these points. I am in favour of the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, now we again have the same difficulty. 'Negotiable Instruments' has been translated into Hindi as "Parkramya Likhat." Everybody knows the meaning of 'Negotiable' but people should also know the meaning of 'Parkramya Likhat'. How a villager will know that the penalty for cheque bounce is going to be increased. If it is not debated, people would not know, how can we caution the people? Law says that ignorance of law is not an excuse.

The Government just made a law without bothering whether the people know or not that the penalty for cheque bounce has been increased. Hon'ble Finance Minister has brought another Bankers Books Evidence Act. There is also an amendment in Information Technology Act. The amendment of hon'ble Minister of Information Technology has also been incorporated in it. Thus three Acts are sought to be amended through the Bill. We all agree that the Bill be passed. But its name should be changed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What suggestion you give to change the name of the Bill?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I was aware of the word 'Parakram' but not 'Parkramya'. How 'Instrument' can be translated as 'Likhat'? Instrument means equipment. What type of dictionaries people consult that they are coming up with such words. People do not know whether the penalty has been increased or lowered. Therefore, all such things should be rectified. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Pramod ji, you have done my work also.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): I have strong objection to this. If we pass this Bill without discussion, a very difficult situation will arise. ...*(Interruptions)* It is against the Indian Evidence Act. It is against the process of summons in the Civil Procedure Code. No lawyer in India will agree to this. It cannot be passed like this. I have strong objection to this. It has to be discussed. ...*(Interruptions)* Otherwise, I do not agree to this. As I said earlier, the Indian Evidence Act, the Civil Procedure Code and so many things are there. The entire legal community will revolt against us if we agree to this proposal as it is. We will have to have sufficient safeguards. Now, the Speed Post and the Courier services are there. Therefore, please do not do it now. Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, you will be thrown out by the lawyers. Do not say that there is total consensus now as far as this Bill is concerned. There can be no compromise. We will have to discuss it.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): You do not want us to be thrown out! If you want it, let us do it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I take strong objection to this way of passing it. We cannot pass it without proper discussion, without proper amendments to it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please proceed. He has made his point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We will be inviting trouble from the lawyers throughout India if we pass this. I cannot go out. The lawyers will revolt against me and they will ask me how we have passed this Act without any discussion. Please do not do that. There can be no consensus on this. There can be no compromise. We will have to discuss this provision threadbare. Otherwise, we will have to face serious consequences. For Heaven's sake, I request you to have discussion in this matter. It is not a simple matter.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member has made a valuable suggestion. We will take into account the point about the Executive Director, Section 141 etc.

So far as discussing this Bill is concerned, I would like to say that this has been discussed and considered by the Standing Committee. It is based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee which is Unanimous.

[Translation]

Dr. Raghuvansh Babu has raised objections to its title. But let me tell him that the original Bill is 125 years old. Its name was Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and thereafter it was Bankers Books Evidence Act, 1891. Dr. Raghuvansh Babu must be aware that Bihar has always been an educated and cultured State. Banking system was introduced there much earlier than it did in States such as Rajasthan. You are familiar with the 1881 Act and so is each and every village of Bihar. It will be better if you do not raise objection over its name(Interruptions) It has been there since 125 years, since the time of the British.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): The English terms are easier to understand. But their Hindi equivalents are not correct. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: But the objection of Dr. Raghuvansh Babu was that as to why did we retain the English words. I request that the Bill be passed. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the Bankers' Books Evidence Act,

1891 and the Information Technology Act, 2000, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 4 – Amendment of Section 81

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): I beg to move:

Page 2, –

after line 29, insert –

"provided that the banker who made the payment shall always be entitled to call for the truncated cheque within thirty days of the payment" (1)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment no.1 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment No.1 was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause 9 – Amendment of Section 142

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

Page 3, line 18, –

after "prescribed period,"

insert "but not later than six months after the prescribed period," (2)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment no. 2 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment No.2 was put and negatived.

18.42 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

(At this stage, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan and some other hon. Members left the House.)

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I beg to move:

The motion was adopted.

"That the Bill be passed."

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

Clauses 10 to 13 were added to the Bill.

"That the Bill be passed."

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

18.43 hrs.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot be a party to the passing of this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Lok Sabha then adjourned, till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, November 22, 2002/Agrahayana 1,1924 (Saka).

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