

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 7, 2003/Śravana 16, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE : SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the ban imposed by the Supreme Court on the strike by the Government employees is against the spirit of the constitution...*(Interruptions)* It is the murder of democracy ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Friends, I have received notices for suspension of the Question Hour from several Members on different issues. The important issues quoted in the notices for the suspension of the Question Hour and Adjournment Motions are: the Supreme Court order banning strikes, the PAC Report, the Report on the *Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana*, etc. These are some of the issues on which several Members have given notices to me.

You are all aware that today we have decided to take up the Constitution Amendments, and it has also been decided in the Business Advisory Committee that there would not be any 'Zero Hour' today. At 12 o'clock itself, we are going to take up these Constitution Amendments. In the meantime, since I have received notices for suspension of the Question Hour,

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlisahar) : My notice is first in the list.

MR. SPEAKER : I have the notice from him also. I am saying that the subject of PAC and the notice of suspension of the Question Hour be taken one by one.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : My notice is at the first place ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : You know that I can dispose off all notices in a minute but the subject of PAC is very important.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.N. SINGH : My subject is also very important and is placed at the top in the list.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question of being at the top. I can give the opportunity to speak to one after another Member. Right now, I am asking him to speak.

SHRI C.N. SINGH : My turn will come after it.

MR. SPEAKER : I will also listen to you after this subject is completed.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : The judgment given by the Supreme Court is a disastrous judgment.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : It is an unprecedented one. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How can they take away the rights of the Government Employees? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are today faced with an anomalous and unprecedented situation. There are two functions of Parliament: One is law-making, the other is accountability. It is the right and duty of Parliament to call the Executive to account.

Sir, under Rule 308, the Public Accounts Committee is constituted, and it is the function of the PAC to examine the accounts. Let me read the Rule.

"There shall be a Committee on Public Accounts for the examination of accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by the House for the expenditure of the Government of India, the annual finance accounts of the Government of India and such other accounts laid before the House."

Rule 308(2) refers to the role that the PAC has to perform in the light of the paras produced by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

There is only one Committee, that is the Public Accounts Committee, which is to pronounce a judgement on the paras of the Comptroller and Auditor General. It is only the Public Accounts Committee which is competent to modify, agree with or reject even the recommendations or conclusions of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. That Public Accounts Committee has been denied key documents. I bring to your notice that the Public Accounts Committee in its report stated that documents were made available to a retired journalist even before they were made available to the Public Accounts Committee. The Public Accounts Committee report says – I do not know what happened there in the Committee– 'The Committee unanimously felt that the Defence Minister Mr. George Fernandes was guilty of breach of privilege.'

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this allegation is baseless....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : This was a recommendation made unanimously by the Public Accounts Committee to you, Sir. I am not saying anything new. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : They are the one summing the country...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanji, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Jaipal Reddyji is speaking in irresponsible language....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going into the report. I just want to know why he wants the Question Hour to be suspended.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbanga) : He is misleading the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHISRAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnaur) : The Speaker, Sir, he is deviating from the subject, why don't you speak on the subject...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I only want to know from Shri Jaipal Reddy as to why he desires that the Question Hour should be suspended.

(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I would like to say something on this.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to raise a point of order?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : No, I want to say something.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to raise a point of order?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Yes.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Unless you suspend the Question Hour, there cannot be a point of order. He should know the rules.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I am not saying anything unparliamentary. I am not saying anything which is not true to the report. I am trying to interpret the report to the best of my light, I cannot do it according to their light. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Malhotra, you will be allowed to raise your point of order. But let him complete his point first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have already decided that the Question Hour will be given priority. I want to go to the Question Hour as early as possible. I have permitted them to make a brief statement so that I can understand why they want the Question Hour to be suspended.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, kindly give me time after him. I would like to say something on that.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, how can he speak like that about the Public Accounts Committee? He cannot give a judgement on behalf of the Public Accounts Committee. We are members of that Committee.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, this was the report on the paras raised by the Comptroller and Auditor General, which was laid on the Table of this House. It is the duty of the Public Accounts Committee to scrutinise those paras. The Committee is assisted by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The Comptroller and Auditor General stated, according to the report, 'Whereas the observations of the Comptroller and Auditor General have been made public'...

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, if it is a debate, I would like to say something.

MR. SPEAKER : After he finishes, you can raise your point of order. I will permit you.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I am only making my submission on the basis of the report of the Public Accounts Committee. The report says that the Comptroller and Auditor General, who is an eminent Constitutional authority, himself stated...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The report does not say that. The report only talks about the CVC, not the C&AG.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Let me have my say. ...*(Interruptions)* The Comptroller and Auditor General himself stated that the situation is anomalous because the observations of the Comptroller and Auditor General have been made public while the report of the Central Vigilance Commissioner has not been made public. ...*(Interruptions)* The Comptroller and Auditor General...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I can understand that you all are agitating on the issue because we have to go to the Question Hour. I am trying to go to the Question Hour as quickly as possible. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the point I am making is that the CVC Report was not made available even to the Comptroller and Auditor General. It was denied to the Public Accounts Committee. The Public Accounts Committee, for the first time in the history of independent India, made a Report to the House that it is unable to submit a Report because of the refusal of the Government... *(Interruptions)* The situation is absolutely unprecedented. It has led to a Constitutional deadlock. It has led to a Parliamentary stalemate.

Therefore, the House should discuss this and nothing else. *(Interruptions)* Therefore, the Question hour should be suspended.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, what is your point of order?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member has not told me what his point of order is. Unless I listen to his point of order, how can I give my ruling?

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : Sir, under what rule he is raising his point of order?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : His point of order must be under some rule. He must quote the rule...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point of order is not yesterday PAC report was tabled in the House. After PAC report. Sir, they must listen to me...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There may be your point as well as that of ruling party and both should be listened to.

[English]

Then, I will decide as to whether the Question Hour can be suspended or not.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I had permitted you to speak on this, and you have spoken. Now, you must also allow him to speak. Then, I want to listen to Shri Somnath Chatterjee also.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, you did not give permission to Shri S. Jaipal Reddy to speak on anything. You allowed him to speak because he gave a notice of a Motion of Adjournment and suspension of Question Hour. So, we want to know under what rule Dr. Malhotra is raising his point of order...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Under what rule he is raising his point of order, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. I have not allowed you to speak.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, it was reported in the newspapers and TV that PAC has submitted the report though PAC did not submit any report. Shri Jaipal Reddy is referring to the same PAC report. It was mentioned in the PAC report that CVC did not produce the documents to the Committee, hence we are not presenting it here, what has been said by C & G is being produced on behalf of PAC. One Member has given you in writing...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Members of both the parties must try to understand as to what the other party has to say. Let me make it clear.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : He must specify the rules...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, yesterday, Members had given you in writing that fabricated report is being presented. You stated that the question of privilege be raised. I would like to say that the majority of the Members have termed this PAC report introduced here as doctored and misleading...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, it is an insult of Parliament...(Interruptions) He should withdraw these words. How can a Report be jaali?... (Interruptions)

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

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddyji is talking about the same point. He has stated the same point which is before the House.

(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It is not a Report...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Malhotra, you can make your statement as to why this House should not be suspended.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an issue privilege against him as he has hunt the dignity of the House...(Interruptions) The CVC report submitted in 1999, has been associated with operation Vijay by him. [English] Sir, this is highly improper. [Translation] Kindly give ruling on the question of privilege that we have given against him...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not accept the point of order raised by Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. Now, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let me know what Shri Somnath Chatterjee has to say.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee's name is here; he wants to speak as to why the Question Hour should be suspended. Please allow him to speak. Both the Opposition and the Ruling Party must allow the Members of the other Party to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : We are asked to sit when anyone from the other side, speaks, but everyone rises to speak when we speak. What is this?... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, when they obstructed you while you were speaking, I said that you must be allowed to speak. Now, when Shri Somnath Chatterjee is speaking, he should also be allowed to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to us too.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have a point of order?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I would give you chance to speak after listening to him.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : I will not take a long time. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, I have permitted you; you may speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : We are taking our seats but who would ask them to sit? Why did you not ask them to sit when I was speaking ?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please wait for a minute. Let me make the position clear. I would request the Opposition Members that whenever Members from the Ruling Party speak, they should not obstruct them. I would also request the Ruling Party Members that whenever the Members from the Opposition speak, they should also be allowed to speak. Now, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I am making this request to both the Parties.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I was sitting quietly, for getting a chance from you. I never stood up. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to us first and then he would speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : How can we cooperate with the Government? How can the business of this House run? How can this House run?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We know how to stop them. I will disclose everything what you did. Do not worry. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : You have a point of order. I have risen to give reply to your question.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have taken Notices of Suspension of Question Hour and Adjournment Motion together. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has given a notice of Adjournment Motion and, therefore, I have permitted him to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has also been the practice to allow the Leader of a political party to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We have agreed to pass the Constitution (Amendment) Bills. The Minister of

Parliamentary Affairs had rung me up and I have said that we shall fully cooperate with the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, I am not allowed to speak. Leader of one of the major Opposition parties is not getting a hearing. ...*(Interruptions)* Who will conduct this House?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We will not cooperate with the Government in conducting any business of the House. Let the Government decide. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Let the country know that to suppress their corrupt practices, they are doing it deliberately. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting all the Members. Please listen, I am on my legs. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House can be conducted properly provided all sections of the House allow other Members to speak. I would request the Opposition parties that whenever I permit...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : When you are not enabling the speaker to speak, how could you let other members to speak? Please sit down. *[English]* Let me complete what I want to say.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to tolerate this type of behaviour. Whenever hon. Members from the

ruling party want to speak, they should be allowed to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am trying to bring the House to order.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am making a statement.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Will you not the Speaker speak?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You do not want the Speaker also to speak. You are still speaking when I am standing here. What does it mean?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way. Members are not even prepared to listen to the simple point that I want to make.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I expect that the entire House must run in a very excellent manner. You are all aware that there are very important Constitution (Amendment) Bills to be taken up at 1200 noon. The Opposition parties had said that they have no objection to it. The ruling party must also realise that when the Opposition has said that they will cooperate with the Government, they should allow the Opposition Members to speak. Similarly, when the ruling party Members speak, Opposition should allow them also to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : You should then allow Shri Vijay Malhotra to speak first. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I would decide and not you as to which person has to be given permission and which not. I feel that it is an important subject. And perhaps rejecting or approving it would be as per the rules but I have to ask them as to why do they think that this subject is urgent and it should be taken before the Question Hour. They say that thereafter Shri Malhotra was compelled not to speak when he stood to speak and was interrupted. I have made a request to him.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hereafter, please keep quiet. I want the issue to be heard by the Opposition, so also by the ruling party. If a ruling party Member starts speaking and the Members from the Opposition start objecting, then it will become very difficult. Let us go ahead as per the rules and listen to Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, My notice is also there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you also to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely thankful to you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, let Dr. Malhotra finish his submission first. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Sir, please let Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra speak. He was compelled not to speak earlier. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am giving him chance to speak first; only then the question of giving chance to you would come. I would also give chance to Prabhunath Singhji, but you first listen to him.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga) : Malhotra Saheb should speak before him, the entire House must know as to what is there in the report. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Nobody listened to him. Let him finish first. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, that is past. You talk about future.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Or Malhotra Saheb may speak after him. If a PAC Member has spoken against the report, then the entire House should know about it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kirti Jha, I have said this after looking into the matter with Azad. After this I would give chance to Shri Prabhunath Singh. Then we will see taken... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara) : Sir, you should adjourn the House for the behaviour of the Ruling Party. ...*(Interruptions)* .

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : They are disturbing the House and all the blame would come to the Opposition...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH : They are doing all this only to cover up the huge fraud committed on the nation... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is the responsibility of both the Opposition Parties and the Ruling Party to see that the business of the House is conducted properly. I would earnestly and lastly request that I want to go ahead with

the business. I want to complete the business of the day which is important for the country. If all of you cooperate, then only it is possible.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am extremely thankful to you. Primarily there are two reasons why we wanted to raise this issue. These are very important issues. This is the first time when a Committee like Public Accounts Committee of Parliament of India has been treated in a manner that it cannot function. An attitude has been taken by the Government which makes it impossible for the PAC – which has a statutory obligation to look into the Government spending – to discharge its duties and functions. It is because of the deliberate and obstructive attitude taken by the Government.

Secondly, the issue before the PAC was of monumental corruption. Therefore, an attempt is being made to cover up corruption in this country...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, I was not allowed to complete my submission. Now he is going into all those things....*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, please allow me also to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you raise a point of order, you will be allowed to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt. I will give chance to other Members too.

[English]

If Kumari Mamata Banerjee wants to speak, after Shri Prabhunath Singh, she could also speak. But let me conduct the business properly. We are not interested only in conducting the Question Hour. We want to conduct the business for the whole way. If all the parties want it, then it can be done. If the parties do not want it, well, nothing can be done. If we are responsible to

the people of India, then let us do some business in the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, our complaint is that inspite of it being a unanimous report of 22 Members, of which, 14 Members belong to the ruling Alliance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt. I am ready to give chance to other Members too. It is not allowed to speak in between.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not agree with him, you can always dispute that afterwards.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we find from the Report that the issue came up before the PAC itself and the issue was whether CVC Report should be given or not. Then the Committee decided that the matter should be referred to the hon. Speaker. The matter was referred to the hon. Speaker by the previous Chairman, and after the previous Chairman, the new Chairman also approached the hon. Speaker. Sir, in your wisdom, you directed that the views of the Members of the PAC be ascertained and you be apprised accordingly.

On the basis of this, it was unanimously decided by the Members of the PAC...*(Interruptions)* I am reading it from the Report. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I demand that all the Minutes and evidence of the Committee be laid on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down, no cross talks will be permitted.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am not a Member of PAC. Sir, the Report of PAC says :

"On the question of CVC Report on defence deals, the Committee resolved unanimously that the Report should be made available to them by the Minister of Defence in the context of examination of CAG's Report on review of procurement for Operation Vijay of Army, which deals with the defence procurements. Then the Committee unanimously resolved that the matter regarding possible breach of privilege also amounting to interference in the functioning of the Committee by the Defence Minister be brought to the notice of the hon. Speaker for examination by the Privileges Committee. Therefore, there was no difference of opinion in the Committee that it was obligatory on the Defence Ministry to provide." ...*(Interruptions)*

What is happening, Sir? I cannot read the Report....*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Other Members are also waiting to speak, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : A new type of functioning is there. Why did they not give the Minutes of Dissent? They were in the majority also. This is a strange thing. Therefore, we are saying that this is a deliberate attack on the Parliament's functioning, and of parliamentary democracy because constitutional and statutory bodies are under attack from them. We are raising it everyday. Election Commission, NHRC and CBI are being abused and misused. It is happening everywhere. CAG has been castigated by a person who is nobody in the Government. This is the whole functioning of the Parliament. One of the basic principles of a parliamentary democracy is accountability of the Council of Ministers to the House of People. The House of People is the sole repository of the accountability of the Government so far as expenditure is concerned. Taxes are realised from the people, and the people's representatives have no authority to look into this. Therefore, this is a matter where it was the bounden duty of the Prime Minister to come here today and explain the position. Why is he keeping himself away? Why does the

Prime Minister not come? Therefore, we demand for an Adjournment Motion, and that the matter be discussed....
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have permitted Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak. He is on a Point of Order. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

11.33 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Kantilal Bhuria and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER : He is on a Point of Order. Please listen to him. He is a Member of this House, therefore, he has a Point of Order. I have permitted him to raise a Point of Order.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Slogans will not be recorded. Nothing should be shown on TV. TV telecast should be stopped.

(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Upgradation of Doordarshan Kendras

[Translation]

*261. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade transmitters/new DD Kendras in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan particularly in the remote and hilly areas;

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

(c) whether a number of transmitters of Doordarshan are not performing satisfactorily and have failed to give clear reception;

(d) if so, whether a number of T.V. transmitters and AIR centres installed at various places of the country have not started functioning despite being technically ready;

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

(f) the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the time by which the aforesaid works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 14 LPTs/VLPTs have already been upgraded to HPTs so far during the 10th Plan (1.4.2002 to 31.7.2003) and schemes for upgradation of 4 studios and 36 transmitters are currently under implementation in various parts of the country, including hilly and remote areas. State-wise details of the projects are placed at the statement enclosed.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that transmitters in Doordarshan network, have been functioning satisfactorily. Faults in the equipment are attended to promptly, as and when these occur. It is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to maintain high standards of transmission.

(d) and (e) 20 Doordarshan and 18 AIR projects are technically ready for commissioning and would be commissioned on sanction and availability of staff. The AIR Station at Churachandpur, though technically ready, could not be operationalised, pending a decision on link language.

(f) Prasar Bharati has informed that the proposals for staff sanction are under process and the matter of link language has been taken up with the State Government.

(g) Probable dates of completion of Doordarshan projects under implementation as part of 10th Plan are indicated in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Doordarshan Kendras/Transmitters upgraded/being upgraded under 10th Plan

1. Transmitter upgradation projects commissioned so far during 10th Plan (till 31.7.2003)

State/UT	Project
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	HPT Visakhapatnam (DD II)
Chhattisgarh	HPT Ambikapur (DD I)
Gujarat	HPT Surat (DD I)

1	2
Jammu & Kashmir	HPT Naushera (DD I)
	HPT Samba (DD I)
Karnataka	HPT Dharwad (DD II)
	HPT Mysore (DD I)
	HPT Mysore (DD II)
Madhya Pradesh	HPT Guna (DD I)
Maharashtra	HPT Chandrapur (DD I)
	HPT Ratnagiri (DD I)
Punjab	HPT Jalandhar (DD II)
Uttar Pradesh	HPT Kanpur (DD II)
West Bengal	HPT Balurghat (DD I)

2. Transmitter/Studio upgradation projects under Implementation as part of 10th Plan

State/UT	Project	Probable date of completion
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	HPT Mehboobnagar (DD I)	2006-07
Arunachal Pradesh	HPT Itanagar (DD II)	2003-04
	HPT Itanagar (DD I)	2003-04
Bihar	HPT Saharasa (DD I)	2006-07
Chhattisgarh	Studio Raipur	2005-06
	HPT Bilaspur (DD I)	2006-07
Gujarat	HPT Radhanpur (DD I)	2005-06
	HPT Vadodara (DD I)	2003-04
	HPT Vadodara (DD II)	2003-04

1	2	3
Haryana	HPT Hissar (DD I)	2005-06
	HPT Hissar (DD II)	2005-06
Himachal Pradesh	HPT Dharamshala (DD I)	2005-06
Jammu & Kashmir	HPT Gurez (DD I & II)	2003-04
	HPT Tithwal (DD I & II)	2003-04
Jharkhand	Studio Ranchi	2005-06
Karnataka	HPT Raichur (DD I)	2003-04
Kerala	HPT Calicut (DD II)	2004-05
Madhya Pradesh	HPT Chhatarpur (DD I)	2006-07
	HPT Sagar (DD I)	2005-06
Maharashtra	HPT Ambajogai (DD II)	2004-05
	HPT Jalgaon (DD I)	Technically Ready
	HPT Kolhapur (DD I)	2006-07
Manipur	HPT Imphal (DD II)	2003-04
	HPT Imphal (DD I)	2003-04
Meghalaya	HPT Shillong (DD II)	Technically Ready
	HPT Shillong (DD I)	2003-04
Mizoram	HPT Aizawl (DD II)	Technically Ready
	HPT Aizawl (DD I)	2003-04
Nagaland	HPT Kohima (DD II)	Technically Ready
	HPT Kohima (DD I)	2003-04
Rajasthan	HPT Ajmer (DD II)	2004-05
	HPT Bikaner (DD I)	2006-07
Sikkim	HPT Gangtok (DD II)	Technically Ready

1	2	3
Tamilnadu	HPT Dharmapuri (DD I)	2005-06
	HPT Tirunelveli (DD I)	2005-06
Uttar Pradesh	Studio Gorakhpur	2006-07
	HPT Bareilly (DD II)	2004-05
	HPT Faizabad (DD I)	Technically Ready
Uttaranchal	Studio Dehradun	2006-07
West Bengal	HPT Kharagpur (DD I)	Technically Ready

[English]

**Free-to-Air Channels without
Set-Top-Box**

*262. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCAST-
ING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cable operators in the country have
blamed the Union Government for forcibly implementing
the Conditional Access System (CAS) in cities;

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

(c) whether the cable operators have refused to
provide free to air services at Rs. 72 per month to
consumers;

(d) if so, the details and facts thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Union Government to the view
of the cable operators;

(f) whether the Prime Minister had also intervened
and issued directions to the Ministry that it should be a
consumer-friendly decision; and

(g) the steps proposed, if any, to make available TV
programmes to the citizens at affordable cost and restrict
mandatory use of Set-Top-Box for free-to-air channels/

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI
SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Task
Force the Government has, through issue of a Notification
on 7th May, 2003 specified the minimum number of free-
to-air channels to be included in the package of channels
forming the basic service tier, as thirty, in the four metros.
The package of channels forming the basic service tier
must include the compulsory transmission of three
Doordarshan channels notified under section 8 of the
Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the
genres of entertainment, news, sports, children's
programmes and music and must be in English, Hindi and
regional languages depending on the availability of such
channels in the metros. The Government has also
specified the maximum amount of Rs. 72/- per month
(exclusive of taxes) which a cable operator in the four
metros may demand from a subscriber for receiving the
programmes transmitted in the basic service tier. Free-to-
air channels, over and above the basic service tier would

be made available to the subscribers within the said maximum amount. (copy of the Notification available at Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in).

(f) It is the endeavour of the Government to make the implementation consumer-friendly.

(g) The Set Top Box (STB) is required only for viewing programmes transmitted through pay channels and not for viewing of free-to-air channels.

- CAS has the following advantages for the consumers :-

(i) Subscriber will pay only for the pay channels that he chooses to view.

(ii) He can plan his spending and regulate content watched at home.

(iii) No STB for free-to-air channels.

- The cost to the consumers will be affordable since they will have to pay only for those channels which they view and wish to see.

- The implementation of CAS will be closely monitored by the Implementation Committee comprising representatives of multi-system operators (MSOs), broadcasters, cable operators etc. They will also interact with the representatives of consumer protection groups and take steps to address their concerns. The STBs will be made available by the MSOs and broadcasters at reasonable and affordable prices. A few MSOs have already announced attractive introductory offers.

- The Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 1994 have been amended by the Government through issue of Notification of 6th June, 2003 (copy available at Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in) which requires that the cable operator shall make provisions for rent and security deposits or refund thereof

as well as warranty, repair and maintenance in the manner notified by the Government.

The Central Board of Excise and Customs in the Ministry of Finance has also extended the period of customs duty reduction upto 30th September, 2003. Through issue of Notification of 24th June, the Central Excise Duty element of 16% has been dispensed with, and this is likely to boost the growth of indigenous industry.

Modernisation of Army

*263. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether concern has been voiced by experts over the slow modernization of army;

(b) whether Indian Army's equipment and weapons are obsolete as compared with such items with Chinese and Pakistan Armies;

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

(d) the steps being taken to expedite modernization of Indian Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Modernization and equipment acquisition are based on imperatives of national security, analysis of threat perception and enemies' strategies. Based on this continuous exercise, the Ministry of Defence is regularly upgrading its equipment.

All weapons and weapon systems get outdated at some point of time and need replacement. In a large Army like India's, it is not possible to replace every equipment in a short period of time. Adequate budgetary resources are being made available for this purpose.

The Indian Army is pursuing a well thought out and comprehensive plan for modernization through a Long Term Perspective Plan and the Five Year Army Plans. As part of its modernization drive, the Army has planned to

procure a large variety of equipment for all arms and services. No nation can afford to keep all its weapons/weapon systems at the "state-of-the-art" level. The Indian Army has a reasonable mix of "state-of-the-art", current and nearing obsolete equipment.

131 contracts have been concluded for procurement of weapons and weapon systems for the Army during 2001-2002 and 94 contracts concluded during 2002-2003. Some of the important modernization schemes finalized during the last two years are as follows:

Fire Power : (1) 3 UBK (Reflex Missiles) for T-90 Tanks, (2) Terminally Guided Munition Krasnopol, (3) Anti Material Rifle, (4) Automatic Grenade Launcher, (5) Multiple Grenade Launcher & Ammunition, (6) 84 mm Rocket Launcher, (7) Disposable Rocket Launcher, (8) Flame Thrower, (9) Konkurs/Konkus-M Missiles, (10) Prithvi Missiles, (11) Special Sniper Rifles, (12) Assault Rifles for PARA Special Forces, (13) Sniper Rifles SVD.

Removal of Night Blindness : (1) Thermal Imaging Fire Control System, (2) Thermal Imaging Sight for T-90 Tanks, (3) Thermal Imaging Stand Alone Sight.

Surveillance : (1) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Searcher Mark-II, (2) Radar Flycatcher, (3) Tactical Control Radar, (4) Thermal Imaging Integrated Observation Equipment, (5) Long Range Reconnaissance Observation Systems, (6) Hand Held Thermal Imager, (7) Battle Field Surveillance Radar (Short Range), (8) Night Binocular with Range Finder, (9) Weapon Locating Radar.

Communication Equipment : (1) Radio Set 5W/20W, (2) Armoured Fighting Vehicle Radio Set HF 100W, (3) Radio Relay (Low Band), (4) Radio Set STARS-V 25 W, (5) Mini PABX, (6) Very Small Aperture Terminal, (7) Armoured Fighting Vehicle Radio Set 5W/50W.

Mobility : (1) Armoured Recovery Vehicle WZT-3, (2)

KMT-6 Mine Ploughs, (3) Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle, (4) HMTV Engineers, (5) Armoured Amphibious Dozer, (6) Engineers Mine Plough, (7) Powered Boat.

Demining Equipment : (1) Boot Anti Mine, (2) Demining Vehicle.

Counter Improvised Explosive Devices Equipment : (1) Fibre Optics Surveillance Device, (2) Electronic Stethoscope, (3) Bomb Suppression Blanket, (4) Bomb Disposal Suit, (5) Telescopic Manipulator, (6) X-Ray Generator, (7) Visual Search Kit, (8) Non-Linear Junction Detector.

Miscellaneous Equipment : (1) Generator Sets of 2.5 KVA, 4 KVA, 7.5 KVA, 11 KVA etc.

Besides, improved version of special clothing and mountaineering equipment like Bag Sleeping, Boots Multipurpose, Gloves Inner and Outer, Rucksack, etc. have also been procured for troops in the high altitude area.

There has been a substantial increase in the expenditure incurred in modernization of Army during the last decade. In 2001-2002, capital expenditure of Rs. 4950 crores was incurred for modernization of Army as compared to Rs. 1312 crores incurred in 1991-1992.

[Translation]

Consumption of Petrol and Diesel

*264. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total consumption of petrol and diesel in the country during 2001 and 2002;

(b) the annual consumption by the public sector under these heads;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to bring down the consumption under these heads in the public sector; and

(d) the position of demand and supply of diesel and petrol in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) The position of production and consumption of petrol and diesel in the country during 2001-02 and 2002-03 was as follows :

(TMT)*

Year	Petrol		Diesel	
	Production	Consumption	Production	Consumption
2001-02	9,702	7,011	39,944	36,546
2002-03	10,363	7,570	40,254	36,645

*(Thousand Metric Tonne)

While no comprehensive data base is maintained for consumption by different categories of consumers, several steps have been taken by the Government to conserve usage of petrol and diesel in general including Public Sector. These include :

- (i) Mandating ethanol blending of petrol in certain States and Union Territories.
- (ii) Increasing awareness of oil conservation measures.
- (iii) Promoting use of CNG/LPG in transport systems.
- (iv) Issuing guidelines to the Ministries/Departments/PSUs for containing the expenditure on fuels for vehicles.

[English]

Food/Refreshment and Other Stalls at Stations

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

(a) whether there are adequate number of refreshment/food stalls and book/magazine stalls at various stations of the South Central Railway and other stations in the country;

(b) if not, the corrective measures taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the criteria adopted for allotment of food/refreshment and book stalls at every station alongwith the time period for which these are allotted; and

(d) the steps being taken to bring about transparency in allotment of shops etc. and food outlets at various railway stations to create adequate competition and to check the quality of food stuffs sold in these stalls?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The requirement of catering/vending and book-stall facilities is decided keeping in view the needs of the traveling public, which mainly depend on the volume of passenger traffic, dealt with at a particular station without causing congestion. At present the tenure of licence is for five years.

(d) With a view to bring about transparency in allotment, the award of major catering units is made through a two packet open tender system by calling applications through press notification from reputed and experienced caterers. As far as award of licence in case of catering units other than major units is concerned, the same is awarded by calling applications through press notifications from reputed caterers through an elaborate selection criteria.

The allotment of bookstalls to unemployed graduates, their cooperatives/associations/partnership enterprises, the registered cooperative societies of actual workers/vendors engaged in the bookstalls at railway stations is made by

calling of applications from them by giving adequate publicity in newspapers. Regular inspections and quality checks are conducted at various levels to ensure quality of food. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation has been set up to upgrade and professionalise catering services on Indian Railways.

Railway Safety Fund

*266. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount deposited in the Railway Safety Fund since its inception;

(b) whether the Railways have diverted Safety Fund for the non-safety work;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Railway officials have failed to utilize safety fund resulting in spate of rail accidents;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken against those held responsible in this regard for not taking Safety work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :

(a) The amount deposited in Railway Safety Fund since its inception, i.e., 1.4.2001 upto 31.3.2003 is Rs. 799 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir. This fund is used for Road Safety Works consisting of (i) manning of unmanned level crossings and (ii) construction of road over bridges/road under bridges at busy level crossings.

The utilization of this fund during last two years has been as under :-

(Rs. in crore/Net)

Plan Head	2001-02		2002-03		
	BE	Act	BE	RE	Act
Road Safety Works- Level Crossing	50	53	125	115	82
Road Safety Works- ROB/RUB	250	87	325	149	82

There has been under-utilization of funds mainly under planhead Road Safety Works—Road Over Bridge/ Road Under Bridge. This is so because in case of construction of Road Over/under Bridges, while Railway constructs bridge proper (over/under the track) the approaches are constructed by State Government. The under-utilization of funds has been because of delay on the part of State Governments in finalisation of plans and drawings, land acquisition for the approach roads, non-prioritization of work in their annual plan, funds constraints with State Governments etc. Railway takes up the work in their portion only after State Government starts work on approaches to synchronize completion and to avoid blocking of Railway funds. Due to delay in starting of work by State Governments, Railway is not in position to start the work on their portion. The under-utilization of funds under planhead Road Safety Works—Level Crossings has been due to revision of policy of manning which was under review and has since been finalized in May 2003.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Natural Gas for Industries

*267. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to ensure the supply of Compressed Natural Gas to industries

from January 2004 while the crisis of Compressed Natural Gas in respect of vehicles still persists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether I.G.L. has any project in store to maintain normal supply of natural gas from January 2004; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no crisis with regard to availability of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

(c) and (d) Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) is meeting the full demand of CNG of transport sector in Delhi through its network of 113 CNG filling stations. IGL has plans to open more CNG stations in a phased manner to cater to the future demand of CNG in Delhi.

Overhauling of MIG Aircraft

*268. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made arrangements for overhauling of MiG-23, MiG-25, MiG-27 and MiG-29 fighter aircraft in the country itself;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved each year as a result of making arrangements for overhauling of the said fighter aircraft in the country itself?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. Overhaul facilities for MiG-23, MiG-27 and MiG-29 aircraft have been set up in the country, but not for MiG-25.

(b) MiG-23 and MiG-29 aircraft are being over-

hauled at 11 Base Repair Depot (BRD), Nasik since 1988 and 1997 respectively. For MiG-25 aircraft, overhaul facilities have not been set up in India as their inventory is very low. Hence, setting up overhaul facilities is uneconomical. For MiG-27 aircraft, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has established overhaul facilities.

(c) As estimated by Air Headquarters and HAL, foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 986.84 crores has been saved by overhauling these aircraft in India.

[English]

MoC Signed by IOCL with PSUs

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has signed Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) with some Public Sector Undertakings in Information Technology sector to cross sell their products and services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this Memorandum of Collaboration has been signed as a pilot project;

(d) if so, whether the Government would consider signing similar MoCs between PSUs to promote each others interest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has not signed any Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) with any Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) in Information Technology sector. However, a MoC has been signed by IOC with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to leverage each other's strengths and network in the following broad areas :

(i) Setting up communication business centres at

select IOC retail outlets (ROs) at attractive rates on high potential routes, especially highways.

- (ii) Exploring the possibility to utilize LPG network of IOC to sell BSNL products like Recharge Coupons (Excel), Virtual Calling Cards (VCC), Sancharnet Cards, etc.
- (iii) Creation of a real-time truck-tracking system, using BSNL infrastructure which could be offered exclusively to IOC's fleet customers as well as used for IOC's own transport vehicles.
- (iv) Explore the possibility of setting up BSNL's Bill collection centers at ROs and LPG distributorships.
- (v) Exploring the potential of utilization of space at IOC ROs for erection of towers for better transmission and connectivity.
- (vi) Exploring the possibility to provide connectivity to all ROs, supply points and offices of IOC.
- (vii) Any other proposition, which may emerge during discussions by the joint working group.

The above steps would facilitate Marketing of BSNL products and services, and provide value added service to IOCL customers through loyalty programmes or otherwise for mutual benefit of both companies.

At present a joint working group of IOC and BSNL is studying the above areas to evolve a business model for this collaboration.

Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) keep exploring and evaluating such collaboration opportunities in mutual business interest.

Scrapping of Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline

*270. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

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

(a) whether in view of huge gas discoveries in various parts of the country, the Government have been actively considering scrapping of the Indo-Iran gas pipeline project;

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

(c) whether the policy to import LNG would also be further reviewed; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Uplinking Permission to Foreign Channels

*271. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Government have permitted foreign broadcasters to uplink TV Channels from India;

(b) if so, the details of the conditions prescribed in this regard;

(c) the names of the companies which have been granted such permission and the channels operated by them with the type of content of each channel;

(d) whether there are reports of some companies bypassing the procedures and guidelines; and

(e) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI

SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) As on date, the Government has permitted 33 companies to uplink 92 channels from India. Out of these 33 companies, 10 have varying component of foreign equity.

(b) The permission for uplinking is granted subject to certain conditions which, inter-alia, include :

- (i) Security clearance by Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (ii) Compliance with the Programme and Advertising Codes.

(iii) Maintenance of records of materials uplinked for a period of 90 days.

(iv) Providing the necessary monitoring facility, at its own cost, for monitoring of the programme or content of the channel.

(c) The details of such companies/channels is at statement.

(d) and (e) The entire application of Star News/MCCS is under examination including the aspects of complaints that certain aspects of guidelines have been bypassed.

Statement

News and Entertainment Channels

Permitted News Channels

Name of Company	Channel Name	Indian Equity	Foreign Equity
1	2	3	4
Asianet Communications Ltd	Asianet (Analog) Malayalam	100	0
Asianet Communications Ltd	Asianet Global (Digital)	100	0
Broadcast Worldwide Ltd	Tara Bangla	93.03	6.97
Independent News Service P L	India TV	100	0
Indiavision Satellite Comm.	Indiavision	100	0
Jain Studios Ltd	Jain TV	77.95	22.05
Jeevan Telecasting Corp Ltd	Jeevan TV	87.52	12.48
Maa TV N/W Ltd	Maa TV	100	0
Malayalam Communications	Kairali	100	0
Mavis Satcom Pvt Ltd	Jaya TV	100	0
New Delhi TV Ltd	NDTV	83.53	16.47

1	2	3	4
New Delhi TV Ltd	NDTV India	83.53	16.47
Raj TV Network Ltd	Raj TV	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay National &	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay NCR	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay Rajasthan	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay Mumbai	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sshara Samay Bihar	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay MP	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara Samay UP	100	0
Sky (B) Bangla Pvt Ltd	Akash B	100	0
STV Enterprises Ltd	Punjab Today	100	0
Sun TV Ltd	Surya News	100	0
Sun TV Ltd	Teja News	100	0
Sun TV Ltd	Udaya News	100	0
Sun TV Ltd	Surya TV	100	0
Sun TV Ltd	Sun News	100	0
Sun TV Ltd	Sun TV	100	0
Television Eighteen India Ltd	CNBC-TV18	89.07	10.93
TV Live India Pvt Ltd	TV Live	100	0
TV Today Network Ltd	Aaj Tak	92.5	7.5
TV Today Network Ltd	Headlines Today	92.5	7.5
TV Today Network Ltd	Mumbai Aaj Tak	92.5	7.5
TV Today Network Ltd	Delhi Aaj Tak	92.5	7.5
Udaya TV Ltd	Udaya TV	100	0

1	2	3	4
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Urdu	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Oriya	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Gujarati	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Kannada	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Marathi	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Bengali	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Telgu	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Rajasthan Hindi	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Bihar Hindi	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV MP Hindi	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV UP (Hindi)	100	0
Vijay Broadcasting Co Pvt Ltd	Vijay	100	0
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Alpha Marathi	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Alpha Gujarati	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Alpha Bangla	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Alpha Punjabi	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Zee News	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Zee TV	42.46	57.54

Permitted Entertainment Channels

Name of Company	Channel Name	Indian Equity	Foreign Equity
1	2	3	4
Asianet Communications Ltd	Asianet (Digital) Malayalam	100	0
Broadcast Worldwide Ltd	Tara Marathi	93.03	6.97

1	2	3	4
Broadcast Worldwide Ltd	Tara Punjabi	93.03	6.97
Broadcast Worldwide Ltd	Tara Gujarati	93.03	6.97
Coxwain Technologies	Coaxswain	89.85	10.15
Diksaat Transworld Ltd	Win TV	100	0
Entertainment TV N/W Pvt Ltd	Etc Punjabi	100	0
Entertainment TV N/W Pvt Ltd	Etc Hindi	100	0
Gemini TV Pvt Ltd	Gemini TV	100	0
Gemini TV Pvt Ltd	Teja TV	100	0
Intelvision Ltd	Num TV	91.30	8.7
Intelvision Ltd	Splash TV	91.30	8.7
MH One TV Newtork Ltd	MH1	100	0
Raj TV Network Ltd	Raj Digital Plus	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara TV Entertainment	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Minited	Sahara TV Digital	100	0
Sahara Sanchar Limited	Sahara TV	100	0
Sandesh Telefilms Pvt Ltd	Sadhna	100	0
Sanskar Info TV Pvt Ltd	Sanskar	100	0
Sri Adhikari Bros TV N/W Ltd	Sabe TV	94.86	5.14
Sun TV Ltd	Sun-II	100	0
Sun TV Ltd	KTV	100	0
Sun TV Ltd	Surya-II	100	0
Sun TV Ltd	SCV	100	0
Sun TV Ltd	Usho TV	100	0
Tamilan Kalaikoodam Pvt Ltd	Tamilan Television	100	0

1	2	3	4
Technology Media Group Pvt	TMG Enter	100	0
Udaya TV Ltd	Udaya TV-II	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Tamil	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Panjabi	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Malayalam	100	0
Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd	ETV Assami	100	0
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Zee Music	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Alpha Kaveri	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Alpha Bharati	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Alpha Krishna	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Zee Cinema	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Mansi	42.46	57.54
Zee Telefilms Ltd	Comedy TV	42.46	57.54

[Translation]

**Irregularities in Allotment of LPG Agencies/
Petrol Pumps**

*272. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI ABDUL RASHEED SHAHEEN :

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

(a) whether the Government have received several representations from public representatives about irregularities in the allotment of LPG agencies and petrol pumps by oil companies;

(b) if so, the details of such representations received during the last six months;

(c) the cases in which investigation has been completed and the cases in which complaints have been found genuine; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on the outcome of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Government have received 1,693 representations relating to allotment of retail outlets (RO), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships, resitment of retail outlets/LPG distributorships, reconstitution of dealerships/distributorships, revival of dealerships and distributorships and other marketing related issues of petroleum products from various public representatives and others, during the last six months. In the allotments of dealerships/distributorships, the

complainants have alleged concealment of income, false declaration regarding residence by selected candidates, favouritism by Dealer Selection Board, etc. The complaints are investigated as per the grievance redressal system provided in the guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors. Prior to dissolution of DSBs on 9th May, 2002, the complaints against selection process or the selected candidates were referred to Chairman, DSB for decision. After dissolution of DSBs, such complaints are being decided by the concerned oil company after due inquiry. The complaints against Chairmen and/or members of DSBs and other complaints of serious irregularities are inquired into by the Director General, Anti Adulteration Cell (DG, AAC).

Out of 6 complaints which were received in the last six months and examined by DG, AAC, investigations have been completed in 3 cases. In these 3 cases, the complaints have not been substantiated. Investigation in respect of the remaining 3 cases is pending due to want of certain clarifications/documents from the complainant/oil company.

[English]

Civilians Killed/Injured in Mine Blast

*273. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA :
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of civilians were either killed or injured due to mine blast in the border areas along Pakistan;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed/injured during last one year till date, State-wise and district-wise;

(c) the details of compensation paid to the victims or their families; and

(d) the measures taken by the Military to de-mine those areas and the time by which the entire border areas are likely to de-mine?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Governments concerned and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) A new scheme to provide Ex-gratia compensation for civilian land mine casualties has been introduced by the Ministry of Defence on 16th January, 2003. Under this scheme, the claims totalling a sum of Rs. 17.5 lakhs received so far, have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Defence for the victims of land mine blasts.

(d) Demining is an extremely hazardous and time consuming operation, which is undertaken in a systematic manner by resorting to a combination of manual, mechanical and explosive means and by adopting hundred percent safety precautions. Therefore, the exact time by which mined areas along our borders will be totally free from mines cannot be stated with any degree of certainty.

Rationalization of Power Tariffs

*274. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have proposed to announce a new power tariff policy aimed at rationalization of tariffs and reduction in cross-subsidy;

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

(c) whether the existing cross subsidies would be phased out;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said subsidy is likely to be phased out?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (e) Section 3 of the Electricity

Act, 2003 provides that the Central Government shall prepare the tariff policy in consultation with the State Governments and the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The consultation process has been initiated.

Section 79(2) of the Act provides that the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) shall advise the Central Government, inter alia, on formulation of tariff policy. The Commission has been requested to send its advice.

Section 61 of the Act provides that the Regulatory Commissions while specifying the terms and conditions for determination of tariff shall be guided, inter alia, by section 61(g) which requires that the tariff progressively reflects the cost of supply of electricity, and also, reduces and eliminates cross-subsidies within the period to be specified by the Regulatory Commissions.

International Bidding for CBM

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to offer new CBM (Coal Bed Methane) blocks for international bidding;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of CBM blocks offered so far and progress of work of such blocks;

(d) the details of agreement to be entered into before offering any block to private/international bidders;

(e) whether the Government have undertaken exploration of CBM in the State of West Bengal;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether proposal of royalty to the State

Government and share of profits between Central and State Governments have been finalized; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the second offer of blocks under the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy, Government has invited bids for exploration and production of CBM from nine blocks situated in coal/lignite bearing areas in the country. The details of these blocks are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) Till date, the Government has signed contracts with National Oil Companies (NOCs)/Private companies in respect of eight CBM blocks. The details of these blocks and progress of work are given in statement-II enclosed.

(d) The successful bidder has to sign a contract with the Government. The contract contains minimum work programme committed and production level payments bid by the company in addition to other terms as per CBM Policy.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), as part of its Research & Development (R&D) activity had drilled two wells and seven slimholes to assess the feasibility of CBM in Raniganj basin in West Bengal. Further, the Government has signed contracts with National Oil Companies/Private Companies in respect of three blocks in Raniganj Basin for exploration and production of CBM.

(g) and (h) As per the CBM policy, royalty at the rate of ten per cent advalorem sale value at the well-head is to be paid by the company to the concerned State Government on the production of CBM. It has been decided to refer the proposal of some State Governments, for sharing of Production Level Payment (PLP) and Commercial Discovery Bonus from the CBM blocks, to the 12th Finance Commission.

Statement-I*Details of blocks offered under the second round of CBM Policy (CBM-II)*

Sl.No.	State	Coal/Lignite Field	Block Name
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Godavari	GV(North)-CBM-2003/II
2.	Chhattisgarh & Madhya Pradesh	Sonhat	SH(North)-CBM-2003/II
3.	Gujarat	Barmer-Sanchor	BS(3)-CBM-2003/II
4.	Jharkhand	South Karanpura	SK-CBM-2003/II
5.	Jharkhand	North Karanpura	NK(West)-CBM-2003/II
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Satpura	ST-CBM-2003/II
7.	Maharashtra	Wardha	WD-CBM-2003/II
8.	Rajasthan	Barmer	BS(1)-CBM-2003/II
9.	Rajasthan	Barmer	BS(2)-CBM-2003/II

Statement-II**I. Details of CBM blocks for which contracts have been signed**

Sl. No.	State	Name of Block	Dates of signing of contracts	Awardee Contractor	Area in Sq.Km.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Jharkhand	Bokaro	26.07.02	ONGC-Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC)	95.00
2.	Jharkhand	North Karanpura	26.07.02	ONGC-IOC	340.00
3.	Jharkhand	Jharia	06.02.03	ONGC-CIL (Coal India Ltd.)	85.00
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Sohagpur (East)	26.07.02	Reliance Industries Ltd.	495.00
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Sohagpur (West)	26.07.02	Reliance Industries Ltd.	500.00
6.	West Bengal	Raniganj (East)	26.07.02	Essar Oil Ltd.	500.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	West Bengal	Raniganj (North)	06.02.03	ONGC-CIL (Coal India Ltd.)	350.00
8.	West Bengal	Raniganj (South)	31.05.01	M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. (GEECL)	210.00

- II. As per the CBM Policy, the duration of contract is divided into four phases with first phase, which is for exploration, for three years. As its R&D work, ONGC had drilled four test wells and six coreholes in Jharia CBM block and has drilled two wells and seven coreholes in North Raniganj block for assessment of CBM potentiality. GEECL has drilled one test well and two coreholes in Raniganj (South) block and drilling of one test well is in progress. For the remaining blocks, formalities prior to commencement of exploration have been completed by the respective awardee contractors.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

*276. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is scope for exploitation of non-conventional energy sources in the various parts of the country;

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

(c) the names of the States where there is optimum exploitation of non-conventional energy; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for encouraging people to utilize the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) A potential of over 80,000 MW power generation from non-conventional energy sources, i.e., wind, small hydro, biomass and solar has been estimated in the country. In addition, there is scope for setting up of a large number of decentralized systems, i.e., biogas plants, solar photovoltaic systems, solar water heaters, etc. The details of estimated potential in the

country is given in statement-I and the State-wise potential for major programmes is given in statement-II enclosed.

(c) The State-wise achievements under various programmes as on 31.03.2003 are given in statement-III.

(d) The Government is encouraging promotion, development and utilization of non-conventional energy sources by providing fiscal, financial and promotional incentives including financial support, term loans and conducive renewable energy power policies in States for wheeling, banking, buy-back and third party sale of renewable energy power.

Statement-I

Estimated Potential under Major Programmes

Sl. No.	Source/System	Estimated Potential
1	2	3
1.	Wind Power	45,195 MW
2.	Small Hydro Power (up to 25 MW)–	
	Gross Potential	15,000 MW
	Identified Sites' Potential	10,324 MW

1	2	3
3.	Biomass Power/Biomass Gasifier	16,000 MW
	Bagasse Cogeneration Power	3,500 MW
4.	Energy from Wastes	2,700 MW
	Power from Renewables (Total)	82,395 MW
5.	Solar Photovoltaic Power	20MW/sq. km.

1	2	3
6.	Family-size Biogas plant (Nos.)	120 lakh
7.	Solar Water Heating System	140 million sq. m. collector area

Sq. km. = Square Kilometer, Sq.m. = Square meter,
MW = Mega-watt

Statement-II

State-wise Estimated Potential for major Non-conventional Energy Sources

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Wind Power (MW)	SHP*** (MW)	Bagasse Cogeneration (MW)	Energy from Wastes (MSW) (MW)	Biogas Plants* (Nos. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8275	254.63	200	123	10.66
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1059.03	0	0	0.08
3.	Assam	0	118.00	0	8	3.08
4.	Bihar	0	194.02	200	62	9.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	57.90	0	20	
6.	Goa	0	2.60	0	0	0.08
7.	Gujarat	9675	156.83	200	112	5.54
8.	Haryana	0	30.05	0	23	3.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	1624.78	0	1	1.26
10.	Jharkhand	0	170.05	0	10	
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	1207.27	0	0	1.29
12.	Karnataka	6620	652.61	300	151	6.80
13.	Kerala	875	466.85	0	37	1.51
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5500	336.32	0	92	14.91
15.	Maharashtra	3650	599.47	1000	287	8.97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Manipur	0	105.63	0	2	0.39
17.	Meghalaya	0	181.50	0	2	0.24
18.	Mizoram	0	190.32	0	2	0.03
19.	Nagaland	0	181.39	0	0	0.07
20.	Orissa	1700	156.76	0	22	6.05
21.	Punjab	0	65.26	150	45	4.12
22.	Rajasthan	5400	27.26	0	62	9.15
23.	Sikkim	0	202.75	0	0	0.07
24.	Tamil Nadu	3050	338.92	350	151	6.16
25.	Tripura	0	9.85	0	2	0.29
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	267.06	1000	176	20.21
27.	Uttaranchal	0	1478.24	0	5	
28.	West Bengal	450	182.62	0	147	6.95
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	6.40	0	0	0.02
30.	Chandigarh	0	0.00	0	6	0.14
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0	0	0.02
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
33.	Delhi	0	0.00	0	131	0.13
34.	Lakshwadeep	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0	0.00	0	3	0.04
36.	Common to all States**		0.00	100	1020	
Total		45195	10324.37	3500	2700	120.63

MW = Mega watt, SHP = Small Hydro Power, MSW = Municipal Solid Waste.

* The potential of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal, included in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively.

** For industrial waste under energy from waste programme.

*** Identified Sites' Potential.

Note : Estimated potential only at country level available for biomass power and biomass gasifier.

Statement-III*State-wise achievements made under various programmes as on 31.03.2003*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Wind Power (MW)	SHP (MW)	Biomass* Power (MW)	Biomass Gasifier (MW)	Energy from Wastes (MW)	Solar Photo-voltaic Power (kWp)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	92.60	155.61	160.05	15.38	11.95	275
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	32.10	0.00	0.18		0
3.	Assam	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.12		0
4.	Bihar	0.00	44.90	0.00	0.02		0
5.	Chhattisgarh		1.00	11.00	0.50		
6.	Goa	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.02		0
7.	Gujarat	173.10	7.00	0.50	11.36	2.45	0
8.	Haryana	0.00	48.30	4.00	0.96		0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	93.24	0.00	0.01		0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	102.24	0.00	0.12		0
11.	Jharkhand		4.05	0.00	0.00		
12.	Karnataka	124.30	182.38	109.38	4.50	1.00	30
13.	Kerala	2.00	69.52	0.00	0.73		25
14.	Madhya Pradesh	22.60	38.96	0.00	4.53	2.70	339
15.	Maharashtra	401.20	206.33	24.50	3.82	1.90	185
16.	Manipur	0.00	5.45	0.00	0.00		0
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	30.71	0.00	0.00		0
18.	Mizoram	0.00	14.76	0.00	0.20		0
19.	Nagaland	0.00	20.47	0.00	0.00		0
20.	Orissa	0.00	7.30	0.00	0.07		0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21.	Punjab	0.00	107.40	22.00	0.70	0.75	250
22.	Rajasthan	60.70	23.85	0.00	0.22		50
23.	Sikkim	0.00	35.60	0.00	0.00		0
24.	Tamil Nadu	990.30	76.40	106.00	2.65	1.98	211
25.	Tripura	0.00	16.01	0.00	1.00		0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	21.50	46.50	2.75	3.00	325
27.	Uttaranchal		64.60		0.00		
28.	West Bengal	1.10	92.28	0.00	2.97		50
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	5.25	0.00	0.17		50
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		50
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07		0
34.	Lakshwadeep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		650
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0
36.	Common to all States	1.60	0.00	0.00	0.32		0
Total		1869.50	1509.24	483.93	53.37	25.73	2490

SHP = Small Hydro Power; U&I = Urban and Industrial Wastes Programme; MW = Mega-watt; kWp = kilowatt peak; * = inclusive bagasse cogeneration.

State-wise achievements made under various programmes as on 31.03.2003

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Biogas Plants (Nos.)	IBP/CBP/NBP (Nos.)	Water Pumping Wind Mills (Nos.)	Aerogenerator/ Hybrid System (kW)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	354334	132	5	16

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1721	0	0	0
3.	Assam	53769	2	3	6
4.	Bihar	123963	40	42	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	8078	8		
6.	Goa	3428	21	0	14.7
7.	Gujarat	359047	165	432	0
8.	Haryana	45414	59	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	44194	8	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2013	4	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	925	4		
12.	Karnataka	365243	63	20	7.75
13.	Kerala	90823	163	79	8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	216970	120	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	687657	484	26	123.14
16.	Manipur	2026	4	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	2671	4	0	0
18.	Mizoram	3015	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	1792	7	0	0
20.	Orissa	198692	45	0	0
21.	Punjab	72279	668	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	66735	71	222	4
23.	Sikkim	4125	0	0	10
24.	Tamil Nadu	203808	289	52	24.5
25.	Tripura	2069	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Uttar Pradesh	382784	1366	0	0
27.	Uttaranchal	2912	49		
28.	West Bengal	220969	68	0	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	137	0	2	0
30.	Chandigarh	97	0	0	0
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	169	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	676	56	0	0
34.	Lakshwadeep	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	573	1	0	5
36.	Common to all States	0	0	0	0
Total		3523108	3901	883	219.09

IBP/CBP/NBP = Institutional/Community/Night Soil based Biogas Plants; IREP = Integrated Rural Energy Programme; kWp = kilowatt.

State-wise achievements made under various programmes as on 31.03.2003

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Solar Photovoltaic As on 31.3.2003				SPV Pumps (Nos.)	Solar Cooker (Nos.)
		SLS	HLS	SL	PP		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2648	1161	32152	21.656	603	11985
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	738	750	4937	7.9	0	530
3.	Assam	98	2787	541	7.5	45	80
4.	Bihar	490	679	28275	0	128	450
5.	Chhattisgarh	1237	3612	3192	0	5	37000
6.	Goa	69	51	443	1.72	15	1500

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Gujarat	1764	2552	31603	24.9	42	70410
8.	Haryana	612	9666	32727	24.2	270	20615
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1494	11948	20697	1.5	6	27280
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	389	15317	9202	40	18	345
11.	Jharkhand	135	102	16374	0	3	280
12.	Karnataka	1009	6135	7334	18.91	337	250
13.	Kerala	1090	18679	39681	44.7	749	195
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5714	159	8564	22.4	76	141600
15.	Maharashtra	3388	721	8683	6.44	189	56635
16.	Manipur	370	650	3883	11	12	365
17.	Meghalaya	593	540	4875	42	5	1165
18.	Mizoram	315	1645	5812	0	37	110
19.	Nagaland	271	143	95	6	0	0
20.	Orissa	5665	2937	8795	36.52	4	3170
21.	Punjab	1766	2870	14995	46	1580	22050
22.	Rajasthan	6473	34864	4716	25.8	268	36600
23.	Sikkim	271	143	95	6	0	20
24.	Tamil Nadu	2272	471	12818	26	760	1355
25.	Tripura	760	2238	20805	24.57	10	80
26.	Uttar Pradesh	550	50938	52815	129.2	229	45310
27.	Uttaranchal	250	32204	27027	80.03	9	7090
28.	West Bengal	1461	26890	3662	475	48	7930
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	358	405	796	167	25	60
30.	Chandigarh	0	275	1675	0	14	1525

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31. Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	1	80	
32. Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	
33. Delhi	301	0	4753	15	84	27990	
34. Lakshwadeep	0	0	0	85	0	0	
35. Pondicherry	62	13	637	0	21	90	
36. Common to all States	0	3295	28197	0	18	16685	
Total	43613	234840	440856	1396.946	5611	540830	

SLS = Street Lighting System; HLS = Home Lighting System; SL = Solar Lanterns; PP = Power Plants; SPV = Solar Photovoltaic.

[English]

**Losses to SEBs Due to
Poor Quality of Coal**

*277 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the poor quality of coal with high ash contents are supplied to SEBs, resulting in making their projects inefficient and unproductive;

(b) if so, the names of the States which are incurring huge losses in the State Electricity Boards; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to improve the functioning of the State Electricity Boards and to modernize these units, especially in West Bengal, Bihar, U.P. and Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Indian Coal used for power generation is characterized by high ash content. However, present day boilers are designed for burning coal having high ash content.

(b) While lack of efficiency in operation including

power stations outages can be attributed to poor quality of coal, the exact quantification of financial loss is not possible.

(c) The Government of India has been signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with States reflecting the joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a timebound manner. These reforms are aimed at improving the efficiency of State owned power sector and reducing T&D losses. The MoUs are being fleshed out to Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) with clearer and more specific milestones. Twenty seven States have been covered by this exercise till now.

Under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), projects for bringing about a turnaround in identified distribution circles by reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses and improving the quality of power supply are being financed.

The Tripartite Agreement which has been signed by twenty four States have paved the way for securitization of old dues of SEBs amounting to Rs. 37,400 crores.

Life Extension (LE)/Renovation and Modernization (R&M) work are being undertaken to improve the performance of old and in-efficient thermal generating

units. The problem of high ash content is one of the problem being tackled in the LE/R&M programme. The activities to handle the ash content of coal to be carried out in the units are mostly covered in the LE programmes in the 10th Plan. During the 10th Plan, old thermal units installed at 30 power stations (100 Units) having capacity

of 9750 MW and 16 power stations (60 units) having capacity of 13900 MW have been identified in the country for Life Extension/R&M works. The details of units covered under LE/R&M programmes in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Madhya Pradesh (MP) are given in statement-I & II enclosed.

Statement-I

Thermal Units Identified for Life Extension During 10th Plan in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar

Sl. No.	Name of Station	Unit No.	Present Rated Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Make		Year of commissioning
					Boiler	TG	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
West Bengal							
1.	Santalidih	1	120	400	AVB	BHEL	1974
2.		2	120		AVB	BHEL	1975
3.		3	120		AVB	BHEL	1978
4.		4	120		AVB	BHEL	1981
5.	Bandel	1	80	360	B&W.US	WH.USA	1965
6.		2	80		B&W.US	WH.USA	1966
7.		3	80		B&W.US	WH.USA	1966
8.		4	80		B&W.US	WH.USA	1966
9.	Durgapur-DVC	3	140	170	B&W.UK	GE.USA	1966
	Total-West Bengal	9 units	940	930			
Bihar							
10.	Barauni	4	50	200	Poland	Poland	1969
11.		5	50		Poland	Poland	1971
	Total-Bihar	2 units	100	200			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Uttar Pradesh							
12.	Obra	1	40		KKBW	LMW	1967
13.		2	40		KKBW	LMW	1968
14.		3	40		KKBW	LMW	1968
15.		4	40		KKBW	LMW	1969
16.		5	40		KKBW	LMW	1971
17.		6	94	1587	BHEL	BHEL	1973
18.		7	94		BHEL	BHEL	1974
19.		8	94		BHEL	BHEL	1975
20.		9	200		BHEL	BHEL	1980
21.		10	200		BHEL	BHEL	1979
22.		11	200		BHEL	BHEL	1977
23.		12	200		BHEL	BHEL	1981
24.		13	200		BHEL	BHEL	1982
25.	Panki	3	105	180	BHEL	BHEL	1976
26.		4	105		BHEL	BHEL	1977
27.	H'Gunj	3	60	248	BHEL	BHEL	1972
28.		4	60		BHEL	BHEL	1972
29.		5	60		BHEL	BHEL	1977
30.		7	105		BHEL	BHEL	1978
	Total-U.P.	19 Units	1977	2015			
Madhya Pradesh							
31.	Satpura	1	62.5	391	AVB	IGE	1967
32.		2	62.5		AVB	IGE	1968

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33.		3	62.5		AVB	IGE	1968
34.		4	62.5		AVB	IGE	1968
35.		5	62.5		AVB	IGE	1970
36.	Amarkantak	1	30	282	SG	AEG	1965
37.		2	20		SG	AEG	1965
38.		3	120		AVB	BHEL	1977
39.		4	120		AVB	BHEL	1978
Total-M.P.		9 units	602.5	673			

Statement-II

*Thermal Units Identified for R&M during 10th Plan in
West Bengal, Bihar, U.P. and M.P.*

Sl. No.	Name of Utility/Board	Name of the Station	Unit No.	Capacity (MW)	Make		Year of Commissioning
					Boiler	TG	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Uttar Pradesh							
1.	UPRVUNL	Parichha	1	110	BHEL	BHEL	1984
2.			2	110	BHEL	BHEL	1985
Total-U.P.			2 units	220			
Madhya Pradesh							
3.	MPSEB	Satpura	6	200	BHEL	BHEL	1979
4.			7	210	BHEL	BHEL	1980
5.			8	210	BHEL	BHEL	1983
6.			9	210	BHEL	BHEL	1984
Total-M.P.			4 units	830			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
West Bengal							
7.	WBPDCCL	Kolaghat	1	210	AVB	BHEL	1990
8.			2	210	AVB	BHEL	1985
9.			3	210	AVB	BHEL	1984
10.			4	210	BHEL	BHEL	1993
11.			5	210	BHEL	BHEL	1991
12.			6	210	BHEL	BHEL	1993
Total-West Bengal			6 units	1260			
Bihar							
13.	BSEB	Muzaffarpur	1	110	BHEL	BHEL	1985
14.			2	110	BHEL	BHEL	1986
Total-Bihar			2 units	220			

[Translation]**Theft of Weapons and Ammunitions**

*278. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the existing safety provisions for all the ordnance depots in the country;

(b) whether the existing security is adequate to check theft, pilferage and sale of the weapons and ammunitions to the anti-social elements and terrorists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Adequate safety provisions exists

in all Ordnance/Ammunition Depots in the country to check theft and pilferage of weapons and ammunitions as mentioned below :

- (i) Perimeter walls, inner and outer fence exists in all Ordnance Depots.
- (ii) Number of entry and exit gates are kept minimum.
- (iii) Flood lights have been installed and watch towers have been erected for tightening security.
- (iv) Special security instructions and Standing Operating Procedure are formulated and implemented for safety of arms and ammunition in Ordnance Depots.
- (v) Frequent checks/surprise checks are carried out in each depot. Surprise checks are also carried

out by formation Headquarters during periodic inspections.

- (vi) Periodic stock taking is carried out in each depot.
- (vii) Strict accounting procedures are followed and monitored in all depots.
- (viii) Mobile patrols are deployed both during day and night to ensure safety and security. Quick Reactive Teams are kept on standby to meet any exigencies.
- (ix) Sufficient communication systems has been provided among guard posts and security officials.
- (x) All doors are locked properly at closing time and a thorough check is made by the security staff.
- (xi) All sheds and buildings have minimum number of doors and entry is restricted and regulated. Windows and ventilators are covered with strong grills.
- (xii) Movement of Arms and Ammunition is always under armed escorts.

Sale of weapons/ammunition is permitted to only authorized persons in accordance with Army Orders and no indiscriminate sale of weapons/ammunition is carried out. Further review of security arrangements and upgrading of security measures is carried out periodically.

No case of weapons or ammunitions from Ordnance/ammunition depots having reached anti-social elements or terrorists has been reported.

[English]

Strengthening of Print and Electronic Media

*279. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the policy decisions taken by the Government for developing and strengthening the print and electronic media network in the country during 2002-03 and the current year;

(b) the details of investment made during the Ninth Plan and the impact thereof;

(c) the details of priorities set by the Government for the current year and the next year; and

(d) the follow up action taken for implementation of policy decisions during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) During Ninth Plan period Doordarshan commissioned 21 studios and 387 transmitters throughout the country thereby increasing the coverage of DD-1 channel from 86.9 to 89.6% and that of DD-II channel from 11.02% to 35.9%. The capital expenditure in this was Rs. 1360.53 crore.

During the 9th Five-year plan, 12 Mini-Media Centres have been set up at a cost of Rs. 88.39 Lakhs.

During the 9th Plan period, Rs. 553.82 crore were spent on AIR projects (88 numbers) that increased the coverage to 98.84 percent.

(c) and (d) So far as Prasar Bharati is concerned, thrust areas in Tenth Plan are – provision of coverage to uncovered areas, digitalization and modernization of production facilities, digitalization and modernization of satellite broadcast equipment, replacement of old studio, transmitter and satellite broadcast equipment, automation of studio facilities, automation of LPTs, expansion of coverage in NE region, digital transmission and limited expansion of terrestrial coverage.

Applications have already been invited for grant of Licenses for Community Radio Stations from well-established educational institutions/organizations, through a public notice, which have been published in the leading

newspapers in the country and letters have been sent to the States to publicise the scheme. At present 12 studios and 97 transmitter projects of Doordarshan are under implementation as part of Tenth Plan. A pilot scheme of "Ku Band transmission" has been formulated. Special package for expansion and improvement of Doordarshan services in North East region and Island territories was approved in principle and is being implemented.

Statement

Government follows a policy of freedom of the press. The print media and electronic media are largely in private hands and the Government follows a policy of non-interference in their management. However, steps are taken from time to time to ensure that an environment facilitating a free and fair press is created.

In the year 2002-03 and the current year the following policy decisions have been taken by the Government to facilitate and strengthen the print and electronic media network in the country :-

- A. (i) Allowing foreign investment upto 74% of paid up capital in Indian entities publishing scientific/technical/speciality magazine/periodical/journal.
- (ii) Allowing upto 26% FDI in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs.
- (iii) Allowing Indian edition of scientific/technical/speciality magazine/periodical/journal.
- B. Allowing 100% foreign direct investment in the advertising sector on the automatic approval route.
- C. Laying down the Advertising Policy Guidelines.

Mini-Media centers are set up in the Regional/Branch Offices of PIB to facilitate holding of press conferences.

Import of newsprint, professional grade photographic,

broadcast equipment are allowed at concessional rates to newspapers, accredited Journalist and new channels whose journalist are accredited with Press Information Bureau respectively. The National Press Centre with state of the art broadcast and communication facilities is also being set up.

The Government issues a number of Advertisements in the print media through the DAVP. As a bulk purchaser of ad-space, DAVP is given concessional rates. This issue has been examined in detail now and the Advertising Policy Guidelines have come into effect from 1.5.2002.

In order to liberalise and streamline the present regime regarding syndication arrangements entered into by newspapers, guidelines have been issued in June, 2003.

Government has decided to grant licenses to well established educational institutions/organizations including Universities, Institute of Technology/Management for setting up low power FM Community Radio Stations, subject to the fulfillment of eligibility criteria.

Conditional Access System has been introduced by amending Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 to implement the Conditional Access System roll-out in a phased zone-wise manner in the three metros of Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and at one go in Chennai with effect from 1st September 2003.

A Committee has been constituted to make recommendations for Radio Broadcasting for Phase-II.

Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers

*280. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether even after a decade of implementation of the National Scheme of Liberation and

Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents (NSLRS), more than 40% of the estimated beneficiaries remain unrehabilitated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a large number of loan applications under this scheme were rejected by banks for the reasons of non-viability;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) the funds allocated for liberation and rehabilitation of conservancy workers under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers during the current financial year, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government are considering to enhance the amount paid as stipend to rehabilitated scavengers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) As per the information provided by the States/UTs, upto 2001-2002, out of 6.76 lakhs estimated scavengers, 4.08 lakhs of them or 60.3% have been rehabilitated.

(b) The liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers is a continuing process, the Government has prepared a National Action plan for Total Eradication of Manual Scavenging by 2007.

(c) No such instances have been brought to the notice of the Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is a provision of Rs. 40.00 crores during the current financial year under the NSLRS. There is no State-wise allocation of funds made under the scheme.

(f) There is no proposal at present.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Funds for Power Generation and Distribution

2432. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the funds provided under different heads by the Union Government to increase power generation, distribution and transmission during the last three years;

(b) the details of power generation during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the demand of the power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The funds allocation made under different heads by the Union Government to increase power generation, distribution and transmission during the last three years are as follows :-

	(Rs. crore)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Generation	5410.70	7757.28	7932.46
Transmission	2166.14	2352.00	2577.00

Distribution is the State subject. However, Ministry of Power is providing funds to State Governments under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRO) to strengthen sub-transmission and distribution schemes. The funds released to State Governments under this programme during the last three years are as follows :-

2000-01	—	Rs. 615.70 Crore
2001-02	—	NIL
2002-03	—	Rs. 2134.78 Crore

(b) The State-wise power generation during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is at statement enclosed.

(c) Apart from capacity addition target of 41,110 MW in the Tenth Plan, Ministry of Power have taken following steps to improve further the power supply position in the country :-

- An addition capacity of 3000 MW is expected to come from renewable sources of energy. In addition, supply of 1000 MW from Tala Hydro-electric Project in Bhutan is expected in the 10th Plan.
- Undertaking energy conservation measures for which the Energy Conservation Act has been enacted and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency constituted.

- Reducing technical losses in distribution. The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) is designed for the attainment of this objective.
- Undertaking Renovation & Modernization (R&M) of existing power stations which combined with improved Operation and Maintenance practices would lead to higher availability and generation.
- Export of power from surplus to deficit region through the gradual development of a National Grid to optimize utilization of generating capacity on an all India basis.
- Installation of captive plants. The new Electricity Act provides for a liberal framework for construction of captive power plants freely.

Statement

Details of State-wise SEBs/PSUs generation during last three years

(in MU)

State	SEB/PSU	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
Delhi	DVB	2800	2677	3496
Jammu and Kashmir	J & K	564	541	381
Himachal Pradesh	H.P.S.E.B.	1165	1146	1317
Haryana	H.P.G.C.	3795	5314	6211
Rajasthan	RRVUNL	10236	11256	14054
Punjab	P.S.E.B.	17599	18406	17166
Uttar Pradesh	UPRVUNL	19582	20510	20967
	UPHPC	5301	2030	1454
Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal	0	2914	3343

1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat	G.E.B.	23337	22933	23456
	GSECL	2883	3136	3398
	GSEG Ltd.	0	171	878
Maharashtra	M.S.E.B.	45849	48929	48283
Madhya Pradesh	M.P.E.B.	22237	14735	16403
Chhattisgarh	C.S.E.B.	0	8148	7839
A.P.	APGENCO	29657	28369	26707
	APGPCL	1978	1950	2031
Karnataka	KPCL	19440	9244	6823
	KEB	237	231	264
	VVNL Karnataka	658	772	715
Kerala	KSEB	6969	6719	4814
Tamil Nadu	TNEB	25123	25547	24912
Pondicherry	PPCL	233	250	265
Bihar	BSEB	2260	731	590
Jharkhand	JSEB	0	1523	1310
	Tenughat Vid.	1333	1157	1369
Orissa	OPGC	3006	2598	2613
	OPHC	4612	6456	3153
West Bengal	WBSEB	3635	1387	510
	WB P. DEV. Corp.	7507	11777	13935
	D.P.L.	597	1041	1476
Sikkim	Sikkim	21	35	35
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
Assam	ASEB	932	842	743
Meghalaya	MSEB	658	613	573
Tripura	Tripura	312	289	340
Manipur	Manipur	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	13	19	10
Nagaland	Nagaland	0	4	2
Total SEB/PSU		264529	273776	272778
All India		499548	515247	531607

[English]

Status of Railway Station to Tanshet and Umbermali Villages

2433. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all suburban trains are halting at Tanshet and Umbermali villages on Central Railway;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any representation has been received by the Government to give status of Railway Station to these villages; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) There is no commercial stoppage of any train at Tanshet and Umbermali villages at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Tanshet and Umbermali are operational cabins on Kalyan-Kasara section of Central Railway. A proposal for opening these stations for passenger traffic has been examined and not found financially justified. Therefore, the proposal is not being considered at present.

[Translation]

Social Security Pension

2434. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the payment of Social Security Pension is not paid in time in several States;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the Social Security pensions not being paid to destitutes in Madhya Pradesh for 5 to 6 months;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it has been brought to notice of the Government that the destitutes are paid one month's pension only but are made to put thumb impression signature on paper for six months pensions;

(e) if so, the facts thereof; and

(f) the arrangements made by the Government to provide due amount of Social Security Pension to the destitutes on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Joint Venture with Eurocopter for Manufacturing of Helicopter

2435. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether European helicopter maker Eurocopter has approached the Ministry of Defence for setting up a joint venture company with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to produce its Cougar and Fenner family of military choppers in India;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan under Government's consideration to replace ageing Cheetach and Chetak helicopters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Eurocopter has been entered into on 17th June 2003 during the Paris Air Show. The objective of this MOU is to develop co-operative relations in the fields of helicopter, related parts, manufacturing of sub assemblies and assemblies, development of systems and equipment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal to replace the existing fleet of Cheetah and Chetak helicopters of Army Aviation is under consideration of government.

Cost Escalation of Rail Projects

2436. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the railway projects over Rs. 100 crores are delayed by years resulting in cost escalation to the tune of thousands of crores;

(b) if so, the details of such projects exceeding Rs. 100 crores; and

(c) the steps being taken to check cost escalation and complete projects without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The time and cost overrun is feasible to be calculated only in the case where matching availability of resources is assured at the time of taking up the project so that the project progresses smoothly as per the schedule. However, the targets of completion of projects are being fixed on year-to-year basis keeping in view the progress of the works and the availability of resources.

(c) In the last two years, several initiatives have been taken to raise additional funds for expeditious completion of ongoing projects. These include public/private partnership, participation by state governments and Ministry of Defence, additional funds for National Project and funds for National Rail Vikas Yojana.

Power Shedding Due to Power Shortage

2437. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Assam and other States in the North Eastern Region have been suffering from grave power shortage whereas the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation is planning to sell its surplus power;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of power to Assam and other North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) During the period April-June, 2003 the North-Eastern States experienced marginal energy shortage ranging between 1.5% to 6.7% and peaking shortage between 0 to 24.2% The energy and peaking shortages in Assam during April-June, 2003 were 6.7% and 15.4% respectively.

Main reasons for shortage of power prevailing in the state of Assam are :

- (i) Poor generation at State's own generating stations.
- (ii) Inability of the State to draw allocated share from the costlier power stations of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) viz. Assam Gas Based Power Project (AGBPP), Kathalguri and Doyang HEP due to financial constraints.
- (iii) Transmission and transformation constraints.

North Eastern Regional Electricity Board (NEREB) has decided that the surplus power of NEEPCO stations can be sold outside the region after fulfilling the requirement of the States within the Region with the right of refusal to accept power at the rate offered outside the region resting with the North-Eastern States. NEEPCO has been advised to explore the possibility of export of power outside the Region to avoid spillage of water at hydro power stations and backing down of gas based generating stations.

(c) The following steps are being taken to improve power supply position in Assam and other North-Eastern States :

- (i) North Eastern Electric Power Corporation has agreed to supply power from AGBPP, Kathalguri to Assam at reduced tariff beyond a certain minimum off-take level.
- (ii) 60 MW power has been allocated to Assam from unallocated power of NTPC stations in the Eastern Region.

(iii) Generating units with a total capacity of about 350 MW in NER have been identified for Renovation and Modernization/Life Extension during the 10th Plan.

(iv) Besides, capacity addition of 433 MW planned in the State Sectors of NER, capacity addition of 495 MW is planned in Central sector in NER in which the NER States will have entitlements.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced a package consisting of several developmental projects for the North-Eastern Region (NER). The scheme for development of sub-transmission and distribution network in the NER is part of the package. Under Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP), sub-transmission and distribution schemes amounting to Rs. 36.82 crores and Rs. 679.59 crores have been sanctioned in 2000-01 and 2002-03 respectively for NER States against which Rs. 36.82 crores and Rs. 125.8 crores have been released. With the completion of these schemes, improvement in the quality and reliability of power supply and reduction in T&D losses is expected in the North Eastern States.

Cracks on Moorad Railway Bridge

2438. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Moorad Railway Bridge Commissioned on April 1, 2003 is having crack on the pillar on the Southern side;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to rectify it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) There is crack on the pillar or abutment of new Moorad Railway Bridge.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**Investment in Power Projects in
Maharashtra**

2439. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invested in power projects in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the extent of investment made by the Government during each of the last two years, project-wise; 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) Government of Maharashtra is executing Ghatghar PSS in the State Sector. The investment on the project which is scheduled for commissioning in the 10th Plan, in the last two years is as follows :

2001-02	Rs. 336.20 Crore
2002-03	Rs. 224.25 Crore
Total	Rs. 560.45 Crore

In addition, Government of Maharashtra has a share in the ongoing Sardar Sarovar Hydro Electric Project (1450 MW), a joint Venture with States of Gujarat and M.P. All the participating States have incurred expenditure to the tune of Rs. 395.9 crore in the last two years on this Project.

[English]

**Power Purchase Agreement on
NTPC, Kayamkulam**

2440. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to renew the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) of NTPC, Kayamkulam for reducing the financial burdens of Kerala State Electricity Board;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Kayamkulam Power Project, Stage-I (350 MW) set up by NTPC, was originally dedicated to Kerala. As per the terms of PPA signed with Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB), the PPA is valid for a period of five years from the date of commercial operation of the last unit of Kayamkulam with the provision of extension on mutually agreed terms. At the instance of Government of Kerala/KSEB, the Kayamkulam CCPP has been made a regional power station in order to reduce the financial burden of KSEB and 50% of the capacity has been allocated to Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

**Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Baijnath
Rail Line**

2441. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the current status of work being done on 250 metre long rail line between Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Baijnath;

(b) the total number of railway bridges proposed to be constructed on the above mentioned line and the number of railway bridges already constructed;

(c) whether any difficulty is being faced in land acquisition;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the rail line is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Final Location Survey has been completed for 15 km. from Ahmednagar to Narayandoh. The field survey work has been completed in the remaining section and report is under preparation. Land acquisition has almost been completed in this 15 km. length except 0.40 hectare forest land for which proposal has been processed. 3.87 lakh cum. earthwork out of 6.25 lakh cum. has been completed.

(b) 336 No. bridges and 8 ROB/RUB are proposed in the Preliminary survey report. The exact number of Railway bridges to be constructed on this line shall, however, be known only on completion of final location survey. 6 minor and 1 major briges have been completed so far.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No target date has yet been fixed.

Potential of NCES in Tamil Nadu

2442. SHIR P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the potentials of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in Tamil Nadu, source-wise;

(b) the potentials exploited so far, category/source-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to exploit the available resources for generation of energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) A potential of around 3050 MW from

wind, 340 MW from small hydro, 350 MW from biomass cogeneration, 150 MW from urban and industrial waste has estimated in Tamilnadu. In addition, 6 lakhs biogas plants can also be set up.

(b) The Ministry is implementing a wide range of programmes based on non-conventional energy sources like solar, wind, biomass and small hydro to exploit non-conventional energy potential in the country, including Tamilnadu. Details of cumulative physical achievements under various non-conventional energy programmes as on 31-3-2003 in Tamilnadu are given in statement enclosed.

(c) The Government is encouraging promotion, development and utilization of non-conventional energy sources by providing various fiscal, financial and promotional incentives including term loans. and conducive renewable power policies in States for wheeling, banking, buy-back and third party sale.

Statement

Details of cumulative physical achievements under various non-conventional energy programmes as on 31-3-2003 in Tamilnadu

Sl. No.	Programme	Cumulative achievements as on 31-3-2003 in Tamilnadu
1	2	3
1.	Wind power (MW)	990
2.	Small hydro power (MW)	76.40
3.	Biomass cogeneration (MW)	106.00
4.	Biomass gasifier (MW)	2.65
5.	Energy from waste (MW)	1.98

1	2	3
6. Solar power (kW)		211
7. Biogas Plant (Nos.)		203808
8. Community/Institutional/Nigh-soil-based plant (Nos.)		289
9. Solar Photovoltaic (Nos.)		
i. Street Lighting System		2272
ii. Home Lighting System		471
iii. Solar Lantern		12818
iv. Power plant (kWp)		26
10. Solar Photovoltaic Pump (Nos.)		760
11. Water Pumping Windmill (No.)		52
12. Small hybrid system/aerogenerator (kW)		24.5
13. Solar Cooker (Nos.)		1355
14. Battery operated vehicle (Nos.)		18
15. Energy Park (Nos.)		15
16. Integrated Rural Energy Programme (Nos. of Block)		21

MW = Megawatt, kW=Kilowatt, kWp=Kilowatt peak.

[English]

Assistance by NSKFDC

2443. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any mechanism

to ensure proper utilization of the loan assistance provided by the National Safai Karamcharies Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total loan assistance provided by NSKFDC to Safai Karamcharies during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to provided training to Safai Karamcharies to set up income generating sanitation projects for loan assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry monitors the progress of implementation of schemes to ensure proper utilisation of the loan assistance provided by National Safai Karamcharies Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) through the monthly performance reports and review meetings.

(c) The loan assistance provided by NSKFDC to the Safai Karamcharies during last three years and current year, State-wise may be seen in the statement enclosed.

(d) A scheme for imparting training in skills, trade and entrepreneurial development to the eligible members of Safai Karamcharies has been launched by NSKFDC in October 2002. Where financial assistance upto Rs. 1.0 lakh per project is released as a 100% grant to State Channelising Agencies. The scheme has (1) institutional Linkage programme (ILP) (2) Skill up-gradation Training programme (STD) and (3) Entrepreneurship Development programme (EDP).

Statement

*Statement showing Year-wise and State-wise funds disbursed during the last three years
i.e. 2000-01 to 2002-03 and current year i.e. 2003-04 till 30.6.2003*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-04 (upto 30.6.03)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	A.P.	652.74	0.00	1610.58	0.00	2263.32
2.	Assam	99.15	480.87	0.00	0.00	560.02
3.	Chandigarh	17.08	21.30	14.65	0.00	53.03
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	280.60	62.496	217.591	560.69
5.	Gujarat	327.60	452.63	0.00	0.00	780.23
6.	Himachal Pradesh	35.08	37.07	113.526	28.04	213.72
7.	Haryana	0.00	117.80	0.00	0.00	117.80
8.	Jharkhand	0.00	246.585	0.00	0.00	246.59
9.	Karnataka	199.00	250.87	261.79	0.00	711.66
10.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	21.01	0.00	21.01
11.	Madhya Pradesh	373.00	222.00	168.75	0.00	763.75
12.	Maharashtra	148.69	126.31	35.05	52.77	362.82
13.	Manipur	75.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.67
14.	Meghalaya	0.00	11.70	0.00	0.00	11.70
15.	Mizoram	56.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	56.50
16.	Orissa	100.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.33
17.	Pondicherry	0.00	30.9825	28.27	0.00	59.25
18.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	99.88	0.00	99.88
19.	Rajasthan	81.22	133.16	335.29	22.58	572.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Tamil Nadu	262.50	0.00	55.85	0.00	318.35
21.	Tripura	0.00	159.40	0.00	0.00	159.40
22.	Uttar Pradesh	224.43	176.85	1154.20	349.575	1905.06
23.	Uttaranchal	0.00	76.69	43.56	31.00	151.25
24.	West Bengal	258.90	199.795	0.00	8.55	467.25
Total		2911.89	3004.61	4004.90	710.11	10631.50

[Translation]

Tax on Land Purchased by IOCL

2444. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether IOCL in Madhya Pradesh is paying annual tax on land purchased between 1999 to 2000 by various State Government agencies;

(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 (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the period 1999-2000, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) had purchased only one plot of land, from a Government agency, at Siltara in district Raipur in the State of Madhya Pradesh. However, this location now falls in the State of Chhattisgarh, IOC has paid Rs. 30,534.00 towards annual tax for this land.

[English]

Expansion of DD/AIR in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2445. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan Kendra, Port Blair is not provided with adequate staff along with announcers of different languages and infrastructure facilities including studios at par with house of transmission;

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

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

(d) whether the Government have some proposal for expansion of DD/AIR schemes alongwith improvement in infrastructure facilities for Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for such purposes; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Adequate staff has been provided to Doordarshan Kendra, Port Blair, in accordance with the existing norms. Facilities at Port Blair include a small studio Centre: Satellite uplink and two LPTs (DD-1&2).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) A special package for expansion/ improvement of Doordarshan service in NE region and in

the Islands of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep has been approved in principle by the Government. Two VLPTs at Swarajgram and Kalighat were commissioned in Andaman & Nicobar Islands during 2002-2003.

The scheme of installation of 10 KW FM Radio transmitter with studio facility has been proposed for Port Blair in the 10th Five Year Plan, for which an amount of Rs. 570 lakhs has been allocated. Under Software Plan Scheme in the 10th Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 4 lakhs was allocated to AIR Port Blair, during the financial year 2002-2003. An amount of Rs. 1.50 crores has been allocated to the DDG (South Zone), during the current financial year 2003-2004 under Software Plan Scheme, which includes provision for AIR, Port Blair also.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Railway Schools in Rajasthan

2446. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway schools in Rajasthan which do not have their own buildings; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

[English]

Use of Consumer Shops by BPCL

2447. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has started using consumer shops to stock and store its cylinders at their shops;

(b) if so, the details of this agreement;

(c) whether BPCL has also agreed to use its retail outlets to sell non-LPG products; and

(d) if so, the details of the agreement between BPCL and consumer companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is marketing LPG (domestic) cylinders through their authorised distributors and not through any consumer shop.

(c) and (d) BPCL plans to introduce sale of non-LPG Kitchen items, such as Pressure Cookers, Pans etc by its existing LPG distributorship network in order to provide value-added/convenient services to its LPG consumers. As of now, there is no agreement signed between the manufacturers and BPCL.

[Translation]

Target for Power Generation in U.P.

2448. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any targets for power generation in Uttar Pradesh during 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some funds have been allocated in order to achieve the said targets; and

(d) if so, the details of funds provided by the Government, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The generation target for Uttar Pradesh for the year 2003-04 by the Central Electricity Authority is 74,270 MU comprising of 69,510 MU for thermal, 1,720 MU for hydro and 3,040

MU for nuclear. The plant-wise generation targets for the year 2003-04 are given below :

Station	Generation Target (MU)
1	2
Thermal (State Sector)	
Obra	6440
Panki	950
H. Ganj (B&C)	810
Paricha	970
Anpara	11890
Total Thermal (State Sector)	21060
Hydro	
Rihand	900
Obra Hydro	280
Matatilla	130
Ganga Canal	25
Khara	385
Total Hydro (State Sector)	1720
Thermal (Central Sector), NTPC	
Singrauli	15400
Rihand	7600
Dadri (Th.)	6400
Unchahar	6400
Tanda	2350
Auriya GT	4600

1	2
Dadri GT	5700
Total Thermal (Central Sector) NTPC	48450
Nuclear	
Narora APS	3040
Total	74270

(c) and (d) Generating stations are expected to achieve their generation targets through efficient operation and meet the requisite expenses, for this purpose, from the revenue from the sale of power.

An outlay to the tune of Rs. 965.83 crore for power sector in the State of Uttar Pradesh for 2003-04 has been approved by Planning Commission. Plan outlay for generation investment is done project-wise rather than district-wise.

DD Metro without Cable

2449. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether DD Metro Channel cannot be viewed in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it would be possible to view the DD Metro Channel without Cable in all the parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) DD Metro Channel can be viewed in all parts of the country in satellite mode and is available to 43.2% of the population in the country in terrestrial mode. On completion of the ongoing projects, 49.3% of the population would be receiving DD Metro

Channel terrestrially. No time frame can be given for expansion of DD Metro Channel terrestrially, in all parts of the country.

[English]

Expenditure on Media and Publicity

2450. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the expenditure incurred by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year on media and publicity;

(b) whether the expenditure incurred for the said purpose in the year 2001-02 was more than the budgetary provision;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there has been diversion of funds to meet the extra expenditure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAV SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Automatic Platform Ticket Vending Machine

2451. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the stations where automatic platform ticket vending machines are presently installed;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to install automatic platform ticket vending machines in all the major stations in the country;

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

(d) the time by which the said machines are likely to be installed at all railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Automatic platform ticket vending machines have been installed at Chennai Central and Coimbatore Railway stations of Southern Railway in Tamil Nadu recently.

(b) to (d) Provision of platform ticket vending machines is a part of on-going process of improvement in ticketing system and no time frame can be set for its completion.

Energy Park Project in Karnataka

2452. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated energy park project in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the number of energy parks have been sanctioned so far to various institutions in Karnataka;

(c) the details of the energy park projects that have been sanctioned in Bellary Lok Sabha Constituency;

(d) whether there is any proposal to take up more number of energy park projects in Karnataka and particularly in Bellary Lok Sabha Constituency; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, A total of eleven district level Energy Park projects have so far been sanctioned to various institutions in Karnataka as per list given at in the statement enclosed. Besides, a State level Renewable Energy Awareness/Education Park has also been sanctioned for setting up in Bangalore.

(c) No district level Energy Park project has so far been sanctioned in Bellary Lok Sabha Constituency.

(d) and (e) Two district level Energy Park project proposals have been received recently from the State Nodal Agency – Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd. (KREDL). However, no proposal have so far been received from the State Nodal Agency for setting up of Energy Park project in Bellary Lok Sabha Constituency.

Statement

List of Institutions in Karnataka where district level Energy Parks have been sanctioned

Sl.No.	Name of Institution
1	2
1.	B.V.B. College of Engineering & Technology, Vidyanagar, Hubli, Distt. Dharwad
2.	Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering Manasa Gangotri P.O. Mysore, Distt. Mysore
3.	Jawahar Lal Nehru National College of Engineering, Navile, Shimoga, Distt. Shimoga
4.	Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathkal, Srinivasnagar, Dakshina Kannada
5.	Bapuji Institute of Engineering & Technology Davanagere, Distt. Davanagere
6.	Pilikulla Nisargadhama, Mangalore Taluk, Dakshina Kannada Distt.
7.	Swamy Vivekananda Youth Movement, Education Complex, Heggadevane Kote Taluk, Mysore Distt.
8.	KLE Society's College of Engineering & Technology Udyambag, Belgaum Distt.
9.	Chinmaya Sandeepany (KCST), Chokkanahalli, Medihal P.O. Kolar, Distt. Kolar

1

2

10. Academy of Sanskrit Research Melkote, Distt. Mandya

11. Mangalore University, Mangalore

Restructuring Officers' Cadre

2453. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of the Special Secretary, Ministry of Defence to examine proposals for restructuring of the Officers' Cadre of the Army;

(b) If so, whether the said Committee has since submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, by when;

(d) the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee; and

(e) the details of the recommendations accepted and rejected by the Government and the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

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

(c) to (e) The Committee identified two inter-related issues at the core of the structural imbalances referred to by the Army Headquarters i.e. high age profile and cadre stagnation. In order to achieve the objective of bringing down the age profile and to improve the promotional prospects, certain short-term and long-term measures have been recommended by the Committee. The short-term measures include additional deputational vacancies and lateral absorption, tenures outside the Army, exit through voluntary severance scheme and creation of additional appointments.

A lean regular cadre and an enhanced support cadre have been identified as the ideal long-term solution to

lower the age profile in the Army. The necessary ratio between regular and support cadres and measures to make the support cadre more attractive, have been recommended to be worked out pragmatically.

Since the recommendations encompass a wide spectrum service related issues, on specific time-frame for implementation can be indicated as it involves consultation with various agencies.

Supply of Sensitive Equipments to Army

2454. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided all sensitive equipments to all the Army units who have been deployed in Jammu and Kashmir and other insurgency affected States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some proposal received from the Northern and Eastern Commands for additional equipment have been lying pending with the Union Government for more than five years, four years and three years;

(e) if so, the reasons for such a long pendency of these proposals; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to suitably equip the Army in terrorists and insurgency affected States?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) A variety of equipment required for fighting insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East State have been procured and deployed. The process of equipping units is a continuous one and also involves identifying new requirements. The list of equipment includes Thermal Imaging Night Vision Devices, Surveillance Equipment, Electronic Warfare Equipment, Intrusion Detection Systems, Mine Protected Vehicles, Equipment to

Counter Improvised Explosive Devices and Modern Infantry Weapons.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) to (f) Proposals received from the Army Headquarters for procurement of equipment for counter insurgency operations are dealt with on priority in the Ministry of Defence. There are no proposals pending for more than three years in the Ministry.

Supply of Sub-Standard Ammunition and Shells

2455. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH :

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA :

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether low quality ammunition worth Rupees thousands of crores is being supplied to Armed Forces by Ordnance Factories;

(b) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has also pointed out several such cases of wastage of investment to the tune of Rupees thousands of crores in its report No. 6 of 2003;

(c) whether the Government have taken a serious note of producing sub-standard ammunition by Research and Development Wing of Ordnance Units;

(d) if so, the details of the sub-standard ammunition/defective shells produced and supplied by the

Ordnance Factories to the Armed Forces and investment made by the Government thereon, factory-wise;

(e) whether any accident caused due to sub-standard ammunition/defective shells;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government into the investment made on procuring defective ammunition/shells;

(h) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government to update and streamline quality production by Ordnance Factories?

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

(b) The Comptroller and Auditor General Report No. 6 of 2003 makes reference to certain types of ammunition which have been segregated by the Army.

(c) Ammunition is supplied to the army only after it is duly accepted by the designated inspecting agency. Improvements through Research and Development are introduced only after extensive user trials and approval of the Authority Holding Sealed Particulars.

(d) No sub-standard ammunition is supplied to the army. However, the details of the segregated ammunition are:-

(i) 125 mm Fin Stabilized Armour Piercing Discarding Sabot, valued at Rs. 352 crores, produced by Ordnance Factory, Khamaria as per the hybrid design, which has since been discontinued.

(ii) 125 mm High Explosive/High Explosive Anti Tank ammunition, valued at Rs. 296.53 crores, manufactured at Ordnance Factory Chanda/Ordnance Factory Bolangir with triple

base propellant, which has since been discontinued.

(iii) Detonator (metallic), produced by Ammunition Factory, Kirkee/Ordnance Factory, Chanda, valued at Rs. 3.92 crores.

(e) the accident mentioned in the Comptroller and Auditor General's report was investigated and it has been concluded that the same is not attributable to the ammunition.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) Apart from final inspection and proof of the product, the raw material, components and the sub-assemblies going into a product are also inspected. There is also inter-stage inspection by Quality Control agencies.

Activities of Nepali Porters

2456. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of over 400 Nepali Porters who were working with the Army during the Kargil war have joined hands with ISI agents;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to check the activities of Nepali Porters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No reports related to Nepali porters,

who were employed by the Army during Kargil conflict, having joined hands with ISI agents, have been received by the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Guidelines of DTH for Space T.V.

2457. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed space TV to go ahead with its DTH telecast plan;

(b) if so, whether M/o Finance and M/o Home Affairs have raised concerns over the company's equity level;

(c) if so, the details of concerns raised by these Ministries; and

(d) the reasons for ignoring these concerns by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Finance has clarified, through its letter of 17.1.2003, that the present equity of Space TV contributed by two employees of Star TV cannot be treated as domestic share-holding as the funding for this equity contribution has been raised through bank finance in India, against the security of a deposit of Rs. 10 crore made by Star TV. However, they have also stated that DTH guidelines do not make a distinction between stages of 'Letter of Intent' or issue of a licence or post licence operations, for applying eligibility criteria on the limit of foreign Equity holding. They opined that it is for the Ministry of I&B to interpret their own guidelines.

Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that there is nothing adverse against firm or its directors and the CEO and as such Ministry of Home has no objection to the proposal from security point of view. Ministry of Home has

further stated that M/s Space TV Pvt. Ltd. was incorporated on January 09, 2001. S/Shri G. Jagdish Kumar and Ajay K. Sharma are the promoters and G. Subramanian is the CEO of the firm. All the three are presently working with STAR India Pvt. Ltd. in different capacities. The Head Office and regional office addresses of M/s Space TV belong to STAR India Pvt. Ltd.

(d) In view of the above, Ministry of I&B has asked M/s Space TV to pay non-refundable entry fee of Rs. 10 crore to enable this Ministry to issue letter of Intent subject to its furnishing an affidavit that it has fulfilled the following conditions:-

(a) The Applicant Company will use an Indian satellite or any other satellite approved and recommended by the Deptt. of Space with its DTH project;

(b) The Applicant Company would adhere to the specifications stipulated by the Government on the architecture of the Set Top Box including provisions of its interoperability;

(c) Licence will be issued only when the Applicant company has fully complied with the eligibility criteria with respect to foreign equity holding, as laid down in the DTH Guidelines of March 2001, as also other terms and conditions necessary for such grant; and

(d) The grant of licence shall be subject to the outcome of the final orders in the writ petition No. 1009 of 2003 filed by Shri Raghunath Prasad vs. Union of India & Ors in the High Court of Judicature for M.P., Jabalpur Bench at Gwalior.

(The W.P. has since been dismissed by the Hon'ble Court by order dated 26.6.2003)

It is clear from above that it is only after complying with the prescribed conditions including eligibility criteria with respect to equity holding that the licence will be issued to M/s, Space TV.

Delay in establishment of Torpedo Test Facilities

2458. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CAG in paragraph 41 of its report no. 9 of 1991 for the year ended March 31, 1990 (Defence Services—Air Force & Navy) brought out the matter of delay in establishing a lake test facility for testing of torpedo in sheltered water, approved in February 1982 but the same could be established only after lapse of more than 12 years notwithstanding investments aggregating Rs. 7.96 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in establishing torpedo test facilities;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There has been delay of about six years in establishing the lake test facilities for testing of torpedo in sheltered waters. The CAG report also states delay of six years.

(b) The main reason for the delay is failure of the contractor to supply the torpedo launch and recovery vessel (TLRV) which was finally constructed by DRDO.

(c) and (d) The Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) met from time to time to review, monitor and progress the project and took necessary corrective measures.

Introduction of Special Trains

2459. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the South Central Railways has planned to run some special trains and attach additional bogies in trains passing through Rajamundry for forthcoming Godavari 'Pushkarms';

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of days on which these trains will run; and

(c) the other facilities the Government are going to provide to pilgrims attending 'Pushkarma'?

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

(b) A total of 25 special trains towards Rajamundry and 8 special trains towards Basar direction are being run for 12 days i.e. from 30.7.2003 to 10.8.2003.

(c) Additional booking counters with Self Printing Ticket Machines, waiting sheds, drinking water taps, toilets, enquiry counters with BSNL telephone facility, public address system, catering stalls, first aid centres, ambulance, L.E.D. display boards are being provided. Besides, augmentation of the existing services have been planned depending upon the waitlist position on day-to-day basis subject to load factor.

Global Market of Maruti Udyog Limited

2460. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Maruti Udyog Limited is embarking on a plan to build its leadership in domestic and global arena after sharp gains in productivity and quality in past few years;

(b) if so, whether with the backing of Suzuki of Japan it is expanding its global market further; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per information furnished by Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL), export has been identified as its area of focus. Export during the last two years and the current year is as follows :

Year	Exports (No. of Vehicles)
2003-04 (Till July)	17746
2002-03	32240
2001-03	12233

Rehabilitation of Retrenched Employees

2461. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees retrenched from public sector industries during the last four years, year-wise;

(b) whether the number of retrenched employees is increasing year by year; and

(c) if so, the steps are being taken by the Ministry for rehabilitation of these retrenched employees alongwith outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) to (c) Year-wise retrenched public sector employees for the last four years (provisional) as provided by the Labour Bureau, Shimla is as under :

1999	—	1252(P)
2000	—	217(P)
2001	—	1481(P)
2002	—	720(P)

Retrenched employees are being paid compensation package as per Industrial Dispute Act.

Gas Price

2462. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

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

(a) the details of the demand made by Government of Gujarat in respect of gas price after APM has scrapped;

(b) whether the Union Government are considering for the demand;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Government of Gujarat have represented to the Union Government in February, 2002 that the State economy is going through a difficult period. Brief details of this representation are indicated below :

Power forms an important input for industrial production. Any increase in the power cost is likely to cripple the industry. In addition, in the agriculture sector also, Gujarat has been in the grip of calamities - cyclones, two successive droughts and an earthquake. Further, Gujarat is in a disadvantageous position due to low hydel capacity and the distance from coal-fields. Therefore, state economy will not be in a position to bear increase in the additional cost on account of increase in gas price.

State Government in view of this requested Government of India to proceed cautiously in respect of gas price increase as this will have far reaching adverse impact on the state's economy at this critical juncture.

(b) to (d) A Group of Ministers (GoM) under the Chairmanship of Shri K.C. Pant, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission has considered the question of gas pricing. Government will take a view on the recommendations

made by GoM and decide the issue after full consideration of the matter.

[Translation]

Rail Projects In Haryana

2463. SHRI ADHI SANKAR :

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposal received by the Railways from the Government of Haryana for laying of new rail lines, doubling, electrification and gauge conversion of rail lines in Haryana during the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon, project-wise;

(c) the details of the rail projects in Haryana completed during the last three years, project-wise;

(d) the details of the new and on-going rail projects/surveys in Haryana alongwith the progress made in each of the project;

(e) the amount sanctioned and released on each of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The details of some of the proposals received from Government of Haryana regarding new rail lines, doubling, electrification and gauge conversion in Haryana during the last three years are as under :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Km.	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in crore)	Action
1	2	3	4	5
New Lines				
1.	Rohtak-Hissar	68	158	The survey has been conducted but due to heavy throwforward of ongoing works, constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of the project, it has not been considered feasible to take up the project.
2.	Kaithal-Karnal-Yamunanagar	133	296	-do-
3.	Panipat-Meerut	104	275	-do-
4.	Chandigarh-Dehradun	217	604	-do-
5.	Rohtak-Rewari via Jhajjar	81	110	-do-
6.	Jind-Hissar	60	180	No survey has been conducted for this line.
7.	Bahadurgarh-Karina	90	270	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Sonepat-Bhiwani	120	360	-do-
9.	Jakhal to Bhattu Kalan	80	240	-do-
10.	Jind-Sonepat	88	190	The proposal has been processed for 'in principle approval' of Planning Commission which is still awaited.

(c) No project has been completed during the last three years.

partly/fully in the State, the present status, expenditure likely to be incurred upto 31.3.2003, proposed outlay during 2003-04 and target date wherever fixed are given as under :-

(d) to (f) The details of on-going projects falling

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Anticipated cost	Anticipated expenditure incurred upto 31.3.2003	Proposed outlay upto March 2003	Status
(Rs. in crore)					
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Construction of new rail line between Kalka and Parwanoo	36.99	0.28	0.01	Final Location survey has been completed. State Govt. has requested for changing the location of terminus from village Kamli to Tipra in February, 2003. The revised alignment is under finalisation.
2.	Gauge conversion of Rewari-Sadulpur including Material modification from Sadulpur-Hissar	282.76	0.1	7.32	Final location survey has been completed. Tenders for earthwork and bridgework processed.
3.	Doubling between Rothak-Jakhal	47.79	—	1.00	New work included in the Budget 2003-04. Final location survey completed.
4.	Railway electrification between Ambala Moradabad	157.76	127.52	30.00	Ambala to Saharanpur section has been completed. Work on Saharanpur - Moradabad section is in progress and targeted for completion by March, 2004.

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Railway electrification between Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Gurgaon	12.00	—	5.70	Awaiting requisite clearances.

Details of the on-going surveys falling partly/fully in the State are as under :-

Sl.No.	Name of Survey	Km.
1.	Tughalabad-Palwal 3rd line	39
2.	Delhi-Ahmedabad doubling	934
3.	Rewari-Bhiwadi	27

[English]

Recruitment Rally

2464. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of recruitment rallies conducted in Karnataka during the last three years and current year so far;

(b) whether the Defence Authorities have recruited less youths in Karnataka in proportion to the prescribed quota during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to conduct more recruitment rallies in Karnataka to fill up the prescribed quota of the State?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The number of recruitment rallies conducted in Karnataka during the last three years and current year so far is as under

Year	No. of Rallies
1	2
2000-2001	19

1	2
2001-2002	19
2002-2003	20
2003-2004	05 (so far)

(b) There were 2755 youth recruited in the Army in 2000-2001 and 3994 in 2001-2002 against vacancies of 4056 and 3235 respectively.

(c) The vacancies in the Army are based on the annual wastage rate and new raising, if any and therefore vary from year to year.

(d) Regular recruitment rallies are being conducted all over Karnataka. As per policy, each District of the State is to be covered twice in a year. Widespread publicity is given for recruitment rallies through all available local print and electronic media.

[Translation]

Non-Functioning of AIR in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

2465. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

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

(a) the number of All India Radio Stations in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh which are not functioning at all/properly due to shortage of employees;

(b) the action taken/being taken by the Government to make these stations fully operational; and

(c) the time by which all these stations will start working in a full-fledged measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Three All India Radio Stations at Mandla (M.P.), Rajgarh (M.P.) and Saraipalli (Chhattisgarh) have not started functioning, despite being technically ready, for want of creation of requisite posts.

(b) The matter regarding creation of posts is under examination, in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

(c) The Stations will be commissioned after sanction of staff.

Fluctuation in Prices of LPG

2466. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether there has been heavy fluctuation in the prices of LPG in international market during the year 2002-03; and

(b) if so, the average monthly prices recorded during the abovesaid period in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) During the year 2002-03, the average monthly international price of LPG ranged between US \$197/Metric Tonne (MT) and US \$370/MT. The details of movement in the international price is as follows :-

Month	Price (US \$/MT)
1	2
April 2002	197

1	2
May 2002	218
June 2002	219
July 2002	219
August 2002	229
September 2002	257
October 2002	295
November 2002	327
December 2002	327
January 2003	338
February 2003	369
March 2003	370

[English]

ROB/RUB Projects in Delhi

2467. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of over bridges/under bridges under construction in Delhi alongwith present status thereof;

(b) the details of the proposal sent by the Government of Delhi for construction of over bridges/under bridges at level crossings;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(d) the funds allocated for construction of such bridges during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for completion of these ROB/RUBs as per their schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c)

2003-04

Rs. 1.00 crore

and (e) A statement is attached:

(d) During 2001-02 Rs. 0.50 crore
 2002-03 Rs. 3.00 crore

were allotted during the last three years for the cost sharing works. For deposit works, funds are provided by sponsoring authority.

Statement

(a) and (e)

Sl. No.	Name of work	Railway	Year of sanction	Railway Share	State share	Remarks
Rs. in crores						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	PANKHA ROAD-ROB in lieu of LG No. 13-B at Km. 14/14-15 on Delhi-Rewari sec.	NR	2000-01	4.59	23.91	Profile sketch approved. Detailed estimate sanctioned on 20.6.01. Contract awarded in Jan' 02 and road was blocked in month of June 02. Casting of pier shafts completed. Work of pier cap in progress. Contract for approaches also awarded by DDA in May'02
2.	Calcutta Bridge No. 254 at Km. 0/8-9 on Delhi-Ghaziabad section connecting Ring Road to Chandni Chowk, Delhi.	NR	1999-00	Deposit	7.82	Detailed estimate sanctioned. Profile sketch approved. MCD has deposited Rs. 782 lacs. Pushing of box number 1 completed. Casting of 1st segment of box number 4 completed. Bottom slab of segment cast.
3.	ROB on marginal bund near River Yamuna on TKJ-SBB sec. connecting Vikas Marg (Delhi) to NH-24.	NR	1998-99	Deposit	11.78	PWD deposited full amount of Rs. 11.78 crores in Mar'02. Detailed estimate sanctioned. Contract awarded on 19.9.02. 68/73 piles and 6/12 pile caps cast. All services shifted.
4.	S.P. Marg - 2 ROB's between S.P. Marg and Brar Square Railway Station at Km. 10/10-12 on Ring Railway	NR	1998-99	Deposit	5.85	Authorities have deposited Rs. 5.84 crores. Substructure of A1 P and A2(3/3) completed. Staging of PSC span erected. Shuttering work in progress.

1	2	3	4	5	6	6
5.	Const. of ROB in lieu of LC No. 18-C at Km. 18.02 near Palam Railway station on Delhi-Rewari section.	NR	2001-02	Deposit	8.94	DDA has deposited Rs. 6.84 crores on 4.3.02. Profile sketch approved. Contract awarded on 20.9.2002. Bridge No 26 diverted. Loading details for common piers furnished by DDA on 15.2.03. GA approved. 42 piles cast out of 80 nos.
6.	Const. of RUB in lieu of L.Xing No. 19-C at Km.23-182 on Delhi-Rewari section near Brijwasan	NR	2001-02	Deposit	11	DDA has deposited full amount of Rs. 11 crores in July 02. Contract awarded on 17.10.02. Thrust bed cast. Pushing of 2/4 boxes completed. Casting of both segments of Box 3 and one segment of Box 4 completed.
7.	RUB at Lawrence Road in lieu of LC No.12 on Dayabasti-New Azadpur section Delhi (City Road)	NR	2001-02	Deposit	4.59	Profile sketch accepted by MCD in Dec'01 and approved. Detail estimate sanctioned. MCD deposited part amount of Rs. 5.86 crores in 3/2001 and balance amount deposited in Dec. 2002. Soil investigation completed. MCD asked to shift services and sign the agreement.
8.	ROB on road No. 63 at Railway crossing No. 3-C/2-E at Km.3/9-10 on DAS-Shamli sec. connecting G.T. Road.	NR	1999-00	Deposit	5.13	Profile sketch approved. PWD has deposited Rs. 1.88 crores. Detailed estimate of Rs. 5.68 crores sent to PWD on 26.2.2002 for acceptance and depositing the balance amount to undertake the work. Balance amount deposited in Jan'03. Contract awarded on 10.5.03. Test pile cast.
9.	Widening of ROB on Road No. 37 across Railway line near Lawrence road, Prembari, Delhi	NR	2001-02	Deposit	4.59	Profile sketch has been approved. D.E. accepted by party in Feb'03 and sanctioned. The party has not yet deposited the money. State PWD also asked to review alignment in view of DMRC viaduct.

(b) and (c) 3 proposals of ROB/RUBs, one on cost sharing basis and two on deposit terms were received as under for Delhi area :-

(i) RUB at Vivek Vihar on Delhi-Ghaziabad section in lieu of LC No. 156 at Km. 8/14-16	Sponsored by MCD, Delhi in 1999-2000 on cost sharing basis.	Municipal Corporation of Delhi had accepted the profile sketch and abstract estimate but have not yet furnished estimate for approaches and also completed the other preliminaries required under extant rules in spite of repeated reminders. During last meeting conducted with Principal Secy/UD/Delhi on 7th Feb. 2002 CE/MCD assured to submit revised scheme duly approved by Technical Committee of DDA but the same has not yet been received.
(ii) RUB at Vishwas Nagar on Shahdra-Ghaziabad Sec. at Km. 7/8-10 on road No. 58	Sponsored by PWD, Delhi on deposit terms during 2000-2001	SE/PWD, Nizamuddin Bridge (east) sponsored proposal in Aug. 2000 but proposal held up for want of details like width of central verge, service road, cycle track and foot path etc. which is still awaited from State Govt.
(iii) ROB at IP Estate on ring road level crossing between Tilak Bridge and Thermal Power Plant Termination	State Govt., Director (P&I)/PWD sponsored proposal on deposit terms	Director/P&I asked Railways to examine feasibility of raising the Railway track taking the coal supply to IP Thermal Power Station either above the existing Railway line or above the Delhi-Ghaziabad Railway line which was not found feasible. Hence they were advised to plan the Scheme accordingly. However profile sketch and abstract estimate were sent to PWD in Nov. 2001 for acceptance but there has been no response from them.

Recruitment of Operational Staff in Railways

2468. SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI SHIBU SOREN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have sufficient strength of train drivers, gangmen and pointsmen;

(b) if so, the details of the sanctioned and posted strength of the said staff in each of the division as on July 31, 2003, post-wise;

(c) if not, whether the Government have decided to appoint train drivers, gangmen and pointsmen in the railways during this year;

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

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to recruit sufficient staff of these categories;

(f) whether the Government have received some complaints regarding malpractice and irregularities in filling up of vacancies of gangmen;

- (g) if so, the details thereof, division-wise; and
- (h) the action taken thereon?

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

[Translation]

Air Brake System

2469. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether passenger trains under various railway zones are run by the general vacuum and air brake system as on date;

(b) if so, the number of passenger/mail and express trains run by general vacuum and air brake system, zone-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to convert the passenger mail/express trains running by the general vacuum system into air brake system;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds earmarked under the railway safety fund in this regard;

(e) the time by which all the passenger mail/express trains are likely to be converted into the air brake system; and

(f) if not, the purpose of having railway safety fund?

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

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

(c) and (d) Indian Railways are converting vacuum brake system in coaches to air braked system in a phased

manner subject to availability of resources. Railway safety fund is not meant for this purpose.

(e) Conversion of existing Coaching stock of vacuum brake system to air brake is expected to be completed by March' 05, subject to availability of resources.

(f) Railway safety fund is utilized for replacement of overaged assets such as track, bridges, rolling stock etc.

[English]

Setting up of Defence Planning Board

2470. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to set up Defence Planning Board;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the main functions of the Board; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to set up?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Recruitment of Group-D Posts in SCR

2471. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board had given permission to the South Central Railway to take up recruitment of posts under group 'D' category to overcome shortage of manpower;

(b) if so, whether the process of recruitment to these posts has been started;

(c) if so, the time by which the recruitment is to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. South Central Railway have placed indent on Railway Recruitment Board, Secunderabad.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Recruitment process is likely to be completed by March, 2004.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sale of Railway Assets

2472. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway has sold some of the assets to meet its daily expenditure or to undertake development works;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways has sold some land in Maharashtra recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which such sales have helped Railways to meet its operational cost?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Sale of Scrap

2473. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether lot of irregularities are committed in the sale or railway scrap with the connivance of Mafia;

(b) if so, whether the things which are fit for use have been sold as scrap;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regards;

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

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Several checks in the area of sale of scrap have been conducted. No irregularity in regard to sale of items which are fit for use, as scrap or sale of scrap with the connivance of Mafia has come to light.

[English]

MoU between Rail Tel and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

2474. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the RailTel Corporation of India (RailTel) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) for sharing bandwidth and other telecommunications infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the details of the communication network proposed to be established with this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel) relates to exploring new business opportunities to take advantage of the changing scenario in the country in telecommunication fields. BSNL & RailTel have agreed to utilise their synergies, infrastructure and services for this purpose. There is no proposal, as such, to establish any new communication network. BSNL, however, may use RailTel's OFC infrastructure dropped at stations for providing rural telephony and continuous coverage of their CellOne mobile phones along the track. BSNL may also offer last mile and interconnection to RailTel for their various requirements including International Long Distance (ILD) and National Long Distance (NLD) operations.

Installation of Auxiliary Warning System (AWS)

2475. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Justice H.R. Khanna Committee report had recommended for installation of the Auxiliary Warning System (AWS) in the Railways;

(b) if so, the detailed features of this system;

(c) whether AWS has been introduced in the Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reason for the delay in introducing such safety measures; and

(f) the time by which the said system is likely to be introduced in the Railways?

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

(b) Railway Safety Review Committee (Justice

Khanna Committee) vide its recommendation in Pt. I para 6.2 and 6.3 have recommended use of Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS), a variant of auxiliary warning system (AWS), on Indian Railways as per details appended herewith as statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) AWS is working satisfactorily on Mumbai suburban sections of Central and Western Railways on 538 TKms since 1987-onwards. Further works on about 280 TKms on Southern and Central Railways are in progress. The work of AWS on Central Railway was sanctioned as a pilot project of 'Radio based Automatic Train Control System' similar to European Train Control System. However, due to high cost, the work was not taken in hand. Now AWS based on similar design as existing on Mumbai suburban section and compatible with Euro-balise (Ground Equipment) is being considered for adoption on Indian Railways.

Statement

Extracts of Railway Safety Review Committee (RSRC) Pt. I

Para 6.2 "A suitable train protection and warning system should be adopted with the features mentioned in para 2.12.1"

Para 2.12.1 "Committee recommends adoption of a suitable system, which should have the following features

(d) When the driver crosses a 'caution' or 'yellow' signal he should receive on audio visual warning which he must acknowledge. Failure to acknowledge the warning in specified time will result in automatic application of brakes and stoppage of the train. The system will log every such occurrence.

(e) After the caution signal and on approach to the 'stop' signal, at an intermediate point the

speed will be checked. Brakes will apply if the train speed exceeds a specified limit and there is probability of a SPAD occurring at the next 'stop' signal.

- (f) Brakes are applied and train comes to a halt if the driver crosses the signal at danger.

Para 6.3 Development of Balise-based TPWS having the features as enunciated in para 2.12.1 as above, should be taken up immediately by Indian Railways-para 2.12.4 and Para 2.12.5"

Para 2.12.4 "we recommend that development of a Balise-based TPWS having the features as enunciated in para 2.12.1 should be taken up immediately by IR"

Para 2.12.5 "The time-frame recommended by the Committee and the approximate cost for providing the TPWS on the 'C' and 'A' routes of IR are indicated below :-

Route	Approximate cost	Time frame
'C'	Rs. 100 crores	2 years (Concurrent
'A'	Rs. 910 crores	5 years)

Non-Completion of Targeted Transmitters

2476. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 161 projects targeted for completion during 2001-2002 only 124 projects could be completed during the year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether 7 DD1 HPT and 12 LPT/VLPT could not be completed due to non-availability of sites;

(d) if so, whether sites are chosen after sanctioning of project or before sanctioning of project;

(e) whether the Government have completed these projects during 2002-03;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken or being taken by Government to ensure that projects targeted for a particular year are completed in the same year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Completion of 37 projects got delayed due to delay in construction of buildings and towers; non-availability of suitable sites; difficult working conditions in some areas; delay in supply of equipments and law and order problems in some areas.

(c) 7 DD1 HPT projects got delayed due to delay in construction of towers. 12 LPT/VLPT projects got delayed, mainly due to non-availability of suitable sites.

(d) Action for identification of suitable sites is initiated after a project is approved "in principle" by the competent authority.

(e) to (g) Out of the 37 projects, 26 projects have been completed during 2002-03. LPT projects have been dropped as the targeted area is covered by nearby transmitters. One LPT project has been deferred, due to security reasons. The remaining 4 LPT/VLPT and 2 HPT projects are targeted for completion during 2003-04.

(h) The projects are being monitored regularly and appropriate measures are taken for timely completion of projects.

Rationalisation of Project Allocation Money

2477. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal of the Government to rationalise project allocation money to various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) From 2002-03 onwards, funds to various projects are being allocated statewise based on a clear and transparent formula announced by the Minister of Railways in Budget speech 2002-03. As per this formula, the available funds for projects have been distributed based on area, the population and the throwforward of projects in the State. The weightage given to these criteria is in the ratio 15%, 15% and 70% respectively.

Separate Commission for Dalits and STs

2478. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up separate statutory commissions for Dalits and Scheduled Tribes in place of National Commission for SCs/STs;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KARLASH MEGHWAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has introduced a constitutional Amendment Bill in Parliament to amend Article 338 of the Constitution to set up a separate National Commission for Scheduled Tribes in order to give focused attention to the problems of Scheduled Tribes.

Revival of Instrumentation Limited

2479. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the modified revival package of Instrumentation Limited has been functioned;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since registered any company in the name of Instrumentation Control Valve Limited to give the Palghat unit of Instrumentation Limited as a subsidiary status; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Turnaround Plan under implementation for the revival of the company envisages restructuring of different business groups of Instrumentation Limited into subsidiary companies to enable induction of joint venture (JV) partners. Accordingly, Instrumentation Control Valves Ltd. (ICVL), Palakkad has been created as a subsidiary company of Instrumentation Limited, Kota.

Pending Proposals

2480. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of pending proposals of gauge conversion and new lines received from States and Union Territories during 1998-1999, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and the current financial year;

(b) whether the Government in coordination with Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission and Foreign Financing Agencies propose to approve some of these pending proposals during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof with special reference to Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor in each case?

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

Setting up of Minority Education Cell

2481. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Minorities has set up Minority Education Cell;

(b) the funds allocated for said purpose during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any specific scheme for the development of the minorities educational institutions of various linguistic areas of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds provided thereunder; and

(e) the protective measures taken for the minorities educational institutions in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The minority education cell was set up in the year 1998.

(b) No funds have been allocated exclusively for the said purpose in any year.

(c) and (d) The following schemes have been formulated by the government for development of the minorities educational institutions :-

- (i) Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities with the objective to provide basic infrastructure and facilities in areas of concentration of educationally backward minorities which do not have

adequate provision for elementary and secondary education.

Year	Funds allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
2000-01	1800.00
2001-02	2000.00

- (ii) Modernization of Madrasa Education with objective to encourage introduction of Science, Mathematics, Social studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum.

Year	Funds allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
2000-01	1200.00
2001-02	1050.00
2002-03*	2835.00
2003-04*	3150.00

*The above two schemes have been combined as Areas Intensive and Madrasa Modernization Programme during Xth Plan.

- (iii) Scheme of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation for development of educational infrastructure.

Year	Grant-in-aid Sanctioned (Rs. in crores)
2000-01	9.68
2001-02	9.35
2002-03	5.49
2003-04	5.00

(e) The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education has already issued policy norms

and principles for recognition of minority managed educational institutions other than those meant exclusively for imparting religious instructions.

Privatisation of Railway Lines

2482. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 105 dated March 7, 2002 regarding Privatisation of railway lines and state :

- (a) whether the Government have identified the railway lines which are likely to be privatised;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the criteria adopted for said privatisation;
- (d) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the present status of the said proposals?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Railway Pension Fund

2483. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Pension Fund constituted in 1964 for meeting the expenditure of pensionary benefits to retiring employees, is to be financed on the basis of actuarial calculations every year;

(b) if so, whether there were regular actuarial assessments after 1974; and

(c) if so, the closing balance on Pension Fund as on March 31, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) When the Pension Fund was set up in 1964, it was preceded by calculations by the Government Actuary. Thereafter actuarial calculations were done in 1974. However, appropriations to the Pension Fund are at present being done out of operating surplus, decided annually in consultation with the Railway Convention Committee, in the same way as is being made for Depreciation Reserve Fund.

(c) The closing balance of the Railway Pension Fund as on March 31, 2002 was Rs. 467.18 crore.

[Translation]

Completion of Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Plant

2484. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Project in Haryana is hanging fire for the last ten years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be completed and the amount spent thereon so far;
- (d) The places where thermal power plants are located in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Haryana and the power generated in each of them from January 1, 1998 till date and the expenditure incurred thereon, plant-wise; and
- (e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to boost power generation in view of shortage of power in the country by way of setting up new power plants in the above mentioned States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Project could not be

implemented on account of non-finalization of executing agency and financial constraints. As on date, Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Project in Haryana is proposed to be implemented in two stages of 2x250 MW capacity each. While one stage of the project is to be implemented through international Competitive Bidding (ICB) route through Independent Power Producers (IPP) and is proposed to be completed in XIth Plan, the other stage is being implemented in State Sector by Haryana Power Generation Corporation (HPGC) and is proposed to be completed during 10th Plan. As per the information received from Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam (HVPN), the total expenditure incurred on this Project till date is Rs. 22.00 crore.

(d) State-wise details of thermal power projects located in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Delhi & Haryana and power generated in each of these States for the period 1997-98 to 2002-03 are given in statement enclosed.

(e) Planning Commission has set a capacity addition target of 41,110 MW during the 10th Plan. This includes capacity addition of 1881.62 MW in State Sector in Gujarat (including 1450 MW Sardar Sarovar Hydro Electric Project (HEP), in which Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra will also have a share), 684 MW in Tamil Nadu, 225.78 MW in Delhi and 500 MW in Haryana. Besides, these States would also get their due shares from Central Generating Stations.

Statement

Statewise details of Thermal Power Projects located in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Haryana and power generated in each of these from 1997-98 to 2002-2003

Name of Thermal Power Station	1997-98 Actual Generation (In MUs)	1998-99 Actual Generation (In MUs)	1999-2000 Actual Generation (In MUs)	2000-2001 Actual Generation (In MUs)	2001-2002 Actual Generation (In MUs)	2002-2003 Actual Generation (In MUs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DELHI						
Badarpur	4473	4867	5022	5181	5275	5284
DVB						
IP Stn.	1163	763	845	866	815	619
Rajghat	537	618	942	792	697	837
DVB Gt.	811	683	746	1142	1165	1215
Pragati Gt.						825
DVB Total	2511	2064	2533	2800	2677	3496
Delhi Total	6984	6931	7555	7981	7952	8780

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
HARYANA						
F'Bad Extn.	641	858	955	822	808	973
Panipat	2892	2629	2837	2729	4274	4994
Total HPGC	3533	3487	3792	3551	5082	5967
F'Bad CCGT			1066	2290	2861	2697
Haryana Therm Total	3533	3487	4858	5841	7943	8664
GUJARAT						
G.E.B.						
Dhuvaran	2792	2203	2358	2350	1791	1385
Ukai	4315	4365	4444	5382	4753	5312
G. NGR.1-4	3915	4699	3110	3330	3806	4222
W. Bori 1-6	8260	8592	9105	8916	9352	8893
Sikka	1432	885	960	1098	1140	1131
Kutch Lign.	718	1011	964	965	980	1036
Utran Old	73	0	0	0	0	0
Utran GT	831	962	1057	720	782	890
D'varam GT	143	130	131	137	42	0
GEB Thermal	22479	22847	22129	22898	22646	22869
GSECL						
G. Ngr. 5		748	1293	1348	1489	1636
W. Bori 7		173	844	1535	1647	1762
GSECL Total		921	2137	2883	3136	3398
GSEG Ltd.						
Hazira CCCP	2627	3184	0	0	171	878

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GSEG Total	2627	3184	0	0	171	878
A.E. Co.						
AE Co. Old	356	332	398	425	377	438
Sabarmati	2050	2168	2401	2402	2433	2523
Vatwa						
GT & ST	702	673	598	538	319	209
AE Co.	3108	3173	3397	3365	3129	3170
ESSAR Pvt.						
Hazira Imp.			1268	558	661	1055
ESS Import			1268	558	661	1055
GIPCL						
GIPCL I	1366	1543	1232	726	705	999
GIPCL II		557	703	505	589	952
Surat Lignite		0	133	1303	1454	1599
Total GIPCL		2100	2068	2534	2748	3550
Paguthan GT		2781	3863	2482	727	1535
KAPS NUC	2119	2892	3395	3504	3570	3659
Kawas GT	4135	4354	4788	4697	3757	4208
(NTPC)						
Gandhar GT	2586	2165	2282	2791	3614	3372
(NTPC)						
Guj. Thermal Total	36301	40604	41932	42208	40589	44035
TAMIL NADU						
T.N.E.B.						
Ennore	1928	1799	1293	753	1150	1747

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tuticorin	6916	6599	7449	7931	8108	8187
Mettur	5427	5063	5782	6423	6396	6739
North Chennai	3416	3675	4334	4358	4672	4405
B'Bridge GT	53	112	187	165	173	276
Narimanam GT	29	13	31	16	0	0
Kovikallapal CCGT				36	698	726
Valthur GT						104
TNEB Thermal	17769	17261	19076	19682	21197	22184
Neyveli I	3453	3772	3747	4158	4195	4421
Neyveli II	9704	9569	9561	10519	10268	10495
Neyveli Ext.				0	0	89
Neyveli Total	13157	13341	13308	14677	14463	15005
K'kkam Nuc	1894	2187	2233	2513	2244	1073
B'Bridge D		161	1478	1281	1234	1209
P'Nallur CCGT					1036	2169
Samalpatti DG				91	645	623
Samayanallur				0	250	589
Neyveli Zero Unit						406
T.N. Thermal	30926	30763	33862	35731	38825	42185

[English]

scheme to allot Railway land on lease to private/public sector;

Allotment of Railway Land on Lease

2485. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(b) if so, the places identified therefor, State-wise;

(c) the terms and conditions of such land lease;

(a) whether the Railways have formulated a and

(d) the names of private/public sector units who came forward in Orissa particularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (c) Railway land, if not required for Railway's own immediate needs, may be allotted on long term lease only to the Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings. The land is leased for 35 years on payment of 99% of the cost of the land alongwith a nominal charge of Rs. 1000/- per annum. Lease of Railway land to the private sector is, however not permitted.

(b) As stated above, request for land is considered on case to case basis. Railways do not themselves offer any land on long term basis.

(d) In this regard, a request has been received by the Railway from Central Warehousing Corporation, Sambalpur.

[Translation]

Drive to cut down expenditure

2486. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred under various heads such as publicity, advertisement, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conference, tours (including foreign visits), STD & ISTD telephone bills and electricity bills (especially the electricity bills of airconditioners and coolers) in various departments and undertakings under the Ministry during each of the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to launch any drive to cut down the expenditure being incurred under above heads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE

FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Protection of Interests of Disabled

2487. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether higher officers are also being involved by the Government to protect the interests of the disabled;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to issue any guidelines in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for a multi-sectoral collaborative approach towards empowerment of disabled persons, particularly, in relation to education of children, rehabilitation services, barrier-free access and economic empowerment. Implementation of the Act involves several departments of Government, both at Union and State level, as well as voluntary organizations. For the purpose of enforcement of the provisions of the Act and redressal of grievances of the target group, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has appointed the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. The State Governments have also appointed State Commissioners for this purpose. The Central Coordination Committee and the Central Executive Committee constituted under the Persons with Disabilities Act include senior officials who work towards implementation of the Act.

(b) and (c) The Ministry also follows up issues concerning the interests of persons with disabilities with the Chief Secretaries and other senior functionaries of the State Government and Central Ministries. Elaborate instructions are issued from time to time calling upon all concerned to converge resources and take affirmative action towards this end.

[English]

Incorrect Reheat Fuel Control Units

2488. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether incorrect Reheat Fuel Control Units in two Aero Engines of Jaguar Aircraft resulted in their damage and Rs. 1.88 crore was incurred in repairs;

(b) if so, whether the operating wing of the IAF has been held responsible for this lapse; and

(c) if so, the action taken to prevent recurrence of such acts that endanger lives of Pilots and enormous losses to the nation?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. Disciplinary action has already been taken against the IAF officers found responsible.

(c) Suitable instructions have been issued by Air HQ to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Losses by Marketing Divisions of Oil Companies

2489. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether marketing division of the public sector oil companies have been incurring losses over thousands crore per annum;

(b) if so, the details of loss suffered during last two years and during first quarter of current fiscal year and the reasons therefor;

(c) the step taken to reduce the operating costs of marketing divisions and to avoid wasteful and non-commercial expenses; and

(d) the impact of losses on disinvestment of BPCL and HPCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) According to the published

financial results of the public sector oil companies, they have been making profits in the last 2 years and also during the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

(c) Measures are taken by the Oil Companies on a continuous basis to reduce the operating costs of all the divisions and to avoid wasteful and non-commercial expenses.

(d) In view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) question does not arise.

Mumbai Urban Transport Project Phase-II

2490. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects in Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) phase-II to be taken up and the approximate expenditure to be incurred thereon, project-wise;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has agreed to share 50% of the projects cost;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the work on the projects are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) It has been decided to take up 10 projects and their components of rolling stock/resettlement and rehabilitation etc., under Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) Phase-II. Project-wise details are indicated in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Government of Maharashtra has agreed to share 50 percent cost of seven projects. Their consent for sharing 50% cost of the remaining three projects is being obtained.

(d) It is planned to take up MUTP Phase-II during 2005-06. However, work on two sanctioned projects is in progress.

Statement**Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) (Rail Component) Phase-II Projects**

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Cost (in crores Rs.)	Whether sanctioned
1.	Kurla-CSTM: 5th & 6th Lines	229	No
2.	Borivali-Santacruz-Mumbai Central: 6th Line	294	No
3.	12 Car operation on Western Railway local line*	—	Yes
4.	12 car operation on Central Railway local line*	—	Yes
5.	Bandra-Kurla: East-West Link	480	No
6.	Kalyan-Diva: Additional Pair of Lines	110	Yes
7.	Diva-Thane: Additional pair of Lines	170	No
8.	Extension of Harbour Line: Andheri to Goregaon	59	No
9.	DC to AC Conversion: Thane to CSTM	147	Yes
10.	S&T upgrade on local lines to improve headway	240	No
Components of above projects			
(a)	Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) procurement/manufacture/retrofitment and maintenance/stabling facilities	1672	No
(b)	Technical Assistance	20	No
(c)	Resettlement & Rehabilitation	71	No
(d)	Capital Expenditure for Institutional strengthening	10	No
Total		3502	

*Work completed. Only rolling stock to be procured. Cost of rolling stock included in component (a) above.

**Setting up of Thermal Power Projects
During the Tenth Plan**

2491. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals for setting up Thermal Power Projects in the country during the Tenth Plan period with their installed capacity, investment cost and the name of the entrepreneurs with which financial and other arrangements have been made;

(b) whether any target date for commercial production of power has been fixed;

(c) if so, the details of the same alongwith MOU signed/agreement signed with the Union and State Government;

(d) the steps contemplated to facilitate export of power from power surplus States of the produced power;

(e) whether the Government propose to augment the Grid for wheeling of this power; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Sixty eight thermal power projects totalling 25416.24 MW have been targeted to be set up during the 10th Plan. The details regarding their installed capacity are given in enclosed statement. Out of sixty eight thermal power projects, sixteen thermal projects have been identified for commissioning during the 10th Plan in the Private Sector. The Government of India does not have any financial arrangements etc. with private power projects and the financing etc. are tied up by the project developers. The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is entered into between the project developers and the concerned State Electricity Board (SEB)/Utility buying the bulk power.

(d) to (f) Presently the total Inter-Regional Transmission Capacity available is about 8100 MW (at 220 KV and above level and High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) system). After the commissioning of Rai-Rourkela 400 KV AC link between Eastern Region and Western Region, regional grids of Eastern Region/North Eastern Region would work in synchronization with Western grid and there would be free flow of power from Eastern Region to Western Region to the tune of 1500 MW.

Statement

Capacity addition during 10th Plan (Thermal)

Central Sector

Name of Project	Capacity (MW)
1	2
NTPC	
Simhadri (A.P)	500

1	2
Talcher (Orissa)	2000
Rihand (U.P.)	1000
Ramagundam (A.P.)	500
Sipat-I (Chhattisgarh)	1320
Kahalgaoon (Bihar)	660
Barh (Bihar)	660
Vindhyachal (M.P.)	500
Dadri (U.P.)	490
Unchahar (U.P.)	210
Sipat-II (Chhattisgarh)	660
N. Karanpura (Jhark.)	660
DVC	
Mejia-4, WB	210
Mejia-5, WB	250
Maithon (Jharkhand)	1000
Chandrapur (do)	500
NEEPCO	
Tripura (Tripura)	500
M/o Coal-NLC	
NLC Extn.- TN	420
NLC Extn.-II (TN)	500
Barsingsar (Rajsthan)	250
State Sector	
Punjab	
GHTP-II (T)	500

1	2
Haryana	
Panipat U-7&8 (T)	500
Delhi	
Pragati (T)	225.78
Rajasthan	
Suratgarh-III (T)	250
Ramgarh-II (T)	75.32
Kota-IV (T)	195
Mathania (T)	140
Uttar Pradesh	
Parichha Extn. (T)	210
Anpara 'C' (1000) (T)	500
Chhattisgarh	
Korba East Extn. (T)	420
Madhya Pradesh	
Birsingpur Extn. (T)	500
Maharashtra	
Parli Extn. (T)	250
Gujarat	
KLTPS Extn. (T)	75
Dhuvaran Gas (T)	106.62
Akrimota (T)	250
Tamil Nadu	
Perungalam (Valathur) Gas (T)	94

1	2
Kuttalam Gas (T)	100
Andhra Pradesh	
Rayalseema-II (T)	420
Karnataka	
Raichur U-7 (T)	210
Bellary (T)	500
Jharkhand	
Tenughat Extn. (T)	210
West Bengal	
Bakreshwar U 4 & 5 (T)	420
Sagardighi-I	250
Assam	
Lakwa W.H. (T)	38
Mizoram	
Bairabi HFO (T)	22.92
Meghalaya	
Byrinhat (T)	24
Mendipathar (T)	24
Manipur	
Leimkhong DG	18
Tripura	
Baramura GT (T)	21
Rokhia GT (T)	21
Pondicherry	
Karaikal (T)	100

1	2
Andaman & Nicobar Island	
Rangat Bay	5
Private Sector	
Punjab	
Goindwal Sahib (T)	500
Madhya Pradesh	
Bina (T)	578
Gujarat	
Jamnagar (T)	500
Maharashtra	
Dabhol-II (T)	1444
Tamil Nadu	
Nevyeli Zero (T)	250
Andhra Pradesh	
Pedapuram	78
Vemagiri-I (T)	370
Gowthami-I (T)	464
Ramagundam (T)	520
Jegrupadu Extn. (T)	230
Konaseema (T)	445
Karnataka	
Hassan (T)	189
Kaninminke (T)	108
Bihar	
Bihta (T)	135

1	2
Jharkhand	
Jojobera-II (T)	120
Island	
Bamboo flat DG	20

**Power Sector Reform with
World Bank Aid**

2492. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the State which have taken steps on power sector reforms with World Bank Aid;

(b) whether any such steps has been taken in the State of Orissa to bring reforms in the power sector with the assistance to the Union Government of World Bank; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have taken steps on Power Sector Reforms with World Bank Aid.

(b) and (c) In Orissa, under the reform programme, the State Electricity Board has been restructured and separate companies have been formed for generation, transmission and distribution of power. The State Electricity Regulatory Commission has been functioning since 1996. Further, power Distribution has been privatized in 1999.

The World Bank had sanctioned a loan of US\$ 350 million for the Orissa Power Sector Restructuring Project in 1996 to primarily finance investments for improvement in the Transmission and Distribution system. The loan was suspended in July, 2001 primarily due to persistent delays in release of funds by the State Government for the project.

It was restored in January, 2002 on the assurance of the Government of Orissa that timely release of funds would be ensured. The loan amount now stands reduced at US\$ 255 million based on the assessment of utilization potential in Orissa. An amount of US\$ 183.876 million has been disbursed till 30th June, 2003. The project is scheduled to end in January, 2004.

Water Pipelines by IOCL

2493. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited fulfils some social obligations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited has laid water pipelines in some States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the cost of the water pipeline projects undertaken by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has been undertaking various social welfare activities under its Community Development Programmes as a part of its Corporate social responsibility. These activities are mainly in the areas of providing clean drinking water, health and medical care, expansion of education, etc., which include activities under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan for the benefit of the population belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. IOC has laid water pipelines in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. Details are as follows :-

During the year 2000-2001, IOC laid a drinking water pipeline from Marve to Manori near

Mumbai across Manori Creek in the State of Maharashtra at a cost of Rs. 4.53 crore.

- During the year 2001-2002, IOC laid a water pipeline in Village Alwa (Baroda) in the State of Gujarat, by replacing a 2 kilometre underground pipeline at a cost of Rs. 3.00 lakh.

- During the year 2001-2002, IOC laid a 2 kilometre water pipeline in village Baad (Mathura) in the State of Uttar Pradesh at a cost of Rs. 3.98 lakh.

In addition, the company has been maintaining a water pipeline and overhead tank in Noonmati area of Guwahati (Assam) at an expenditure of Rs. 2.31 lakh per annum and has also undertaken the repair and replacement of water pipeline valves at Pavi Jetpur in Baroda district (Gujarat) at a cost of Rs. 4.5 lakh.

Setting up of Gas-Based Industries by EIL in Tripura

2494. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of a study conducted by EIL to explore the feasibility of setting up of gas-based industries in Tripura;

(b) if so, the industries that have been recommended of having potentiality of being set up in the State;

(c) whether any of those industries has any likelihood of being set up in Tripura in Public/Private Sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan with liberal assistance from Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) A viability study report for natural gas utilization in Tripura was prepared by Engineers India

Limited, as per which the following projects were recommended :-

- (i) Urea Complex.
- (ii) Urea Methanol Complex.
- (iii) CNG Project.
- (iv) Domestic/Commercial Fuel.

(c) and (d) The possibilities of industrial units to be set up in the areas described above depend on initiatives of the State Government, private sector and Financial Institutions. These also depend on the potential for the end use of the products in the region. Such an assessment of these factors precedes the setting up of such units.

Profit Making Public Sector Undertakings

2495. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the financial year 2002-03, the number of profit making public sector undertakings has increased in comparison to previous financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps being taken by the Government to encourage these public sector undertakings to keep it up?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) According to Public Enterprises (PE) Survey 2001-02 which was placed in Parliament on 3.03.2003, during 2001-02, the latest period for which information is available, 119 (50%) out of 240 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) earned profit whereas during the previous year 2000-01, 123 (49%) out of 250 CPSUs had earned profit.

(b) The details of performance of CPSUs for a particular year are given in PE Survey for the respective

year, which is placed in Parliament every year. For encouraging the profit making CPSUs to perform better the Government of India have taken various steps such as grant of autonomy and delegation of financial powers under the Navratna/Miniratna scheme, formation of joint ventures, professionalisation of Boards of Directors, purchase preference, signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with administrative Ministries, rationalization of manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme etc.

Reports on Railway Accidents

2496. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways set up enquiry committee for each accident happened in the country;

(b) if so, whether all the committee have submitted their reports;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on each report submitted so far;

(d) whether none of the committees even reported any sabotage relating to any accident but error was noticed in all accidents; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) Each and every train accident on Indian Railways is inquired into either by a Committee of Railway Officers, or by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, or by a Judicial Commission, depending upon the gravity of the accident. These investigations and inquiries into various accidents are conducted as and when any accident takes place, and inquiry reports are submitted thereafter. Recommendations, if any, made in these reports are examined for their feasibility and practicality, and suitable action is initiated thereafter.

(d) No, Sir. During the years 2000-01, 2001-02, and 2002-03* 19, 14 and 18* cases of consequential train

accidents have been attributed to sabotage respectively. In addition, 293, 248 and 198* cases respectively of failure of Railway Staff have been accounted for in the same period. (*Provisional figures).

(e) In order to prevent accidents on Indian Railways, the following measures are being taken :-

- (i) A non lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) of Rs. 17, 000 crores has been setup to wipe out the arrears of replacement of over aged assets like track, bridges, rolling stock, and signaling gears within a fixed time frame of six years. The fund has been operational since October 2001.
- (ii) Extended field trials of prototype Anti Collision Device (ACD) have been successfully completed on Northern Railway. Works for provision of ACD covering about 3500 route kms on Northeast Frontier, Southern, South Central, South Western, and Northern Railway have been sanctioned. ACD survey for 10,000 route kms has also been sanctioned.
- (iii) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'D', and 'D Spl.' routes where speed is more than 75 kmph has been completed.
- (iv) Auxiliary Warning System has been working on Mumbai suburban sections.
- (v) Last vehicle check by Axle Counters has been introduced on over 200 block sections and is being progressively added.
- (vi) To meet the situation arising out of track stresses and fatigue, upgradation of track structure whenever called for is being undertaken on a planned basis by utilization of 60-kg rails on concrete sleepers. The specifications of rail steel have been upgraded and are in conformity with the International Union of Railways (UIC) specifications.
- (vii) For improving maintenance and better asset reliability, Railways are continuing to eliminate fish-plated joints on tracks by welding rails to convert all single rails into long welded rails to the extent possible. During relaying/construction of new lines/gauge conversion, long welded rails are laid on concrete sleepers to the extent possible. Turnouts are also being improved systematically.
- (viii) "Quality Management Systems" have been developed and implemented as per the ISO 9001 Quality standards in all the Production Units, majority of the Workshops and some of the sheds/depots. All other important manufacturing/repair units have also been advised to develop and implement Quality Management Systems. Ultrasonic testing equipment is being used for detection of flaws in the axles.
- (ix) There has been progressive increase in the use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance. Also, sophisticated Track Recording Cars, Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors, Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars, Oscillograph Cars and Portable Accelerometers are being used progressively.
- (x) Track renewals are carried out whenever they become due for renewal.
- (xi) Modern bridge inspection and management system is being adopted, which will involve non-destructive testing techniques, under water inspections, fibre composite wrapping, mapping unknown foundations and integrity testing, etc.
- (xii) Intensive patrolling of railway track is carried out at vulnerable locations during monsoon, summer and winter.
- (xiii) Interlocking of level crossing gates, provision of telephones at manned level crossings are

some of the other safety aids being installed on the Railways.

- (xiv) New technological inputs like solid state interlocking, digital axle counter, high performance point machines are being progressively introduced for enhanced safety and reliability of signalling systems
- (xv) Walkie-talkie sets have been provided to Drivers and Guards of all trains for faster communication. Guards and Drivers are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps and hand signal lamps having better visibility than the conventional kerosene lit signal lamps.
- (xvi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised, including use of Simulators for training of drivers. Rs. 73 crore have been provided under SRSF for upgradation of Training Institutes and Disaster Management Modules are also being developed.
- (xvii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training courses. Safety staff overdue for refresher course is not permitted on train duties.
- (xviii) Periodical Safety Audit of different divisions by multi-disciplinary teams has been introduced. Inter-Railway inspections and inspections by Railway Board teams have also been introduced.
- (xix) Drivers are given Breathalyzer tests to check for alcohol consumption while signing on and surprise checks are also done to identify defaulters.
- (xx) Emphasis is given on surprise inspections and ambush checks. Night inspections are

conducted regularly to eradicate adoption of short cut methods and those found to be slack are taken up.

- (xxi) Introducing anti-climbing features in coaches to minimize effects of accidents. Coaches with Center Buffer Coupler (CBC) are being manufactured.
- (xxii) Development of fire proof coaches is being done utilizing the latest technology available in respect of materials, fire proofing technique, etc.
- (xxiii) Development of design of passenger coaches with features of crashworthiness which will absorb most of the impact energy leaving the passenger area unaffected.
- (xxiv) With the revamping of Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), quality of staff being selected through RRBs has substantially improved.
- (xxv) Use of fire retardant materials for coach furnishings.
- (xxvi) Fire resistant PVC flooring, interior paneling, ceiling, upholstery etc.
- (xxvii) Improvement in materials used in electrical fittings, fixtures such as MCB, light fittings, terminal boards, connectors etc.
- (xxviii) Intensive publicity campaigns to prevent the traveling public from carriage of inflammable goods.

Review of SCs Welfare Schemes

2497. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI KHAGEN DAS :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of Planned Programme and other schemes under

operation for development of SCs in the country during Ninth Five Year Plan till date;

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof, Scheme-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether certain States have diverted the funds earmarked for development of SCs to other heads;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those States; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure proper utilization of funds earmarked for the development of SCs by each State in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission constituted a Working Group on Empowering the Scheduled Castes in the context of the formulation of the Tenth Five Year Plan to review among other things the ongoing policies and programmes and their implementation for the welfare, development and empowerment of Scheduled Castes schemes are not formulated State-wise but for the whole country.

(c) No case of diversion of funds released for development of Scheduled Castes by this Ministry, has been reported although utilization certifications are often sent late, thereby affecting the funding of programmes.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The following steps are taken by the Ministry to ensure proper utilization of funds earmarked for the welfare of SCs :-

(i) The Ministry releases grants only after receiving Utilization Certificates and progress Reports of pervious funds.

(ii) The implementation of the schemes is reviewed with the Senior Officers of the State Government/UT Administrations.

(iii) The Officers of the Ministry also undertake field visits.

Revival of Public Sector Undertakings

2498. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings and Heavy Industry making profit in the country Unit-wise;

(b) the number of PSUs and Heavy Industries that have been closed in the country during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(c) the number of PSUs and Heavy Industries that have been referred to B.I.F.R. for their revival and the number out of them cleared by B.I.F.R. so far;

(d) the efforts made by the Government for their restoration, State-wise, Unit-wise;

(e) the number of employees of these units rendered jobless due to the closure of these units, Unit-wise; and

(f) the number of employees who had taken VRS in each Unit, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) 119 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have earned profit as on 31.3.2002. The names of these PSUs are given in statement 7 A of Volume I of Public Enterprises Survey 2001-2002, which was laid in Parliament on 3.3.2003.

(b) As per available information, 11 PSUs have been closed during the last three years, out of which 7

were located in West Bengal and one each in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) As per available information till 31.3.2003, 68 Central Public Sector Undertakings were registered with Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and out of which two have been declared as 'no longer sick'.

(d) Enterprises specific measures are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Department/Management of PSUs for restoration/revival of PSUs. Some of the common steps taken in this regard include referring

continuously loss making industrial PSUs whose networth has become negative to the BIFR for rehabilitation/revival, periodical review of the performance of the PSUs by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments, business and financial restructuring, infusion of fresh funds, upgradation of technology, improved marketing strategy, purchase preference policy, rationalization of manpower, cost control measures etc.

(e) The closure of CPSUs were effected after separating the employees through Voluntary Retirement/ Separation Scheme.

(f) Information is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Enterprise	Name of State	Number of employees availed VRS upto 31.3.2002
1.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	West Bengal	536
2.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.	West Bengal	1039
3.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.	West Bengal	2814
4.	Mining & Allied Corporation Ltd.	West Bengal	6086
5.	Rehabilitation Industries Ltd.	West Bengal	2209
6.	RBL Ltd.	West Bengal	264
7.	Weighbird (India) Ltd.	West Bengal	395
8.	Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.	Karnataka	950
9.	Tannery & Footwear Corporation Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh	1550
10.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.	Maharashtra	1323
11.	Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	209*
Total			17375

*Provisional for 2001-02 only.

Demand of Power in Gujarat**Statement-I**

2499. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

*All India Estimated demand of Power
in 2004-05*

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(In million kwh.)

(a) the estimated demand of power in the country by the year 2005, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) whether the existing power plants are likely to be able to meet the power demand and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total power generating capacity of the existing power plants at present, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested for more share of power from central pool; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The estimated demand of power in the country by the year 2005, State-wise including Gujarat is at state-ment-I. The energy deficit and peak deficit during 2002-03 was 48085 MUs (8.8%) and 9945 MW (12.2%) respectively.

(c) The total power generating capacity of the existing plants at present State-wise is given at statement-II.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Gujarat Government has been requesting the Central Government to give more power from the unallocated quota of Inter State Generating Stations from Western Region or from other stations. Gujarat has a firm allocation of 1537 MW from Central Power Generating Stations in Western Region. In addition Gujarat has been allocated 164 MW from unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations in Western Region and 80 MW from unallocated quota/ surrendered share of NTPC power stations in Eastern Region.

State	Energy Requirement (Million Units)	Peak Load (MW)
1	2	3
Delhi	22991.00	3860.00
Haryana	22089.00	4203.00
Himachal Pradesh	4437.00	844.00
Jammu & Kashmir	8072.00	1706.00
Punjab	36596.00	6730.00
Rajasthan	35216.00	5912.00
Uttar Pradesh	61681.00	9907.00
Chandigarh	1765.00	336.00
Goa	2004.00	322.00
Gujarat	54970.00	9470.00
Madhya Pradesh	46765.00	7737.00
Maharashtra	94650.00	14801.00
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1119.00	188.00
Daman and Diu	761.00	123.00
Andhra Pradesh	60633.00	9888.00
Karnataka	39467.00	6826.00
Kerala	19378.00	3626.00
Tamil Nadu	49478.00	7978.00
Pondicherry	2265.00	386.00

1	2	3
Bihar	17932.00	3320.00
Orissa	16157.00	2673.00
Sikkim	204.00	52.00
West Bengal	28114.00	5265.00
Arunachal Pradesh	264.00	85.00
Assam	4558.00	853.00
Manipur	857.00	208.00
Meghalaya	811.00	168.00
Mizoram	433.00	119.00
Nagaland	335.00	85.00
Tripura	832.00	211.00
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	194.00	40.00
Lakshadweep	37.00	8.80
All India	635065.00	102160.80

Statement-II

*Statewise Generating Capacity as on 31.03.2003
(Provisional)*

(MW)

State/UTs	Total
1	2
Haryana	3127.32
Himachal Pradesh	864.80
Jammu and Kashmir	1233.63
Punjab	5655.94

1	2
Rajasthan	4560.12
Uttar Pradesh	7602.60
Uttaranchal	1286.15
Chandigarh	64.00
Delhi	3323.40
Central Sector (unallocated)	884.00
Gujarat	8861.78
Madhya Pradesh	4220.21
Chhattisgarh	1898.00
Maharashtra	15208.27
Goa	454.76
Daman and Diu	14.20
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15.50
Central Sector (unallocated)	891.30
Andhra Pradesh	9617.24
Karnataka	5893.37
Kerala	3043.44
Tamil Nadu	9392.91
Pondicherry	174.50
Central Sector (unallocated)	610.00
Bihar	3059.16
Jharkhand	1815.89
Orissa	3406.48
West Bengal	6550.84

1	2
Sikkim	60.80
Central Sector (unallocated)	1803.51
Assam	1119.49
Manipur	154.11
Megalaya	285.96
Nagaland@	101.46
Tripura	220.46
Arunachal Pradesh	162.43
Mizoram	86.30
Central Sector (unallocated)	179.20
Lakshadweep	9.97
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	59.30
Total (All India)	107972.80

[Translation]

**International Hockey Matches
on DD**

2500. SHRI RAM SAJIVAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan did not make any arrangements for the live telecast of hockey matches recently held in Australia and Germany though Hockey is our national game and Indian team is performing very well at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have made any arrangements for live telecast of matches to be played by Indian Hockey teams for the next Champion Trophy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan does not have the rights for telecast of the matches of Indian Hockey team playing outside India.

(c) to (e) Doordarshan is making efforts to secure the rights.

[English]

CBI Cases Against Officials of GAIL

2501. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4698 dated December 19, 2002 and state :

(a) whether the CBI has since completed its investigations under case No.63(a)/2002-DLI dated November 14, 2002 under Section 120B of IPC with section 13(2) and 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against the present and former officials of GAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken on the findings thereof;

(c) the total losses suffered due to corrupt practices of these officials;

(d) whether any time limit has been fixed for early completion of such cases to maintain fair and transparent working of GAIL; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The case is still under investigation. Action will be taken as per the outcome of the investigation

according to law. The total loss suffered will be assessed when investigation is completed.

(d) and (e) As per law there is no such time limit fixed for completion of investigation of such cases. However, efforts will be made to complete the investigation as early as possible.

Mid Air Refuelling Facility

2502. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Air Force has proposed to introduce mid air refuelling of aircraft facility;

(b) if so, the number of refuellers to be inducted in the Air Force;

(c) whether all aircraft of Indian Air Force would be fitted with gadgets for availing this facility; and

(d) if so, the time by which all aircraft are likely to be provided mid air refuelling facility?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Six IL-78 Flight Refuelling Aircraft are planned to be inducted into the Indian Air Force.

(c) and (d) It would not be in the interest of national security to disclose the information.

ITI for Muslim Girls

2503. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Wakf Council recommended to the Government to provide fund for building ITI for Muslim girls in West Bengal and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Strengthening of Coast

2504. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Home Affairs has submitted a proposal to strengthen the coast so as to enable to do joint patrolling of the Western Coast;

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

(c) whether the Government provide additional funds to Tamil Nadu, enabling it to meet the extra burden in safeguarding the coastal line from the view point of National Security; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The present arrangement for joint coastal patrolling off the Maharashtra and Gujarat Coasts using hired fishing trawlers by the Government of Maharashtra and Gujarat, being considered not effective, Ministry of Home Affairs has sent a proposal to Ministry of Defence for strengthening of the Coast Guard by creating additional capabilities to enable it to take over the responsibility of the joint coastal patrolling. The proposal includes acquisition of 15 Interceptors boats in four phases. Ministry of Home Affairs has proposed to meet the estimated capital expenditure of Rs. 323.16 Crores. Ministry of Defence will need to meet the estimated revenue expenditure. The proposal is presently under examination of Ministry of Defence.

(c) and (d) Considering the vulnerability of the country's coasts to illegal cross border activities, the Government of coastal states including Tamil Nadu and

the Union Territory Administrations were advised to prepare perspective plans for coastal security for which certain indicative parameters were identified and circulated to them. Government would provide such assistance as feasible for implementation of the plan.

[Translation]

Setting up of Military School

2505. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up military schools in the country;

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

(c) whether the Non-Governmental Organizations would be permitted to run the Military schools;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount proposed to be allocated each year to these schools and number of such schools running in the country as on date, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. Five Military School, are already being run in the country under the Ministry of Defence.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) About Rs. 6.4 crore is allocated each year to the five Military Schools run in the country. These Schools are at Ajmer and Dholpur in Rajasthan, Belgaum and Bangalore in Karnataka and Chail in Himachal Pradesh.

Increase in Prices of Natural Gas

2506. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose 12 per cent increase in the gas prices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such increase would lead to a steep increase in power tariff and an additional subsidy burden of crores of rupees on fertilizers;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to reconsider the decision of hike in gas prices;

(e) if not, whether the Union Government have assessed its likely impact on common consumers of power, gas and fertilizers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (f) Government have constituted a Group of Minister (GoM) under the Chairmanship of Shri K.C. Pant, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission to consider the question of revision of natural gas prices. Government will take a view on the recommendations made by GoM and decide the issue after full consideration of the matter. Impact on Fertilizer Sector and Power Sector of any gas price increase, would depend upon the actual increase in gas price.

[English]

Delay in Probe of Golden Temple Mail Accident

2507. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the enquiry ordered into the Golden Temple Mail's (Formerly known as Frontier Mail) 5

derailment between Khanna and Chawpail Stations in November, 1998 has been completed;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for abnormal delay in the completion of the probe into the mishap; and

(d) the steps being taken/to be taken by the Government for early completion of the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Justice G.C. Garg Commission, constituted to inquire into the accident, is yet to submit the report.

(c) and (d) The accident is being inquired into by the Judicial Commission and not by Railway Administration. However, the Commission has been requested to finalize the report.

[Translation]

Cases of Cylinder Explosions

2508. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of deaths are occurring due to LPG cylinder explosions;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last one year;

(c) whether dealers and oil companies are not properly geared to come immediately to the rescue of consumers when gas leaks cases are brought to the notice;

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to ensure safety of consumers;

(e) whether better quality control measures would be strengthened to eliminate all LPG based accidents; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported 100 LPG cylinder accidents causing death of 30 persons during the year 2002-03. Most of the LPG accidents are associated with non-observance of safety measures at customer's end or use of sub-standard LPG Stoves/Gas tubes etc. by consumers.

(c) and (d) During the working hours, the trained mechanics employed by distributors of OMCs attend to all leakage complaints. OMCs operate Emergency Service Cells for attending to leakage complaints after the working hours and on holidays. OMCs have also put in place help lines at select locations to attend to the leakage complaints round the clock. Safety is accorded highest priority and regular safety clinics are conducted to educate customers on safe use of LPG and conservation of fuel. In addition, safety messages are also communicated to LPG users through the print and audio-visual media.

(e) and (f) The cylinders delivered from the bottling plants are checked for quality and quantity as per the laid down procedure before despatching the same to the distributors. The distributors are also advised to carry out a pre-check of each cylinder before delivering the same to the consumer.

[English]

Supply of Diesel to Farmers through Tankers

2509. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to make diesel available at the door steps of the farmers in the villages, oil companies have made arrangements to supply diesel through tankers in Haryana;

(b) if so, the extent to which this experiment has been successful;

(c) whether this scheme will be implemented in other State also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) In July, 2003, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has launched one 9 kilolitre (kl) capacity tanker on an experimental basis to supply diesel at the doorsteps of people in the villages in Sirsa District in Haryana.

(b) to (d) The preliminary reports indicate that the scheme has been appreciated by local villagers/farmers. Improvements in customer service, making available diesel, at places where there is a demand, are part of the ongoing exercise by the Oil Marketing Companies, for implementation of any such scheme.

Shortage of Power in Karnataka

2510. SHRI SHASHI KUMAR :

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of power in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the power projects being run with the World Bank assistance in Karnataka for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The details of power supply position in Karnataka during April-June, 2002 vis-a-vis April-June, 2003 is as under :-

April-June, 2002				April-June, 2003			
Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)		Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)	
Requirement	7717	Peak Demand	5289	Requirement	8267	Peak Demand	5085
Availability	6797	Peak Met	4346	Availability	7216	Peak Met	4913
Shortage	920	Shortage	943	Shortage	1051	Shortage	172
%	11.9	%	17.8	%	12.7	%	3.4

(c) None of the power projects of Karnataka which were commissioned during the last three years were constructed with World Bank Assistance.

Accident Due to Track Condition

2511. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 55% rail accidents are caused by human errors;

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the drivers frequently complain about the track conditions;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to fix

responsibility on higher officials regarding each and every complaints made by running staff;

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereto; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against those officials who have not taken care about the complaints made by the running staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While "failure of Railway staff" is responsible for approximately 60% of rail accidents in the last three years, "failure of other than railway staff" accounts for approximately 25% of rail accidents. To enhance the quality of our Human Resources, training with modern aids, and a more effective and efficient supervision are being resorted to.

(c) to (g) Figures related to details of Driver's complaints about the track conditions are not maintained. Report of track defects as and when received are relayed to divisional control office and immediate corrective action is taken to ensure safety.

Better Customer Services to Passengers

2512. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an action plan has been finalised by the Railways to provide better customer services to the passengers;

(b) if so, the details of the plan finalised in this regard and the additional facilities proposed to be provided to the passengers under the said plan;

(c) whether all the important stations are only to be covered under this plan or an overall view of all the stations is to be taken so as to provide the minimum required facilities to the passengers at all the stations; and

(d) if not, the names of the stations to be covered

under the proposed scheme and the amount to be spent during the current financial year for improving the services at the stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Indian Railways have planned to improve the level of customer satisfaction in the current year, i.e. 2003-04 for which a number of steps covering various areas of on-board and off board facilities viz. safety, security, punctuality, improving cleanliness by introduction of modern system of cleaning of stations and trains, by facilitating and computerizing the issue of tickets, computerizing the refund process, extension of internet booking of reserved tickets, improvement in enquiry system etc. have been taken.

(c) and (d) Provision of additional facilities at stations is a continuous process which are provided on the basis of the category of station and availability of funds.

Maintenance of LPT Centre at Adoor

2513. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is too much delay in starting the proposed LPT Maintenance Centre at Adoor in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government are aware that without maintenance of LPT Centre in Southern part of Kerala all the LPT Centres are facing problems;

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

(d) the time by which the said work is to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The LPT Maintenance Centre at Adoor in Kerala has not been operationalised, due to non-sanction of staff.

(b) to (d) The maintenance requirements of LPTs in southern part of Kerala are being satisfactorily met by the Maintenance Centres at Cochin and Tirunelveli.

Passenger Information and Telecommunication Facilities

2514. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance and improve the passenger information and telecommunication facilities at Cuttack and Bhubaneswar railway stations in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken and proposed to be taken by the Government in that direction; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to further enhance and improve the passenger information and telecommunication facilities at other railway stations of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) Various information and telecommunication facilities like Interactive Voice Response System, Manual Enquiry and Electronic Display Board showing trains timings have been provided at Cuttack and Bhubaneswar Railway stations. In addition, touch screen facility has been provided at Bhubaneswar station. It is the constant endeavour of the Railways to enhance and improve the passenger information and telecommunication facilities at the Railway stations which depends upon the level of passenger traffic and feasibility. The provision of these amenities is a continuous process.

Kannada Programmes by AIR

2515. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Kannada programmes being aired every day by AIR, Bangalore, through its Vividh Bharati;

(b) whether any programmes have been introduced from November 1, 2002 on the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the Kannada airtime; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Prasara Bharati has informed that AIR, Bangalore through Vividh Bharati, Broadcasts a number of programmes daily in Kannada, in different formats. Details of these programmes are as following :-

(i) Arpana, (ii) Chetna, (iii) Nandana, (iv) Kamana Billu, (v) Mishra Madhurva, (vi) Geethapushpa, (vii) Inchara, (viii) Rasagange, (ix) Brindvana and (x) Nadinanada.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Prasara Bharati has informed the w.e.f. 1st November, 2002 AIR, Bangalore has started a variety programme titled "Kamana Billu" consisting of film songs, Bhagvatgitha, devotional songs, drama, feature, interviews and information programme, from 10.05 a.m. to 12.00 noon daily.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Prasara Bharati has informed that there is no such proposal, at present.

Transmission Lines by PGCI and NTPC

2516. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NTPC and Power Grid Corporation are laying transmission lines from power producing centres to power consumption points all over the country;

(b) if so, the details of the present work being done by NTPC and Power Grid Corporation at various points in the country;

(c) the details of safeguards that are taken by both these organizations to avoid damage to human settlements

and environment while laying transmission lines and building transmission towers; and

(d) the details of rules and guidelines in force while doing this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) POWERGRID constructs the transmission lines associated with Central Sector Generating Stations as well as inter-regional and grid-strengthening transmission lines. NTPC does not lay power transmission lines.

(b) A list of the transmission projects being implemented by POWERGRID to evacuate power from generating projects is at statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Construction of transmission lines is carried out by POWERGRID as per Indian Electricity Rules, guidelines of Ministry of Environment & Forests and relevant Indian standards. POWERGRID has a well-defined "Environmental Social Policy & Procedures (ESPP)" based on the principle of Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation to deal with environmental and social impact of constructing towers. While planning and implementing the transmission projects, all possible efforts are made to avoid/minimize the damage to the habitations and agricultural land. Conservation of Right-of-way is kept in view by POWERGRID while constructing transmission lines for transmission of bulk power. In case of any damage to the crop, adequate compensation is paid to the farmers.

Statement

Transmission Lines Associated with Central Sector Generating Stations being presently undertaken by POWERGRID

Sl. No.	Name of the Trans Line	Length (CKM)
1	2	3
1. Tehri Trans. System		
	800 KV Tehri-Meerut TL-IS/C	186

1	2	3
	800 KV Tehri-Meerut TL-II S/C	184
	400 KV Meerut-Muzaffaranagar Trans. Line	36
2. Unchahar Trans. System		
	220 KV D/C Panki-Naubasta LILO Line	30
3. Dhauliganga Transmission System		
	400 KV D/C Dhauliganga (NHPC) - Bareilly (UPPCL) Line	481
4. Chamara-II Tr. System		
	LILO of 400KV S/C Chamara-I-Kishenpur line at Chamara-II	70
5. Dulhasti Combined Tr. System		
	400KV D/C Kishenpur-Thather line	210
	400KV D/C Thather-Wagoora line	158
6. Rihand-II Tr. System		
	400 KV D/C Rihand-Allahabad line	596
	400 KV D/C Allahabad-Kanpur line	406
	400 KV D/C Kanpur-Mainpuri line	404
	400 KV S/C Patiala-Malerkotla and LILO of Nalagarh-Hissar at Kaithal and Patiala	146
	Mainpuri-Ballabgarh line	460
7. Tarapur 3 & 4 Transmission System		
	400 KV D/C Tarapur 3- & 4-Boisor Tr. Line	24
	400 KV D/C tarapur 3 & 4 - Padghe Tr. Line	216

1	2	3
	220 KV S/C Tarapur 3 & 4-Boisor Tr. Line	12
	LILO of 400 KV S/C Gandhar-Padghe at Boisor.	68
	LILO of 400 KV S/C Gandhar-Padghe at Vapi	10
8.	400 KV D/C Kaiga-Narendra TL	220
9.	Ramagundam-III Transmission System	
	400 KV D/C Ramagundam-Hyderabad line	392
	400 KV S/C Hyderabad-Kurnool-Gooty line	307
	400 KV S/C Gooty-Nagurjunsagar line	145
10.	Transmission System associated with Tala HEP, East-North Interconnector and Northern Region transmission system	
	400 KV Tala-Siliguri Line I	194
	400 KV Tala-Siliguri Line II	234
	LILO of 400 KV Bongaigaon-Malda at Siliguri	12
	LILO of 400 KV Bongaigaon-Malda at Purnea	124
	LILO of 400 kV D/C Dadri-Ballabgarh at new S/S in Delhi	80
	400 kV D/C Gorakhpur (POWERGRID)-Gorakhpur (UPPCL)	50
	400 kV D/C Lucknow-Unnao	140
	400 kV D/C Siliguri-Purnea (Quad conductor)	324
	400 kV D/C Purnea-Muzaffarpur (Quad conductor)	484

1	2	3
	400 kV D/C Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur (Quad conductor)	466
	200 kV D/C Muzaffarpur (New)-Muzaffarpur (BSEB)	40
	400 kV D/C Gorakhpur-Lucknow (Twin bundle)	554
	400 kV D/C Bareilly-Mandola (Twin bundle)	474
11.	132 KV Ranganadi-Ziro TL	40

Rehabilitation Plan for Railway Bridges

2517. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether recommendations of RRC (Railway Reforms Committee) in regard to creation of special cell in each Zonal Railway by 1988 for preparation of rehabilitation plan for bridges within 10 years and separate cell for detailed technical inspection have been implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Zonal Railway Administrations are not having information regarding year of construction of bridges; and

(e) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) No such recommendation was made by the Railway Reforms Committee. However, on recommendation of Railway Reforms Committee (April, 1982), a Sub-Committee on re-building of old Railway bridges had been

formed by the Ministry of Railways. The Sub-Committee in its report in 1988 had recommended that the re-building programme for Railway bridges may be processed. Another recommendation of the Sub-Committee was for creation of an Inspection Organisation under the technical control of Chief Bridge Engineer. The rehabilitation has been carried out as per availability of the funds, which have increased substantially after the creation of the Special Railway Safety Fund in 2001. It has also been decided to continue inspection with the existing Organisation and to lay down increased frequency of inspection of early steel girders and distressed bridges etc.

(d) and (e) The year of opening of line has been adopted as the year of construction of the bridges. The Bridge Inspection Register record is accordingly under updation.

Ammunition Depot in Bhatinda

2518. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry had notified on November 5, 2001 that an area of 2000 yards from the Ammunition Depot at Bhatinda, Punjab will be kept free from any buildings/structures;

(b) if so, whether this notification affects densely populated residential colonies, industrial and commercial sites, religious and educational institutions falling within this area;

(c) if so, whether there is a need to evaluate all those above mentioned establishment;

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(e) whether the Western Command has been empowered to reduce the distance upto 1200 yards; and

(f) if so, the reasons for not reducing to Zero yard so that a large number of people's lives are not

disturbed and Government's expenses on compensation is saved?

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

(b) to (d) At present, it will not affect any legitimate existing construction. The issue of evaluating the compensation would come up if such a situation arises.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to (e) above.

[Translation]

Ashram Schools

2519. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Ashram Schools allotted to different NGOs in Maharashtra and other States alongwith funds allocated thereunder during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(b) the names of NGOs functioning well as well as blacklisted ones and the action taken against those blacklisted NGOs, State-wise; and

(c) the name and number of computer institutions for OBCs running in Maharashtra and other States at present, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) and (b) Funds are not allotted to NGOs under the scheme of Establishment of Ashram Schools in tribal sub-plan areas implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Ministry provides funds to the State Governments on 50:50 sharing basis for construction of building for the Ashram Schools.

(c) The details may be seen in the attached statement.

Statement

The State-wise names and number of Computer institutions for OBCs

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Name of the Computer Institute
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nav Bharat Socio-Economic Development Society, Anantpur
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Society for Welfare Awakening and Rural Environment, Anantpur
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Navodaya Seva Sangam, Mahaboobnagar
4.	Assam	Bahumukhi Krishi Aur Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Nagaon
5.	Gujarat	Vidya Bharati Education & Charitable Trust, Rajkot
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	Centre for Slum Development, Pulwama
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Hilal Institute, Anantnag
8.	Karnataka	Social, Educational and Vocational Association (SEVA). Raichur
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Shanti Niketan Shiksha Prasar Samiti, Morena
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Seva Bharati, Ujjain, Susner, Mahidpur, Budhnagar
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Lok Manya Tilak Sanskritik Nyas, Ujjain
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Vivekanand Samaj Seva Sansthan, Bhind

1	2	3
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Seva Bharati Madhya Bharat, Bhopal
14.	Maharashtra	Shri Ganesh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Latur
15.	Maharashtra	Bal Vikash Mahila Mandal, Sambhaji Nagar, Latur
16.	Maharashtra	Shri Seva Das Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Nanded
17.	Maharashtra	KIBBTUS, Pune
18.	Maharashtra	Kagal Education Society, Kolhapur
19.	Maharashtra	Gram Vikas Sansthan, Bhandara
20.	Maharashtra	Wangeshwar Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Akola
21.	Maharashtra	Kranti Jyoti Savitribai Mahila Bahu-uddeshiya Sansthan, Jalgaon
22.	Maharashtra	Swamsidhya Mahila Vikas and Prashikshan Sansthan, Ahmednagar
23.	Maharashtra	National Friends Association, Pune
24.	Maharashtra	Jai Maharashtra Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Aurangabad.
25.	Orissa	Association for Social Reconstructive Activities, Cuttack
26.	Uttar Pradesh	VIVIDHA, Lucknow
27.	Uttaranchal	Uttarakhand Gramin Vikas Samiti, Chamoli

Laying of Rail Line in Chhattisgarh

2520. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have conducted survey for Raipur - Kharaira - Palari - Balaida Bazar - Kasdaul - Sarseewa - Sarangarh - Jharsugara rail route in Chhattisgarh;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (e) A reconnaissance engineering-cum-traffic survey for a new line from Raipur to Jharsuguda has recently been completed. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this 310-km long new line has been assessed as Rs. 1060.27 crore with a negative rate of return. The survey report is under process.

[English]

Safety Drive to Curb Train Accidents

2521. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to recent train accidents the Railways have been forced to call for a better maintenance of trains;

(b) if so, whether the railways have launched a month-long safety drive, during which closer monitoring of drivers and effectiveness of brakes would be carried out;

(c) if so, the details thereof and other concrete steps the Government have proposed to take in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which they have been successful in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir. Train maintenance activity is well established over Indian Railways. Rolling stock (Locos, Coaches & Wagons) are being undertaken for preventive maintenance as per laid down schedules as well as for need based maintenance. However, based on experience and analysis of train accidents on account of improper maintenance, necessary steps are taken to overcome the deficiency identified, if any and to strengthen the maintenance system further.

(b) to (d) Safety drives are launched periodically over Division/Zonal Railway/Indian Railways. A month long safety drive has been launched recently, which inter-alia, include: Surprise inspection of coaching rakes after primary and secondary maintenance, Surprise checks of Brake power of coaching and goods stock after issue of Brake Power Certificate, locomotive maintenance with special attention to the brake system including blockage tests, Close monitoring of performance of blockage tests, Close monitoring of performance of driving crews, periodical medical examinations of drivers, surprise enroute breathlizer tests by portable breathlizer machines etc. Necessary corrective measures will be taken, if required, based on the outcome of the drive.

Setting up of Medical and Dental Colleges

2522. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army is contemplating to set up medical and dental colleges and other professional institutes for Army Personnel and their families;

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

(c) the other welfare measures taken for Defence Personnel and their families?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Army Welfare Education Society, a registered body under the Registration of Societies Act, has set up some professional institutes in the field of Dentistry, Engineering, Law, Management, Hotel Management and Education for wards/war widows of army personnel.

(b) The details of Dental College and other professional Institutes run under aegis of AWES are as under :-

- (i) Army College of Dental Sciences (ACDS) Secunderabad.
 - (ii) National Institute of Management (NIM) Koloata.
 - (iii) Faculty of Management Studies (FOMS) Jabalpur.
 - (iv) Army Institute of Law (AIL) Mohali.
 - (v) Army Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology (AIHM&CT) Bangalore.
 - (vi) Army Centre Education (ACE) Panchmarhi.
 - (vii) Army Institute of Technology (AIT) Pune.
 - (viii) Army Institute of Education (AIE) Delhi.
- (c) As per statement enclosed.

Statement

Medical:

There is a good network of hospitals for the serving personnel. All military hospitals attend to day to day medical requirements of servicemen and their families.

Specialized Medical Treatment:

- (a) Research and Referral Hospital: For serving soldiers requiring specialized medical treatment, a super specialist hospital is available at New Delhi.

(b) Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centres (PRCS): Two PRCs, At Kirkee and Mohali are available for rehabilitation of disabled soldiers.

(c) St Dunstan's After Care Organisation: This organisation provides training to the visually handicapped servicemen at the national Institute for visually handicapped at Dehradun.

(d) Artificial Limb Centre (ALC): One ALC is available at Pune for providing of artificial limbs to disabled soldiers.

2. Now, a medical scheme called Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) has been approved, which caters for comprehensive medical cover to the ex-servicemen in receipt of any kind of pension including disability pension and family pensioners, spouse as also legitimate children and wholly dependent parents. The scheme envisages to establish 104 augmented medical inspection rooms at military stations and 123 new poly clinics at non military stations. The scheme contributory in nature has commenced w.e.f. 1st April 2003 and would be fully implemented by March 2008.

3. For the time being till ECHS becomes operational, service hospitals would continue with entitled treatment and AGI's extended Medical Benefit Scheme (MBS) and financial assistance from AG's Welfare Fund and KSB for medical treatment would also continue.

Financial Assistance:

4. Financial assistance is granted to the ex-servicemen, widows and their dependent family members from Raksha Mantri's Discretionary Fund (RMDF) and AG's Welfare Fund for assistance to old infirm, for marriage of daughters, repair of houses, medical treatment etc.

Education:

5. In order to provide quality education to the children of army personnel posted/deployed in far flung

areas, 116 army schools have been established. Besides, the Air Force have established 148 schools in most of the units to provide educational facilities to the children of air force personnel and the Navy has established 9 Naval Public Schools. 7 schools have been established by Air Force Wives Welfare Association for mentally and physically challenged children.

Educational Concessions:

6. Children of defence personnel killed or permanently disabled in action who are studying in institutions under the Department of Education are granted complete exemption from tuition fee and other fee levied by the institution.
7. Educational scholarships are awarded by the Army, the Navy and the Air Force to the wards of serving soldiers, based on both merit and means,
8. 28 seats in MBBS, 1 seat in BDS, 2 seats in Engineering in Annamalai University and 2 seats each in the 7 IITs (subject to qualifying the Joint Entrance Examination) are available for the wards of servicemen and ex-servicemen.

Vocational Training:

9. The three service Headquarters make arrangement for Vocational Training to their respective servicemen at various civil institutions, prior to their retirement, for their post retirement settlement.

Housing:

10. Army Welfare Housing Organisation provides limited no. of houses to servicemen and ex-servicemen in select stations at reasonable costs. Similar housing facilities are provided by Air Force Naval Housing Board to Air Force and Naval personnel.
11. Various State Governments have made reservations for serving/retired defence personnel/dependents in allotment of house sites/houses.

12. 37 War Memorial Hostels have been constructed to provide accommodation to wards of war bereaved and disabled personnel to enable them to pursue their studies.

Transit Facilities:

13. Over 252 Sainik Aram Grahns have been established at many stations where servicemen have to transit while being on duty or proceeding to/returning from leave. Besides, 15 holiday homes have also been established at select stations.
14. Journey by air is provided to servicemen and their families while travelling on duty or leave to and from Leh sector in J&K.
15. 75% concession in rail fare and air fare in Indian Airlines domestic flights is provided to recipients of certain gallantry award winners and to widows of posthumous winners of the gallantry awards along with a companion.

Canteen Facilities:

16. Items of daily needs are provided at concessional rates to servicemen and their families through the Canteen Stores Department and the Unit Run Canteens.

Recreational Facilities:

17. Majority of military stations have been equipped with Auditoriums (Indoor/Outdoor) for the recreation of servicemen and their families. Adequate facilities in terms of sports have also been provided in all military stations for servicemen and their families.

External Assistance for Ongoing Power Projects

2523. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought external assistance for its on-going power projects;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) the number of power projects under construction in Karnataka along with their proposed capacity;
- (e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed;
- (f) the details of the central assistance/loan given to Karnataka for their completion during the last three years and current financial year so far; and
- (g) the extent to which these projects are benefited to solve the Power crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Karnataka Power Corporation Limited, a power generating Company of Karnataka State Government (GoK undertaking) has not sought any external assistance for its ongoing power projects.

(d) to (g) The following are the ongoing and new power projects which are being implemented by KPCL in the State :

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)
1.	Almati Dam Power House	290
2.	Bellary Thermal Power Plant	500
3.	Bidadi Combined Cycle Power Plant	1400
4.	Raichur Thermal Power Station Unit-8	210
5.	Varahi Stage-II	230
Total		2630

The X Plan capacity addition programme in the State Sector in Karnataka includes Bellary and Almati

projects. In order to make up any shortfall in original target in X Plan, an additional capacity to the tune of 1610 MW is envisaged in Raichur and Bidadi as back up projects.

Power Finance Corporation has sanctioned loan totaling Rs. 2012 crores for Almati Dam Power House and Bellary Thermal Power Plant. Out of loan amount of Rs. 500 crores sanctioned for Almati Dam Power House, Rs. 105 crores has been disbursed so far. A loan of Rs. 1512 crores has been sanctioned for Bellary Thermal Power Plant in principle for which KPCL has yet to complete documentation.

In addition to the above, Kaiga Atomic Power Station (220 MW) under Central Sector (of Nuclear Power Corporation of India) is also under construction and would be commissioned by 2006-07.

Procurement of Wooden Sleepers

2524. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railways are still procuring wooden sleepers;
- (b) if so, whether the clips fixed in the wooden sleepers get gradually loosened resulting in frequent derailments of trains;
- (c) if so, the reasons for procurement of wooden sleepers;
- (d) the quantity of wooden sleepers procured by the Railways during the last three years and current year so far; and
- (e) the expenditure incurred thereon?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Presently, use of wooden sleepers is limited to steel girder bridges, and other specified locations like non-standard Turnouts, Diamond crossings and complex layouts due to technical reasons. The use of wooden sleepers at steel girder bridges and at specified locations is a standard well known practice all over the world. Railways are accordingly procuring wooden sleepers for use on such locations to meet the minimum requirement.

(d) A qty. of 13444 cum of wooden sleepers has been procured during the year 2002-2003. No quantity was procured during the year 2000-01 & 2001-02. During the current year a tender for supply of 40,000 cum to meet the requirement of next two years is presently under the consideration of Board.

(e) Total expenditure incurred on procurement of 13444 cum of Sal Wood Special Sleepers in the year 2002-03 is Rs. 23,84,61,463.00 (Rupees Twenty Three Crore eighty four lakhs sixty one thousand four hundred sixty three).

Privatisation of Power Grid Transmission Lines

2525. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been seriously considering privatization of power grid transmission lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also seriously considering privatization of those SEBs which are not working satisfactorily; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to privatize existing transmission lines

of POWERGRID. However, in order to augment its capability, POWERGRID is securing private sector investment in construction of new transmission lines/ interconnections. POWERGRID has formed a Joint Venture with M/s. Tata Power for implementing certain transmission lines under Transmission System associated with Tala HEP, East-North Interconnector and Northern Region Transmission System. POWERGRID has also identified a pilot project i.e. Bina-Nagda-Dehgam Transmission Line for implementation through Independent Power Transmission Company (IPTC) route.

(c) and (d) Privatization of distribution of electricity by the States is one of the options envisaged for bringing about a turnaround in distribution.

Pension Under Social Security Schemes

2526. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANŞAL :
SHRI PRADIP YADAV :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in Union Territory Chandigarh and Jharkhand sanctioned pension under different Social Security Schemes of the Centre, scheme-wise;

(b) the procedure prescribed for identification of the beneficiaries and sanction of the pension;

(c) the total amount payable under these pensionary schemes per year;

(d) whether the payment is not made to the identified beneficiaries regularly every month;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether lakhs of people living below poverty line are still deprived of the benefit of these Schemes; and

(g) if so, the remedial measures being taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI):

(a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Free Residential Schools for SCs/
OBCs/Minorities**

2527. SHRI MANSINGH PATEL :

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering an need to open free residential schools for the boys and girls belonging to Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and the Minority communities in every block;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked thereunder; and

(c) the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a scheme to establish Residential Schools for Scheduled Caste Boys and Girls is being processed. A provision of Rs. 10.00 crores has been made for the purpose in B.E. 2003-04.

[English]

Visit of Russian Team

2528. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Russian team from MiG MAPO, the original manufacturers of the MiG aircraft had visited the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Nasik in May, 2003 with a view to sort out technical problems plaguing the MiG-Bison engine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Russian team; and

(d) the measures taken for exhaustive checks and extensive test flying hours before these aircraft are handed over to the IAF for operational duties?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Required checks and regular test flying as per laid down technology are carried out by the Nasik Division of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Subsequently, the aircrafts are test flown by customer pilots at Nasik for acceptance before their induction into regular flying in the Indian Air Force (IAF) bases.

Central Coordination Committee

2529. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Coordination Committee (CCC), the policy making body of the Persons With Disability (PWD) Act, 1955 has met only thrice so far instead of once in six months;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Since the initial constitution of Central Coordination Committee (CCC) in 1997, it has met six times.

Fake Advertisements in Employment News

2530. SHRI Y.V. RAO :

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR :

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

(a) whether some fake advertisements to provide employment by private institutes have been detected in the Employment News;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such cases were detected during 2002-2003 and till date; and

(c) the action taken/likely to be taken against the private institutes and the erring concerned officials of employment news for publishing such fraud advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) An advertisement purported to be issued by the Centre for Rural Educational Research and Training Mysore was published in the 5-11 April 2003 issue of Employment News. However on closer scrutiny it was found that the said advertiser was not a genuine organization. FIR has been lodged with the police authorities. In addition an administrative enquiry has been conducted to pin point the responsibility.

Filling up of Vacant Posts

2531. DR. MANDA JAGNNATH :
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are 20,000 posts in safety categories are lying vacant in Railways for last several years;

(b) whether Railways has decided to fill up these vacancies in addition to employing 3500 constables in RPF through Railway Recruitment Board for the sole purpose of controlling accidents and to provide safety;

(c) whether major contributing factors for accidents have been found to be human failure;

(d) the manner in which Railways plan to combat

the rising menace of track tampering in adding huge manpower to the already over-sized and fund starved railways in the name of providing safety;

(d) whether the railways has also taken a decision to replace the old and over aged assets of the railways in the time bound basis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Guarding of track and bridges against miscreant activity is the statutory responsibility of concerned State Government. However, keeping safety of passengers in view, Railways have decided to undertake patrolling of track in the sections considered sabotage prone. This includes stationary watchmen at identified bridges and surprise mobile patrolling by joint team of Railways Protection Force and Gangmen in identified sections. Periodical meetings of RPF Officers are held with State Police and Intelligence Agencies to ensure better co-ordination for track safety.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A non lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) of Rs. 17,000 Crores has been set up to wipe out the arrears of replacement of over-aged assets like track, bridges, rolling stock and signalling gears within a fixed time frame of six years. The Fund has been operational since October 2001.

Foreign Investment In Power Sector During 9th Plan

2532. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the total foreign investment in power sector in India during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) whether any foreign assistance in terms of aid received by India during the last three years to support the power generation programme; and

(c) if so, the States which have been benefited by this programme?

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

Stock of MS/HSD at Jubilee and Coco Pumps

2533. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of actual stock loss of MS and HSD observed by resident officers on each of the Jubilee and Coco pumps throughout the country;

(b) whether actual pay order/draft making charges are being reimbursed to operators contractors of such outstationed petrol pumps;

(c) if so, whether the stock cash etc. at such pumps are being got insured by Oil Corporations;

(d) if not, the responsibility fixed for losses against fire and looting;

(e) whether remuneration of operators is sufficient to cover cost of salary and wage under the Minimum wages Act; and

(f) if not, the corrective steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Oil Corporations have appointed Job Contractor at most of the Jubilee and Coco Retail Outlets, who are providing manpower and looking after day today operations. As per policy, the permissible stock loss is up to 0.59% of MS and 0.15% of HSD borne by the Oil

Corporations. Any loss over an above permissible limit is debited to Job Contractor's account.

(b) Actual Bank Guarantee Charges/DD Charges incurred by the Contractor are reimbursed to them as per Oil Corporations guidelines.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Stock and Cash etc., at COCO Retail Outlets belonging to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) except BPCL are insured against fire, looting etc. Since BPCL insures only Cash, the responsibility of losses of stock etc., due to fire and looting would rest with the Corporation itself.

(e) and (f) As per the scheme of operation of COCO Retail Outlets, the remuneration has been finalised on industry basis. The remuneration takes into account the salary, wages of the workmen engaged at the outlet as per the minimum wages applicable at the respective States.

Metering of All the Consumers

2534. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether metering of all electricity consumers in the country has been completed;

(b) the details of the areas and the States where metering have not been completed;

(c) the time by which all the consumers are likely to be metered;

(d) whether any financial assistance has been provided to States in achieving the target of 100% metering of all electricity consumers; and

(e) if so, amount disbursed to States and amount spent under the scheme as on March 31, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The details of the States where consumer metering has not been completed are given in the statement-I.

(c) By December, 2004.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The details of the amount sanctioned/disbursed to the States under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for consumer/feeder metering are given in the statement-II. PFC and REC disburses the funds on the basis of the actual expenditure incurred by the Utilities/Suppliers.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	State
1	2

1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Assam
3.	Arunachal Pradesh
4.	Bihar
5.	Chhattisgarh
6.	Goa
7.	Gujarat
8.	Jammu & Kashmir
9.	Jharkhand
10.	Madhya Pradesh
11.	Maharashtra
12.	Manipur
13.	Meghalaya
14.	Mizoram
15.	Nagaland

1	2
16.	Orissa
17.	Punjab
18.	Rajasthan
19.	Sikkim
20.	Tamil Nadu
21.	Tripura
22.	Uttar Pradesh
23.	Uttaranchal
24.	West Bengal

Statement-II

Details of the funds sanctioned/disbursed to the States

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	State	PFC (Dis- bursed)	REC (Dis- bursed)	APDRP (Sanc- tioned)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	34.34	362.54	193.32
2.	Bihar	—	—	87.035
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.82	—	37.31
4.	Delhi	—	—	54.115
5.	Goa	—	—	12.48
6.	Gujarat	1.68	69.66	130.215
7.	Haryana	19.60	64.47	70.65
8.	Jharkhand	—	—	42.62

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Karnataka	319.14	43.65	168.656
10.	Kerala	—	65.70	29.345
11.	Madhya Pradesh	214.03	—	34.905
12.	Maharashtra	59.16	235.60	132.00
13.	Orissa	—	—	69.54
14.	Punjab	—	40.14	125.375
15.	Rajasthan	148.36	122.52	48.205
16.	Tamil Nadu	293.95	—	90.585
17.	Uttar Pradesh	116.16	28.00	13.025
18.	West Bengal	61.76	—	30.37
19.	Assam	—	—	70.86
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	18.19
21.	Himachal Pradesh	8.21	—	25.32
22.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	6.99
23.	Manipur	—	4.41	5.10
24.	Meghalaya	—	—	7.96
25.	Mizoram	—	—	2.47
26.	Nagaland	—	—	11.17
27.	Sikkim	—	—	6.38
28.	Tripura	—	—	12.27
29.	Uttaranchal	—	—	61.84
Total		1277.21	1036.69	1598.30

**Renovation and Modernisation of Hydro
Power Stations of Tamil Nadu**

2535.SHRI V. VETRISILVAN : Will the Minister of
POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Hydro Power Stations in Tamil Nadu which have been identified by CEA for renovation and modernization;

(b) the present status of these Stations;

(c) whether installed capacity of these stations is expected to be increased; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Twenty one
(21) existing Hydro Power Stations of Tamil Nadu have
been identified by the Government of India for carrying out
Renovation, Modernization, Uprating and Life Extension.
The list of these hydro power stations alongwith their
installed capacity is given at enclosed statement-I.

(b) The present status of the above 21 hydro power
stations is given at statement-II enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. After completion of the Renovation
& Modernization works, the installed capacity of six (6)
Hydro Power Stations is expected to increase from 343 MW
to 407.5 MW. The station-wise increase of installed capacity
is given at statement-III.

Statement-I

*Hydro power stations identified for Renovation,
Modernization, Uprating and Life
Extension in Tamil Nadu*

Sl. No.	Name of Power Station	Installed Capacity (No. of units X Capacity of each unit in MW)
1	2	3
VIIIth Plan		
1.	Kadamparai	4×100
2.	Kundah-III	3×60
3.	Moyar	3×12

1	2	3
4.	Sholayar-I	2×35
	Xth Plan	
5.	Mettur Dam PH	4×10
6.	Papanasam	4×7
7.	Pykara	3×6.65 + 1×11 + 2×14
8.	Sholayar	2×35
	XIth Plan	
9.	Aliyar	1×60
10.	Kodayar, PH-I	1×60
11.	Kodayar-II	1×40

1	2	3
12.	Kundah St.I	3×20
13.	Kundah St.II	5×35
14.	Kundah St.III	3×60
15.	Kundah St.IV	2×50
16.	Kundah St.V	2×20
17.	Mettur Tunnel	4×50
18.	Moyar	3×12
19.	Periyar	4×35
20.	Sarkar pathy	1×30
21.	Sholayar-II	1×25

Statement-II

*Present status—Renovatio, Modernization, Upgrading and Life Extension
of existing hydro power stations in Tamil Nadu*

Sl. No.	Scheme, Year of Commissioning Make of T-G units, Installed capacity	Estimated Cost (Actual cost) in Rs. Crs.	Scheme category	Expected Benefit		Completion Schedule	Present status
				MW	MW		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

VIIIth Plan Schemes

1.	Kadamparai 1987-88 Boving, UK (U1)-(T) GEC, UK(U1)-(T) BHEL (U-2, 3&4) (T) & (G) 4x100 MW	23.17 (33.69)	Res.	200 (Res.)	61	1993.95	Completed
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Kundah-III 1965-78 Vancouver, (U-1&2) (T) Dominion (U3) (T) W. House, (U1&2) (G) CGA, (U3) (G) 3x60 MW	5.45 (3.20)	R&M	—	8.12	1991.92	Completed
3.	Moyar 1952-53 Boving, UK(T) Vickers, UK(G) 3x12 MW	1.62 (1.30)	RM&LE	36.0	115.0	1990.91	Completed
4.	Sholayar-I 1971 Litostroj, Yugo (T) Rade Konkar, Yugo (G) 2x35 MW	1.40 (0.85)	R&M	—	91.80	1994.95	Completed
Xth Plan Schemes							
5.	Metur Dam PH 1937-48 EE, UK-(T)/ Metro Vickers, UK-(G) 4x10 MW	24.37	RMU&LE	40 (LE) 10 (UR)	111.98	2004.05 (9/04)	Ongoing
6.	Papanasam 1944-51 EE, UK-(T)/ British Thompson, UK-(G) 4x7 MW	22.79	RMU&LE	28.0 (LE) 4.0 (UR)	105	2004.05 (9/04)	Ongoing
7.	Pykara 1934-54 Escher Wyss, Switzerland-(T)/ Metro Vicker, UK-(G) 3x6.65+1x11+ 2x14 MW	26.06	RM&LE	58.95 (LE)	105	2004.05	Ongoing

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Sholayar-1 1971 M/s. Litostroj, Yugo (T)/M/s. Rade Konkar, Yugo (G) 2x35 MW	40.68	RMU&LE	70 (LE) 14(UR)	268	2006.07	Tendering is in process.
Xith Plan Schemes							
9.	Aliyar 1970 M/s. Neyrpic, France (T&G) 1x60 MW	30.00@	RM&LE	60 (LE)	175	XI Plan	RLA studies proposed to be taken up in 2005-06.
10.	Kodayar, PH-I 1970 M/s. Vevey Engg. works, France (T)/M/s. Alsthom, France(G) 1x60 MW	30.00@	RM&LE	60 (LE)	175	XI Plan	RLA studies proposed to be taken up in 2005-06.
11.	Kodayar-II, TNEB 1971 M/s. Litostroj, Yugo(T)/ Rade Konkar, Yugo(G) 1x40 MW	19.94	RMU&LE	40 (LE) 6(UR)	196	XI Plan	Appraised by CEA. This scheme will be taken up after completion of Mettur Dam & Papanasam R&M ongoing schemes.
12.	Kundah St.I 1960-64 Dominian Engg. works, Canada (T)/Westinghouse, Canada (G) 3x20 MW	50.00@	RM&LE	60 (LE)	150	XI Plan	RLA studies proposed to be taken up in 2004-05.
13.	Kundah St.II 1960-64 Dominian Engg. works, Canada (T)/Westinghouse, 5x35 MW	75.00@	RM&LE	175(LE)	437	XI Plan	RLA studies proposed to be taken up in 2004-05.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Kundah St.III 1965-78 Vancauver Iron & Engg. works (U-1&2) & Dominon Engg. works (U-3) for T/ Canadian Westinghousse (U-1&2) & Canadian General Electric (U-3) for G 3x60 MW	70.00@	RM&LE	180	300	XI Plan	RLA studies proposed to be taken up in 2004-05.
15.	Kundah St.IV 1966-78 Canadian Vckers/ Dominion Engg. (T)/ Canadian General Electric (G) 2x50 MW	35.00@	RM&LE	100 (LE)	250	XI Plan	RLA studies proposed to be taken up in 2004-05.
16.	Kundah St.V 1964-88 Domino Engg. (Unit-1)/ BHEL (U-2)-T Canadian Westinghouse (U-1)/BHEL (U-2)-G 2x20 MW	13.00@	RM&LE for U-I R&M for U-II	20 (LE)	50	XI Plan	RLA studies proposed to be taken up in 2004-05.
17.	Mettur Tunnel 1965-66 Machino Export, Moscow (T)/Electrosila, USSR (G) 4x50 MW	100@	RM&LE	200(LE)	451	XI Plan	RLA studies proposed to be taken up in 2004-05.
18.	Moyar 1952-53 Boving, UK (T&G) 3x12 MW	18.00@	RM&LE	36 (LE)	115	XI Plan	RLA studies proposed to be taken up in 2004-05.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Periyar 1958-65 M/s. Voith, W. Germany-U1 to 3 & M/s. Litostroj Yugo, U-4 for T& M/s for T & M/s. Voith, W. Germany-U-1 to 3 & M/s. Rade Konkar, Yugo.-U-4 for G 4x35 MW	73.80	RMU&LE	140(LE) 28 (UR)	534	XI Plan	DPR under finalisation. Works to be taken up in 2004-05.
20.	Sarkar Pathy 1966 M/s. Hitachi, Japan (T&G) 1x30 MW	15.00@	RM&LE	30 (LE)	162	XI Plan	RLA studies already conductd. Units are since running without any trouble, RM&LE works will be taken up during the mid of XIth Plan
21.	Sholayar-II, TNEB 1971 M/s. Litostroj, Yugo (T) M/s. Rade Konkar (G) 1x25 MW	18.99@	RM&LE	25 (LE) 2.5(UR)	66	XI Plan	RLA studies proposed to be taken up in 2004-05.

Abbreviations:

R&M – Renovation & Modernization, RM&U – Renovation Modernization & Up-rating, RM&LE – Renovation, Modernization & Life Extension, Res. – Restoration, @ - as per National perspective Plan.

Statement-III

*Increase in capacity of hydro power stations after Renovation, Modernization,
Up-rating and Life Extension in Tamil Nadu*

Sl. No.	Name of the station	Installed Capacity in MW	Effective Capacity in MW		Increase in capacity due to up-rating in MW	Remarks
			Before R&M	After R&M		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
VIIIth Plan			-Nil-			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Xth Plan						
1. Mettur Dam	4×10	40	50	10	On-going	
2. Papanasam	4×7	28	32	4	On-going	
3. Sholayar-I	2×35	70	84	14	Tendering in progress	
XIth Plan						
4. Kodayar-II	1×40	40	46	6	Appraised by CEA. This scheme will be taken up after completion of Mettur Dam & Papanasam R&M ongoing schemes.	
5. Periyar	4×35	140	168	28	DPR under finalization. Works to be taken up in 2004-05.	
6. Sholayar-II	1×25	25	27.5	2.5	RLA studies proposed to be taken up in 2004-05.	
Total		343	407.5	64.5		

[Translation]

Power Demand and Supply in M.P.

details of power supply position in Madhya Pradesh during April-June, 2003 is as under:

April – June, 2003			
Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)	
Requirement	7502	Peak Demand	4919
Availability	5803	Peak Met	3357
Shortage	1699	Shortage	1562
%	22.6	%	31.8

2536. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of power crisis prevailing in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the gap between power supplied to Madhya Pradesh and its requirement;

(c) whether State Government have sought any assistance from Union Government to tackle this power crisis; and

(d) the details of assistance given by the Union Government and the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The demand for power in the State is met through generation from their own sources as well as their share in Central Generating Stations (CGS) in the Western Region (WR). Besides, an allocation of 1140 MW

[including (iii) below] in CGS in WR, Madhya Pradesh has been provided following assistance :-

- (i) 26% (207 MW) from unallocated quota of CGS in WR.
- (ii) 350 MW from unallocated of NTPC stations in Eastern Region (ER).
- (iii) 90 MW out of share of Chhattisgarh has been temporarily diverted to MP.

In addition, MP has also been receiving bi-lateral assistance from time to time from West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited & Damodar Valley Corporation in ER and Delhi Transco Limited in Northern Region through Power Power Trading Corporation.

[English]

Import of Railways Items

2537. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the name and quantity of the Railway items imported during the last three years upto June 30, 2003;
- (b) the expenditure incurred thereon and reasons for the import of these items;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that large scale of the sub-standard items are imported by the Railway Authorities;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to produce all the Railway items indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

2538. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of applications for granting appointments on compassionate grounds in various departments under the Ministry of Defence received during each of the last three years and the current year till May 2000;
- (b) the number of applicants out of the said applicants who have been given jobs alongwith the number of applications lying pending and the number of persons whose applications have been cancelled; and
- (c) the present norms with regard to giving jobs on compassionate grounds?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The present norms with regard to giving jobs on compassionate grounds is as laid down in the Scheme of Compassionate Appointment issued vide Department of Personnel & Training OM No. 14014/6/94-Estt(D) dated 9.10.1998 as amended from time to time.

Pension Scheme for Handicapped Persons

2539. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have contemplated or propose to contemplate to introduce pension scheme for disabled persons who are not in a position to earn their livelihood;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of beneficiaries thereunder so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has no proposal to introduce a pension scheme for disabled persons. However, some State Governments and UT Administrations are providing pension/maintenance allowance to persons with disability.

[English]

Utilisation of Hydrogen

2540. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are exploring different aspects of Hydrogen including its production, storage and utilization as a fuel;

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction so far; and

(c) the time by which Hydrogen is likely to be available as a safe alternative fuel for domestic use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry is implementing a broad based programme on different aspects of Hydrogen including its production, storage and utilisation as a fuel for domestic and other applications.

(b) and (c) As a result of research and development projects supported by the Ministry at various institutions, use of hydrogen has been demonstrated in two-wheelers, power generating units, catalytic burners and fuel cells for stationary, portable and vehicular applications. Efforts are being made for early commercialization of these devices for domestic, commercial and transport applications.

Upgrading of Doordarshan Kendra at Barmer

2541. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan had installed a 10 KW High Power Transmitter at Barmer (Western Rajasthan) during February, 1992 to counter Pakistan's anti India propaganda;

(b) if so, whether the original height of this tower was reduced from 300 meters to 100 meters by Doordarshan;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware that this transmitter is operating at one tenth of its capacity and is now covering less than half the envisaged area;

(d) if so, whether this mismatch and lack of capacity synchronization between transmitter and the height of tower have rendered the expenditure largely unproductive and defeated the very purpose for installing this High Power Transmitter;

(e) if so, whether the Government are considering to increase the height of this High Power Transmitter to 300 meters as originally planned to effectively counter Pakistan's anti Indian propaganda; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) A 10 KW High Power Transmitter (HPT) was installed at Barmer in February, 1993, and commissioned on 1 KW power with temporary tower in March, 1997

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Transmitter installed at Barmer is presently operating on 1 KW power. Coverage range of

the transmitter is presently about 60 Kms, which is expected to increase to about 110 Kms, on commissioning of the transmitter with full power of 10 KW, consequent upon the erection of 100 M tower.

(e) and (f) The work of erection of 300 Mts tower at Barmer was awarded to M/s. Triveni Structurals Ltd. in February, 1997. Keeping in view the natural elevation of the site and marginal increase in resultant coverage owing to sparsely populated area, it was decided to reduce the height of the tower to 100 Mts. Tenders for erection of 100 Mts tower have been invited.

Closure of Petrol Pumps

2542. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

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

(a) the details of the petrol pumps that were closed down in the country, State-wise, particularly in U.P. during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for their closure;

(c) whether the number of new retail outlets also commenced during this period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) During the last three years, i.e., from 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, 319 retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) of the public sector oil marketing companies were closed down in the country, including in the State of Uttar Pradesh, for various reasons like non-performance, adulteration and malpractices, benami operation, violation of the dealership agreement, resignation, unauthorized reconstitution, etc.

During this period, 2271 retail outlet dealerships were commissioned all over the country.

[Translation]

FM Radio in Nanded

2543. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal regarding operation of private FM radio in Nanded, Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) A communication had been received from Shri Vijay Darda, Member of Parliament in December 2002 about FM stations in Maharashtra, extent of coverage, perspective planning etc. A reply had been sent in January 2003 giving the requisite details and informing that 1st Phase of privatization of FM Radio stations has been completed and Phase-II is yet to be taken up.

A committee has since been constituted by an Order dated 24th July, 2003, for making recommendations for Phase II.

[English]

Non-Telecast of Documentaries

2544. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether all Doordarshan Kendras of North-Eastern Region have stopped telecasting documentaries and telefilms as Royalty Programmes from 2001;

(b) if so, the details of reasons thereof;

(c) whether these types of Programmes have also

been stopped for the State of Jammu and Kashmir which has similar problems like the North-East; and

(d) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government to revive telecasting of such programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that due to non-availability of funds under the royalty head in the year 2001-02, the Doordarshan Kendras situated in North-East could not telecast any programme on royalty.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that funds under royalty head have been provided in the current financial year i.e. 2003-04.

Requirement of Wagons for Transportation of Foodgrains

2545. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether foodgrains allotted to the States is not reaching there because of the non-availability of the required number of railway wagons for the transportation of grains for distribution amongst the drought hit people;

(b) if so, the States which have been requesting the railways for making available the wagons for the immediate transportation of foodgrains;

(c) the reasons for not making available the required number of wagons; and

(d) the steps being taken to make available the wagons for the immediate transportation of foodgrains to the different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (d) The Railways provide the rakes for transportation of foodgrains

for Public Distribution System and welfare schemes, as per the programme given by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). Railways coordinate with FCI to ensure availability of adequate foodgrains.

Lighting Facilities in Railway Stations

2546. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Railway Stations are not properly lit-up facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons for ignoring such amenities in such Stations; and

(c) the steps taken to have adequate and bright lighting for safety of passengers at Railway Stations particularly in South Central Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Adequate lighting arrangements already exist at all those Railway stations which qualify the norms of electrification.

(c) As per the scale for provision of lights for Railway stations, the recommended illumination level is as under:

Type of Stations	Recommended illumination level
Category A - Zonal Railway Headquarter & State capital	50 lux.
Category B - Railway Divisional Headquarter & State District Headquarter	30 lux
Category C Other small stations	20 lux

The above illumination level is generally being maintained at the Railway stations including the Railway stations of South Central Railway.

Fencing Along Rail Track In Jharkhand

2547. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways has developed any plan to fence certain sections of track in Jharkhand State where elephants have been frequently hit by speeding trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are few cases of elephant hits by running trains between Goelkera-Manoharpur section of Chakradharpur Division on HWH-NGP route in the past. This forest area has been recently declared as "Elephant Reserve" by Forest Deptt. There is a proposal to provide rail fencing at vulnerable locations on 50:50 cost sharing basis by Forest Deptt. and Railways.

(c) and (d) The work of construction of elephant proof fencing on 50:50 cost sharing basis has been sanctioned. The work will be started as soon as money is deposited by the Forest Deptt. and is expected to be completed in two years thereafter.

Fencing in LoC

2548. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI :

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether wire fencing along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir to stall insurgency and militancy is being erected without hinderance from across the border;

(b) if so, the length of Line of Control that has been fenced so far and the length of Line of Control that is still to be fenced with wire; and

(c) the time by which the remaining fencing work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Army has undertaken selective fencing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) as a measure to check infiltration of terrorists. In certain areas where the fencing is close to the Line of Control, Pakistan attempts to hinder the fence construction.

(b) and (c) A frontage of about 110 kms. out of a total 523 kms. that has been planned for fencing along the LoC in J&K, is in progress and expected to be completed by the middle of 2004. Thereafter, the remaining work will be progressed.

Replacement of Wooden Sleepers with Concrete Sleepers

2549. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways had proposed to replace all wooden sleepers by concrete sleepers during the five years period in the phased manners;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of trunk routes identified for replacement during the current financial year;

(d) the length of routes identified for replacement, State-wise;

(e) the details of the rail routes where replacement work of wooden sleepers have since been completed during the last three years, zone-wise; and

(f) the expenditure incurred thereon during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (f) The

work of replacement of sleepers is planned/executed on age cum condition basis a part of normal track renewal, which is planned on Zonal Railway basis instead of on a State basis. Concrete sleepers are being used for main lines and standard turnouts. The unserviceable wooden sleepers on bridges are replaced with steel channel sleepers or wooden sleepers depending on availability. It has been decided that wooden sleepers shall be procured for use on girder bridges and special locations only like non-standard turnouts, diamond crossing etc. for which import of 20000 cum of timber per year (approx 1.4 Lakh sleepers) has been allowed. The track renewal work done and expenditure incurred in last three years is as under :-

Year	Track renewal done (Track Km)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in Cr.)
2002-2003	4776	3298 (Provisional)
2001-2002	3620	2475
2000-2001	3250	2245

Shifting of Oil Depots from Jammu to Udhampur

2550. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

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

(a) whether Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has recently decided to shift its oil depots from Jammu to Udhampur;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the oil companies functioning in J&K are under terrorists threats since the past few years; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the details of the safety measures adopted by BPCL and other oil companies for their installations and for employees in J&K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There has been explosion in Tank Truck outside the Indian Oil Corporation Depot premises on 26.03.2003. Security measures are taken as per guidelines of Ministry of Home Affairs on security. Further, security measures are beefed up with the help of local/District Administration as and when the situation warrants.

Installation of New Power Generating Projects in Punjab

2551. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering proposals to install new power generating plants in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted survey regarding the demand of power in the State in the 2020;

(d) if so, whether the present plan is commensurate to that demand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The 10th Plan capacity addition programme envisaged creation of 1166 MW fresh capacity in the State Sector in Punjab. Work on any of the State Sector power project is yet to commence.

(c) to (e) After taking into account the capacity addition programme during 10th Plan, the energy deficit to the tune of 25.9% and peak deficit to the tune of 34.8% is anticipated in the State of Punjab by the end of 10th Plan i.e. 2006-07.

Task Force on Accident Relief

2552. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have formed or considering to form a 'Task Force' to ensure timely relief for victims of rail accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to delay in providing relief to rail accident victims, many people lost their lives; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay in providing relief and details of efforts the railways propose to make to provide relief to victims without any loss of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a five member high-level Committee was constituted recently to review the Disaster Management system over Indian Railways. The Committee submitted its report containing 111 recommendations, which have since been accepted. Some of the recommendations have been made to speed up the pace of relief and rescue arrangements.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Every effort is made to send medical relief at the site of accident within least possible time. To strengthen the system further, self-propelled Medical Vans have been introduced. Assistance from armed forces and para military forces is also obtained whenever required. More emphasis is being laid on the training of staff in relief and rescue operation. Sophisticated and latest technology

for medical relief and rescue equipment is also being inducted.

Provision of Ladies Compartment In Trains

2553. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are providing 'Ladies' Compartment in all trains to facilitate the female commuters;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are aware that in certain trains, the facility of Ladies' Compartment does not exist resulting in large number of eve-teasing cases;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/to be taken by the Railways to provide 'Ladies' Compartment with security/policy in all passenger/mail trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (d) In the passenger carrying trains, one compartment or such number of berths/seats, as required, are mostly earmarked for exclusive use of ladies. In order to prevent harassment to the lady passengers, checks are conducted with the help of RPG/GRP and the culprits apprehended are dealt with as per the Law. Moreover, special squads consisting of ladies ticket checking staff and lady RPF personnel have been formed at some locations to assist the women passengers. Ladies Compartments are escorted in some suburban areas by women GRP and women RPF staff.

Gap between Demand and Supply of Power in J&K

2554. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a huge gap between demand and supply of power in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether maximum projects are hydro projects;

(c) if so, whether restriction on storage capacity/ total storage capacity of hydro projects has adversely affected the availability of power in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) During the period April-July, 2003 the power supply position of J&K is as under :-

Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)	
	April-July, 2003		April-July, 2003
Requirement	2328	Peak Demand	1195
Availability	2147	Peak Met	1070
Deficit	173	Deficit	125
%	7.4	%	10.5

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The storage capacity that could be provided on the rivers viz. Indus, Jhelum and Chenab is governed by the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty, 1960 signed between India and Pakistan. The hydro electric schemes presently in operation in the State does not have seasonal storage.

(d) Government of J&K have handed over to National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) for development, 7 hydro schemes totalling capacity of 2798 MW in Central Sector out of which construction of two schemes namely Kishanganga (330 MW) and Bursar (1020 MW) envisage creation of storage within the provisions of Indus Water Treaty.

Generation of Power from Thermal and Hydro

2555. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total requirement of power in India as visualized in the Tenth Plan, both thermal and hydel to fulfill the objective of the Tenth Plan; and

(b) the details of the proposals both for private and public sector to reach to the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) A capacity addition target of 41110 MW has been set for the 10th Plan. Sector-wise details are given below:-

Sector	Thermal	Hydro	Nuclear	Total
Central	12790	8742	1300	22832
State	6676	4481	—	11157
Private	5951	1170	—	7121
Total	25417	14393	1300	41110

[Translation]

Stoppage of Trains

2556. SHRI ADHI SANKAR :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms/criteria adopted for providing stoppage of a train.

(b) the details of representations/demands received from state governments/different organisations for providing stoppage of trains in different stations during the last one year, till date, station-wise, and

(c) the action taken/to be taken by the Government on each demand/representation during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Stoppage of a train is provided after taking in to account the status of the train and station, the quantum as well as the pattern of traffic obtaining at the station, availability of suitable alternative services catering to the traffic demand of the station and other operational and commercial considerations.

(b) and (c) Requests for stoppages of trains at various stations are received at different levels of the Railways-Stations, Divisions, Zone, Ministry etc. on a continuous basis and become too voluminous to be compiled and are not being maintained in the Ministry. However, these are examined and action, as found feasible and justified, is taken.

[English]

National Institute of Renewable Energy

2557. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up "National Institute of Renewable Energy";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Institute offers academic courses and training programmes in the field of renewable energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) A National Institute of Renewable Energy is being established as an autonomous institution of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in District Kapurthala, Punjab. The Institute will undertake Research and Development in different areas of non-conventional energy.

(c) and (d) The Institute is not yet fully operational. The construction work of the Institute's buildings is in

progress and action has been initiated towards recruitment of staff. Once the Institute becomes functional, it will also undertake activities relating to Human Resource Development and training programmes in the field of renewable energy.

Recruitment in MES

2558. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Expenditure issued orders during August 1999 imposing a ban on all recruitments as an austerity measure;

(b) whether despite this ban the Military Engineer Services recruited more than 1500 personnel in 'C' and 'D' categories during August 1999 and March 2002;

(c) if so, whether this unauthorised recruitment resulted in an expenditure of Rs. 12.62 crores till March 2002 and additional liability of Rs. 75.00 lakhs per month from April 2002; and

(d) if so, the justification thereof?

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

(c) and (d) The expenditure involved in payment of emoluments of these personnel amounted to Rs. 12.65 crores till March, 2002 and additional liability of Rs. 75.73 lakhs per month from April, 2002 onwards. The recruitment of more than 1500 personnel in MES was made because there was an urgent need of employees. Moreover after the instruction on ban was received by the Engineer-in-Chief, all further recruitment action was stopped.

[Translation]

Special Education Development Programmes for SC Girls

2559. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDIT : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scheme was started on experimental basis in 1996-97 to prepare a package of special education development programme for girls belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the district having very low rate of literacy;

(b) if so, the details of the said scheme and the achievements of the said programme;

(c) whether any decision to merge this scheme with the on-going schemes of the primary education department has been taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme was introduced during 1996-97 on pilot basis with an objective to provide a package of educational inputs through Residential Schools for SC girls. As per 1981 Census, 48 districts situated in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were identified where the Scheduled Caste female literacy was less than 2%. The scheme was formulated to cover those 48 districts. A package grant of Rs. 11,340/- per child per annum for Class I only, was given. The scheme was implemented by the Zila Parishads (District level Panchayats). The scheme has, however, been discontinued since 2001-02.

(c) and (d) A decision was taken to merge the scheme with the Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra Vidyalaya Scheme, which is proposed to be launched by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

Rural Electrification by NTPC

2560. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NTPC is engaged in the task of rural electrification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of villages electrified upto 2002-03; and

(d) the total number of villages of Maharashtra which has been electrified so far?

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

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

(c) The total number of villages electrified upto 31.03.2003 is 5,15,140.

(d) 100% of the villages in Maharashtra have been electrified.

[English]

Present Status of Power Reform

2561. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether power reforms are under implementation for quite some time now;

(b) if so, the details of the present status in this regard;

(c) the extent to which the power reforms have helped to improve performance; and

(d) the details of the targets fixed for the current year?

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

(b) to (d) Ministry of Power has signed State specific Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on Power sector reforms with twenty seven States.

Twenty-one States have constituted State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). Further fifteen SERCs have issued tariff orders. None States have unbundled/

corporatised their State Electricity Boards. Ten States have enacted their own Reform Law.

Distribution has been privatized in Orissa and Delhi.

A new central legislation namely the Electricity Act, 2003 has been enacted, providing for a liberal framework for development of the power sector.

Under the new Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), the Central Government has been providing financial assistance for specific projects in identified distribution circles aimed at bringing about a turn around. This has now been combined with the provision of incentive by way of grant to the States linked to the actual reduction in cash losses. During the Financial Year 2002-03 State power utilities of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana have shown cash loss reduction for the year 2001-02 to the tune of Rs.579.75 crore, Rs.1072.29 crore and Rs.10.20 crore respectively. An interim relief of incentive to these States amounting to Rs.137.89 crore, Rs.236.37 crore and Rs.5.01 crore respectively have been made on March 31,2003.

Substantial relief has also been given to the State Utilities through the securitization of past dues to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) under the Tripartite Agreement signed with 27 out of 28 States.

Double Decker Wagons for Freight Movement

2562. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce double decker stainless steel and aluminium alloy freight trains for freight movement.

(b) if so, whether these wagons are being manufactured indigenously;

(c) if not, whether these are being imported.

(d) if so, the details of the number and the countries from which these wagons are to be imported and the financial implications are involved; and

(e) the names of the countries where the double decker wagons are in use and how far these are suitable, cost effective and quick for movement of goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal under consideration to introduce double decker stainless steel and double decker aluminium freight trains for freight movement.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Double decker wagons are being utilized for transportation of auto cars in United States of America. Double decker wagon can carry more cars as compared to conventional wagon and therefore it is cost effective.

Luggage Cart Facility to Handicapped Persons at Railway Stations

2563. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railways propose to provide luggage carts to handicapped people at railway stations to enable them to move their light luggage;

(b) if so, the details of railway stations where this luggage cart facility is likely to be provided; and

(c) the other facilities likely to be provided to handicapped people at railway stations.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Railways have decided to provide various facilities like wheel chairs, standard ramp with railing for barrier free entry, atleast 2 parking lots for vehicles used by disabled persons, non-slippery walkway from parking lot to building, signages of appropriate visibility, atleast one drinking water tap and toilet on ground floor for use by the physically challenged persons.

Protection of Rights of Disabled

2564. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Human Rights Commission has called for a comprehensive and integral convention to protect and promote the rights of the people with disabilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the concrete efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) and (b) As reported by National Human Rights Commission, an International Workshop for National Human Rights Institutions from the Commonwealth and Asia Pacific Region was organized in New Delhi from 26th to 29th May, 2003 to discuss a proposal to develop a comprehensive and integral United Nations Convention to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

In the second meeting of the Ad-hoc Committee, appointed by the UN General Assembly to consider this matter, the Government of India has supported the proposal to have an International Convention on the protection and promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

In order to protect the promote the interest of the persons with disabilities, "The Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995" which provides for the protection of rights of persons with disabilities and also delineates affirmative action to promote their educational and economic empowerment; and the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 have already been enacted.

Railway Team for Training Abroad

2565. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officers of the Railway Board and Zonal Railways sent for training abroad during the last three years alongwith the purpose of the said training and the benefits accrued therefrom; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on each official during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) 168 officers of the Railway Board and Zonal Railways were sent for training abroad during the last three years (2000-2002). They were sent in connection with different Transfer of Technologies, operation and maintenance of new machines/plants and for upgradation of technical and managerial skills and knowledge. These training helped Railways in upgrading their manufacturing and maintenance technologies and practices as well as improving managerial effectiveness.

(b) Out of 168 officers, 29 were deputed for training abroad under Aid Programmes where no expenditure was incurred. On balance 139 officers, a sum of approx. Rs. 2,40,20,000 was incurred during the last three years. Thus, the average expenditure incurred on each official works out to approx. Rs. 1,43,000 during 2000 to 2002 (three years).

Production of Bio-Mass Energy

2566. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a plan to produce bio-mass energy in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the total allocation made for this purpose and funds released so far to Punjab during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing Programmes on biomass power generation, bagasse co-generation and biomass gasification. A capacity of 593 MW has so far been

installed under these programmes. A target of 775 MW is envisaged for the Tenth Five Year Plan. State-wise targets are not fixed.

(c) State-wise allocation of funds has not been made. An amount of Rs. 8.75 crore has been released during the last three years for biomass energy projects in Punjab. No releases have been made so far during the current year.

Agreement between BHEL and NTPC

2567. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an agreement between BHEL and NTPC to set up a joint venture company for EPC and maintenance of power plant in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is to be commissioned;

(d) whether there is such other proposal with the ministry to use expertise of Public Sector Undertakings to provide know-how in different fields; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE) : (a) BHEL & NTPC have signed a memorandum of Understanding to set-up a Joint Venture Company (JVC) for this purpose.

(b) The MoU envisages inter-alia the following activities :-

- Running and maintenance jobs of main power plant and its auxiliaries.
- The Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) and other jobs where promoter companies are not interested. The promoter companies can utilize the resources of JVC/outsource the jobs to JVC.

— All peripheral activities such as Township Maintenance, Upkeep of Office Complex, Loading and Unloading, etc.

(c) The Memorandum of Understanding is valid for a period of one year or till the formation of JVC whichever is earlier.

(d) and (e) There is no such other proposal with the Ministry at present.

Circulation of Fake Newspapers

2568. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of circulation of fake newspapers in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of such newspapers alongwith action/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Whether circulation of newspapers, which are not being published under validly authenticated declaration as required under the Press and Registration of Books Act 1867, is brought to notice, the concerned District Magistrate is advised to take necessary action.

As regards false claim of circulation by newspapers, Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) may check the circulation claim of such newspapers.

(b) During 2001-02, circulation check of 1679 newspapers was completed by RNI. Out of these, claim of 301 was fully established, 807 lower established and 571 unestablished.

Translation of Technical Manuals and Operating Materials Into Indian Languages

2569. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the technical manuals and other operating materials of the Railways are in English or other foreign languages;

(b) whether the Railways has made any efforts to get such materials translated into Indian languages;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action taken to ensure that technical operating manuals are available in languages which can be read by engine drivers, gangmen, fitters etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) There are a total of 435 Codes/Manuals/Rule Books etc. in use in the Railways and out of these, 393 are in Hindi/English-Hindi bilingual form. The remaining 42 are in English, the details of which is given below :-

Under translation - 17

Under printing - 21

Under review - 04

(b) As per the Central Government's language policy, work in the Central Government Offices is to be done in Hindi or English. Accordingly, Codes/Manuals/Rule Books etc. are to be prepared in Hindi-English bilingual form.

(c) As per the Central Government's language policy, efforts are on to get the remaining 42 Codes/Manuals/Rules Books also published in Hindi-English bilingual form as early as possible.

(d) To meet the needs of less literate staff in certain lower categories, rule books are made in regional languages also.

Train Accident at Gaisal

2570. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ghastly accident at Gaisal in which

more than 600 people died was found to have been caused by human error;

(b) if so, the punitive action taken against the concerned staff found responsible for the accident; and

(c) the present status in regard to settlement of claims to the victims of said accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The accident caused deaths of 286 persons and injuries to other 359 persons. G.N. Ray Commission, which inquired into the accident, concluded that the head-on collision that took place at Gaisal on 02.08.1999 between 4055 Dn Dibrugarh-Delhi Brahmaputra Mail and 5610 Up Awadh Assam Express occurred due to "failure of Railway Staff".

(b) G.N. Ray Commission, constituted for the purpose, fixed responsibility on 35 Railway officials. In addition, Ministry of Railway held 15 more officials 'blameworthy' on review of the report. Disciplinary Action has been taken against those held responsible based on the gravity of the negligence.

(c) 609 claims were filed and 603 of them have been settled. Rs. 10.53 crores have been paid as compensation. An amount of Rs. 46.94 lakhs was paid as ex-gratia.

Power Projects Cleared by Central Electricity Authority

2571. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI Y.V. RAO :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority has given clearance to several power projects recently for generation of power upto 11,500 MW;

(b) if so, the details of the projects cleared during the last one year;

(c) the details of the capacity of these projects and total investments involved; and

(d) the details of the present status of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Central Electricity Authority has accorded Techno-Economic

Clearance to 21 power projects aggregating to 11,681 MW with an estimated cost of Rs. 46,445.174 crores during the period from 1st August, 2002 to 31st July, 2003. This comprises of 8 hydro power projects constituting 5062 MW and 13 thermal power projects having an installed capacity of 6619 MW. Details in regard to installed capacity, estimated cost and present status of these projects are given as statement.

Statement

Details of Techno-Economic Clearance (Tec) to Power Projects Central Electricity Authority (CEA) During 1st August, 2002 to 31st July, 2003

Name of the Schemes/ Executing Agency	Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated cost	Status*
1	2	3	4
Hydro			
Allain Duhangan HEP (Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving mills Ltd., H.P.	2x96	Rs. 922.355 Cr.	The project was accorded TEC on 20.8.2002. The project has been identified to give benefit in 11th Plan.
UHI HEP Stage III (HPSEB), H.P.	2x50	Rs. 431.56 Cr.	TEC accorded on 19.09.2002. The project is targeted to be commissioned in 10th Plan.
Sewa HEP Stage II (NHPC), J&K	3x40	US \$ 0.360 M + Rs. 673.75 Cr.	TEC accorded on 18.10.2002. Infrastructure works are in progress. The project is scheduled for completion in 10th Plan.
Teesta HEP Stage III (NHPC), W.B.	4x33	US \$ 4.876M + Rs. 758.82 Cr.	TEC accorded on 28.11.2002. Infrastructure works are in progress. The project is targeted for completion in 10th Plan.
Subansiri Lower HEP (NHPC) Arunachal Pradesh/Assam	8x250	US \$ 39.648 M + Rs. 6418.37 Cr. (12/02 P.L)	TEC accorded on 13.1.2003. Infrastructure/enabling works are in progress. The project is identified to give benefit in 11th Plan.
Jalaput Dam Toe HEP M/s Orissa Power Consortium, Orissa/A.P.	3x6=18 MW	Rs. 69.68 Crs. (completed cost)	TEC has been given on 31.1.2003. The project is identified for give benefit in 11th Plan.

1	2	3	4
Karcham Wangotto HEP (M/s. JP Karcham Hydro Corp. Ltd., H.P)	4x250	US \$117.44M+ Rs.5345.88 Crs.	TEC accorded on 31st March, 2003. The project is identified to give benefit in 11th Plan.
Tipaimukh HEP (NEEPCO), Manipur	6x250	Rs. 5163.86 Cr. (12/02 P.L)	TEC accorded on 2.7.2003. The project is identified to give benefit in 11th Plan.
Total (Hydro)	5062 MW	Rs. 20576.695 Crore	
Thermal			
Valithur (Perungualm) CCGT (TNEB), Tamilnadu	94	US \$ 21.0 M + Rs. 201.613 Cr.	TEC accorded on 2.8.2002. Project approved by State Government. The project has been identified as an additional project for completion during 10th Plan.
Tau Devi Lal TPS (U-7&8) Stage V (Panipat) (HPGCL), Haryana	2x250 = 500 MW	Rs. 1785.36 cr.	TEC accorded on 8.8.2002. The project is under construction and is targeted for commissioning in 10th Plan.
Neyveli TPS II Expansion (NLC)	2x250 = 500 MW	US\$12.09 M + Rs.1664.952 Cr.	TEC accorded by CEA on 19.08.02. The project is targeted for commissioning in 10th Plan.
Vindhyachal STPs Stage III (NTPC) M.P.	2x500 = 1000 MW	US\$ 465.5 M+Rs.1913.871 Cr. (Present day cost)	TEC accorded on 27.8.2002. Project is under execution and targeted for commissioning in 10th Plan.
Sipat STPS Stage II (NTPC), Chhattishgarh	1x660 = 660 MW	US\$ 294.386 M+Rs.1131.666 Cr. (Present day cost)	TEC accorded on 29.8.2002. Capacity revised to 2x500 MW. The project is targeted for commissioning in 10th Plan.
Sanjay Gandhi TPS Exten. U-5 (MPSEB) M.P.	500 MW	Rs. 2093.75 Crs.	TEC accorded on 20.12.2002. The project is under construction and is targeted for commissioning in 10th Plan.
Kuttalam CCGT(TNEB), T.N.	100 MW	US\$ 16.157 M+Rs. 232.749 Crs.	TEC accorded on 27.12.2002. The project is under construction and is targeted for commissioning in 10th Plan.
Anpara 'C' TPS (UPRVUNL), UP	2x500 = 1000 MW	Jap. Yen 35.675B+ Rs.2100.233 Crs. (completed cost)	TEC was accorded by CEA on 16.1.2003. One unit of 500 MW scheduled for completion in 10th Plan and the second unit of 500 MW is scheduled for completion in 11th Plan.

1	2	3	4
Vijaywada TPS Stage IV APGENCO, A.P.	1x660=660 MW	Euro 231.730 M+ Rs. 1600.609 Crs. (completed cost)	TEC accorded on 28.02.2003. The project is targeted for commissioning in 10th Plan.
Kutch Lignite TPS Extn. U-IV GEB. Gujarat	1x75=75 MW	Rs. 304.69 Crs. (completed cost)	TEC issued on 6.3.2003. The project is targeted for commissioning in 10th Plan.
Monarchek CCGT Project in Tripura by NEEPCO (Revised Proposal)	280	US\$99.55M + Rs.504.156 Crs. =Rs. 977.019 Crs. (completed cost)	TEC accorded on 24.4.03. The project is targeted for commissioning in 10th Plan.
Kahalgao STPP – St. II, Phase-I in Bihar by NTPC	2x500=1000	US\$373.548M+ Rs. 2118.577 Crs. =Rs.3930.285 Crs. (Present Day Cost)	TEC accorded on 13.6.03. The project is targeted for commissioning in 10th Plan.
Paras TPS Expansion in Maharashtra	1x250=250	Rs.1026.70 Crs. (completed cost)	TEC accorded on 13.06.03. The project is targeted for commissioning in 10th Plan.
Total (Thermal)	6619 MW	Rs. 25868.479 Crore	
Grand Total Hydro + Thermal	11681 MW,	Rs. 46445.174 Crore	

*Subject to clearances, approvals, financial closure etc.

Ticket Price of AC Chair Cars

2572. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that extremely high priced tickets for short distances have been a major defect in the occupancy rate of AC Chair Cars;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways have made any efforts to fix the price of the AC Chair Car seats in a competitive and intelligent way;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways propose to allow

zonal authorities to fix chair car rates according to the market;

(f) if so, the guidelines issued to zonal authorities in fixing the prices of AC Chair Car seats for journey shorter than 150 kms; and

(g) the steps proposed to give absolute power in this matter to railway zonal authorities?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The fare structure of all trains including Jan

Shatabdi, and Rajdhani Express trains have been rationalized to make the fares competitive.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Doubling of Bhatinda-Rajpura Line

2573. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether plan for doubling the railway track between Bhatinda and Rajpura under Northern Railway has been sanctioned long back;

(b) if so, the total cost of the project;

(c) the total amount sanctioned and released till date;

(d) the present status thereof; and

(e) the schedule for completion of said project?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Foreign Loan for Capacity Addition and Expansion

2574. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power companies propose to raise about 650 million dollar for the capacity expansion and to meet the working capital requirements;

(b) if so, the amount of foreign loans proposed to be acquired by the power companies both in the private and public sector;

(c) whether the same will be sufficient to meet the total requirements for capacity addition in the different power projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) In order to meet the requirements of funds for new power generation projects, power companies need both equity and debt. In the present liberalized environment, they can approach both domestic and international markets for funds for their expansion plans.

Post De-Mining Scenario

2575. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether border area in post de-mining scenario is more dangerous than earlier.

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that 20 percent of land mines could not be detected during the de-mining operation;

(c) whether the Government have imported foreign de-miners to protect civilian population from land-mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such machines have been found effective;

(f) whether the armed force personnel have been trained in such de-mining operations;

(g) if not, the steps taken to sensitise the armed forces; and

(h) the time by which the entire area of border will be made totally free from mines?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Demining operations are currently in progress and therefore any reference to post-demining scenario is premature at this stage.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Some demining equipments have been imported very recently, and it is too early to quantify the efficacy of the equipment under field conditions.

(f) and (g) Armed Forces Personnel are trained in demining operations.

(h) The exact time by which borders will be totally free from mines, cannot be stated with any degree of certainty, as it depends on various factors, such as weather condition, terrain configuration, safety measures being employed.

New Police Units for Dalits In U.P.

2576. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has decided to constitute an new police unit for dalits under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act keeping in view of the increasing number of cases of atrocities on them;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal received by Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken responsibility for contributing half of the expenditure incurred for the said purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said funds are likely to released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Availability of Natural Gas in Maharashtra

2577. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of natural gas available as on July 31, 2003 in Maharashtra.

(b) the details of units in Maharashtra which has been allocated the natural gas as on July 31, 2003;

(c) the details of units in Maharashtra which are not consuming gas inspite of allocation; and

(d) the details of applications for natural gas pending as on July 31, 2003 in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) After processing for extraction of value added liquid products and meeting internal consumption requirements of ONGC, during the month of July, 2003 an average of 9.6 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) of gas was available to M/s GAIL (India) Limited for sale to consumers in Urban region in Mumbai.

(b) Details of unit-wise gas allocation to different consumers in Maharashtra is given at statement enclosed.

(c) In Mumbai region only M/s Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is not consuming gas w.e.f. 21.2.2003 against their allocation.

(d) Application are received from time to time from different parts of the country including, Maharashtra for allocation of gas. However, as against allocated quantity of 16.6 MMSCMD, the average availability of natural gas in Maharashtra is only 9.6 MMSCMD as of July, 2003, necessitating pro-rata cut on the existing consumers. Therefore, fresh applications for allocation of natural gas in Mumbai region in Maharashtra are not being considered.

Statement

(in MMSCMD)

Consumer	Allocation/ Contracted Quantity
1	2
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers, Thal	3.00

1	2
Heavy Water Plant, Thal	0.15
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers, Thal (Fallback)	0.60
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers, Trombay	1.80
Ispat Industries Limited	1.75
Vikram Ispat	
Firm	0.75
Fallback	0.15
Deepak Fertilizer & Petrochemicals Limited	0.60
Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited	0.60
Mahanagar Gas Limited	1.50
LPG-GAIL, Usar	0.45
Maharashtra State Electricity Board	3.50
Tata Electric Company, Trombay	1.50
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mahul	0.15
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mahul	0.05
Hindustan Copper Limited, Taloja	0.01
H&R Johnson (Fallback)	0.04
Total	16.60

Early Departure of Rajdhani Express

2578. SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI J.S. BRAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether on May, 25, 2003 Rajdhani Express (via Patna) left Howrah Station hours before its

scheduled departure causing great inconvenience to the booked passengers who were left stranded at the railway station;

(b) if so, the number of passengers left stranded and the facilities provided to these passengers by Railway authorities;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made by the Government into the circumstances leading to the train's departure hours before the scheduled time;

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

(e) the action taken by the Government in the matter and also to ensure that such incident do not occur in future?

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

(b) to (e) In March 2003, a decision was taken to cancel the 2305/2306 Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express via Patna and to increase the frequency of 2301/2302 Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express via Gaya from 5 days to a daily service. However, in view of representations and demands from various quarters, it was decided that 2305/2306 Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express will run as a weekly service and 2301/2302 Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express will run on 6 days a week as against a daily service decided earlier.

The resumption of 2305/2306 Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express via Patna was w.e.f. 19.05.2003 and press notifications for incorporating the changes in the route, timings were notified in all the leading newspapers of Kolkata, Dhanbad, Ranchi and Patna on 14.05.2003 and 15.05.2003. Despite advance notifications some of the passengers arrived at Howrah on 25.05.2003 as per the timings printed on their tickets. Approximately 111 passengers, who missed the Rajdhani Express on 25.05.2003 due to change in the route and timings, were

cleared/dispatched to their destinations by attaching one AC-2 Tier and one AC-3 Tier coaches by 231 UP Howrah-New Delhi Special train. The passengers who wanted to cancel their journey were given full refund at Howrah Station itself.

Whenever, due to any change in the route of the train, timings of the train are changed at short notice, necessary notifications at the relevant stations and offices are displayed/announced to apprise the passengers of the actual departure/arrival of the train.

[Translation]

Increase in Power Generation Capacity in Bihar

2579. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the annual increase in the power generating capacity of each power station in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the power generation capacity of these stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) There is no new capacity addition in the existing power stations in Bihar in the last three years.

(b) and (c) NTPC has taken up execution of 2x500 MW Stage-II Expansion Phase-I at Kahalgaon for benefit in the 10th Plan.

Grant to Institutions

2580. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned grant to some institutions, during March, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of

institutions and the funds allocated to them State-wise and district-wise;

(c) whether these sanctions were accorded leaving aside the old cases received by the Government in the year 2001-2002 with the recommendations of the Local Member of Parliament, particularly Member of Parliament from Dhulia and Nandubar districts of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith on whose recommendation this grant was sanctioned; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Running of Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express via Patna

2581. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani has been diverted to run through Patna;

(b) if so, whether it is more time consuming and the passengers are required to pay more due to this change in route;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering to review the issue; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) The frequency of 2301/2302 Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express via Gaya has been increased from 5 days to 6 days a week and 2305/2306 Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express via Patna has been decreased from bi-weekly to

weekly with effect from 19.05.2003. As the distance covered by Howrah Rajdhani via Patna is more than that of Howrah Rajdhani via Gaya, it (2305/2306) takes more time compared to 2301/2302 Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express. The fare is also comparably higher due to longer distance via Patna.

- (d) There is no such proposal, at present.
- (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Task Force on FM Radio Channels

2582. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Task Force to consider the problems being faced by FM Radio-channels in view of their increasing losses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the above said decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). By an Order dated 24th July 2003, a committee has been constituted to make recommendations for Radio Broadcasting for Phase-II, whose terms of reference inter alia include.

- (i) Determining a transparent and effective bidding/auction process to be adopted for allotment of frequencies.
- (ii) Assessment of a viable licensee fee structure for the various cities (one time entry fee, fixed licence fees, revenue sharing etc.) to be based on clearly defined parameters.
- (iii) Study the desirability and legal implications of making modifications in licensing regime of

Phase-I licencees should a different licensing regime be proposed for phase-II.

- (iv) Determining the legal implications of the regime which may be proposed vis-a-vis the existing one.

Copy of the order giving details of terms of reference may be seen in the Ministry of I&B's website www.mib.nic.in

- (c) The committee has been asked to submit its report by 30th September 2003.

[English]

Import of Explosive Cartridges

2583. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Ministry of Defence concluded a contract with a foreign firm in September 1999 for supply of 34,000 cartridges during 1999 itself at a unit cost of US \$ 17.45, equivalent to Rs. 749.47;

- (b) if so, whether these cartridges were actually delivered during March 2000 and US \$ 593,300 was paid to the foreign firm in July, 2000;

- (c) if so, the reasons for delay in the supply;

- (d) the urgency to place this order when stock for four months was already available with the Air Force

- (e) whether import of these cartridges at a higher cost led to avoidable expenditure of Rs. 50.82 lakhs as compared to indigenous cost of Cartridges; and

- (f) if so the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

- (b) The cartridges were received at consignee unit in March 2000 and the payment of US \$ 593,300 was made to the vendor in July 2000

(c) The long time taken was due to transportation of the cartridges in the first leg by sea, and then by road and rail.

(d) The cartridges had to be imported on account of the sorties planned as per War Plan and approved scale for War Wastage Reserve (WWR).

(e) Shelf life of imported cartridges is 10 years whereas the shelf life of indigenous cartridges is 6 years. This 40% extra shelf life offsets the additional cost of imported cartridges.

(f) Does not arise in view of answers at (c), (d) and (e).

Corporate Safety Plan

2584. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has finalized a 10 year corporate safety plan for 2003 to 2013;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. A 10 Year Corporate Safety Plan for 2003 to 2013 is under finalisation.

Syndication Arrangements with Foreign Newspapers

2585. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow

registered Indian newspaper to enter into syndication arrangements with foreign newspapers using the automatic route upon fulfilment of certain conditions;

(b) if so, the details of the fresh guidelines issued in this regard and to what extent this has helped foreign newspapers to be registered in India;

(c) the extent to which these guidelines will have a cap on the reproduction of the material of foreign publications in the Indian Newspapers/magazines;

(d) the number of such applications that have been received so far;

(e) the steps taken to ensure that country's security and cultural heritage are not invaded by foreigners through foreign direct investments in electronic media and print media; and

(f) the norms prescribed for this purpose and at what level they are scrutinized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Indian newspapers have been entering into syndication arrangements and remitting foreign exchange in payment under these arrangements for which permission of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was given on a case to case basis. Guidelines for Syndication Arrangements by Newspapers have been issued by this Ministry on 11th June 2003, which seek to liberalise and streamline the present regime. A copy of the Guidelines is at statement enclosed.

(d) So far, no application has been received from newspapers in the Ministry after issue of the above guidelines.

(e) and (f) Comprehensive guidelines relating to print media, films and broadcasting have been issued that provide safeguards for ensuring that the security and cultural heritage of the country are not invaded by foreigners. These guidelines are available on the website of the Ministry at www.mlb.nic.in.

Statement**Guidelines for Syndication Arrangements
by Newspapers**

All registered newspapers (Indian publications) are authorised to made syndication arrangements for procuring material including photographs, cartoons, crossword puzzles, articles and features from foreign publications (content provider) under automatic approval route subject to the following conditions:-

- i. The total material so procured and actually printed in an issue of the Indian publication does not exceed 7.5% of the total printed area of that issue.
- ii. The syndicated material does not include full copy of the editorial page or the front page of the foreign publication.
- iii. The mast head of the content provider publication is not utilised in the Indian publication.
- iv. Credit to the content provider is necessarily given prominently as a buying in the Indian publication.
- v. The material procured under syndication arrangement is such that has already been published in the content provider publication.

2. Any case involving relaxation of any of the above conditions would require to be examined by the Ministry of I&B, and, before any material is actually procured under syndication arrangement beyond the above noted conditions, the Indian publication should have applied for and obtained prior approval of the Ministry of I&B.

3. These guidelines would not apply to the cases where Ministry of I&B has issued its approval/no objection certificate for publication of Indian edition of a foreign magazine/journal/newspaper.

MR. SPEAKER : The House adjourned till twelve noon.

11.35 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
twelve of the clock.*

12.01 hrs.

[English]

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled on
Twelve of the clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

12.01-½ hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Adhir Chowdhary and some
other hon. Member came and stood on the
floor near the Table.)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 1.30 P.M.

12.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty
minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.*

13.32 hrs.

[English]

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-two
minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

13.32½ hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi and some
other hon. Members came and stood on the
floor near the Table.)*

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I would hear you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever you have to say, say it
from your respective seats. I would permit you to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I can't hear you from here. Please
speak from your seats.

(Interruptions)

13.33 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY
AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : I beg to lay on the
Table a copy of the 'Quarterly Statement on the Economy
and Budget (April-June, 2003) (Hindi and English
versions) under clause 7(1) of the Fiscal Responsibility
and Budget Management Bill, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7896/2003]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE
FERNANDES) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Administration Reports
(Hindi and English versions) of the Cantonment
Boards, for the year 2000-2001.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned
at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7897/2003]

13.33¼ hrs.

DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES – A REVIEW

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : I beg to lay on the Table a
copy each of the Hindi and English versions of the
'Departmentally Related Standing Committees (2002) — A
Review'

13.33½ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS – GENERAL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY
AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : I beg to present
statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the
Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the
Budget (General) for 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7896 A/2003]

13.33¾ hrs.

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL – 2003*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Bill for introduction, Shri Jaswant
Singh.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II,
Section-2, dated 7.8.2003.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I introduce the Bill.

13.34 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need to shift oil depot from Ambala Cantt. to some other place in the interest of safety

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the oil depot located in Ambala Cantt. under my Lok Sabha Constituency Ambala now lies in the midst of a heavily populated area. Even otherwise Ambala has a military airport and is strategically very important. The concern of the denizens of Ambala Cantt. has further been increased after explosion in LPG storage depot in Meerut. This oil depot supplies oil to several States.

Therefore, I request Union Government to shift this oil depot to another place in the interest of safety of the city.

*Treated as Laid on the Table.

(ii) Need to provide ropeway facility at historical and tourist places in Rajasthan

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, is known for historical and religious place. Nahargarh, Jaigarh, Galta and Amer all are historical and religious places. Both domestic and foreign tourists come to Jaipur. Provision of a ropeway facility at the above mentioned historical places would be both convenient and enjoyable for tourists.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to provide a ropeway at the historical places for the convenience of tourists.

(iii) Need to lay rail line between Deoghar and Rajmahal via Godda in Jharkhand

SHRI PRADIP YADAV (Godda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir Godda district of Jharkhand is number one in the country in coal production and storage, even then the facility of road, rail or air linkage is not available. Therefore, the inhabitants of this region face difficulty in transportation and as a result of that development has suffered.

Therefore, with a view to promote overall development of the area and to provide adequate facility to the inhabitants, I urge upon the Government to lay the rail line between Deoghar and Rajmahal via Godda.

(iv) Need to provide better facilities at Ekambrakuppam Railway Station, Tamil Nadu

[English]

DR. N. VENKATASWAMY (Tirupati) : Ekambrakuppam Railway Station is the centre for many villages and Taluk headquarters Nagari. But it is in a very bad shape. The platform of the Ekambrakuppam Railway Station is situated in a peculiar way. It has two platforms one above and another below. Trains going towards Madras halt at lower platform and trains coming from Chennai halt at higher platform. The passengers who come from Chennai have

[Dr. N. Venkataswamy]

to face difficulty to come down to lower level and go to town. The upper platform is not in complete shape. *Pucca* platform has to be constructed. There is no shelter also for the passengers and for other amenities like benches for passengers to sit.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Railways to see that the authorities are instructed to take the work of remodeling the railway platform so that passengers move freely.

Further, the people of Ekambrakuppam request to reserve 2 or 3 berths in all trains going to Hyderabad from Tirupati. Tickets will be purchased at Ekambrakuppam and people may board the train either at Tirupati or Renigunta Railway Station.

(v) Need to advise NABARD to provide financial help for promotion of horticultural products in East Champaran district, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mehasi block of East Champaran district, Bihar is a leading producer of Lichi, honey and shell in the entire country. At present Lichi is being cultivated in 35,000 acres. In east Champaran district alone, a total of 50,000 acres is under Lichi cultivation, which is highest in Bihar. From this region, every year Rs. 30 crore worth of Lichi is traded both inside and outside the country. The Lichi growers and farmers have to incur heavy losses in international market in the absence of every Government controlled market for the export of Lichi.

Bee keeping is also done on large scale in Mehasi block. In shell based industries, Mehasi ranks second in the world and first in India. Shell made buttons of Mehasi were supplied to Britain before independence, but now it is exported to America, Canada, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and gulf countries. The cosmetic goods made from shell in Mehasi are very popular among foreign tourists and in abroad.

Therefore, I request the Government to instruct commercial banks and institutions such as NABARD, NAFED and horticulture department etc. to provide assistance to Lichi, honey and shell producers of Mehasi block of East Champaran district so that the cultivators of this area are able to get proper remuneration for their labour.

(vi) Need for construction of underground and over-bridges on Palanpur-Shyamkhali and Jodhpur-Bhilari railway line

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a need to construct underground and over-bridges at various places on broadgauge railway line being laid from headquarter Palanpur to Shyamkhali and Jodhpur to Bhilari in my Parliamentary Constituency Banaskantha because at some places this railway line is not up to level of the road. It would be beneficial in two ways—First it would ensure smooth movement of traffic and secondly posting of a watchman at railway gates would no longer required. It is in the interest of railways as well as public.

Through this House, I urge the Central Government to consider it seriously.

(vii) Need to shift Depot of Indian Oil Corporation located near Raxaul Railway Station to some other place in the interest of safety

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a Depot of Indian Oil Corporation located near Raxaul Railway Station in my Parliamentary Constituency. The area around this depot is densely populated and there is a busy market also. Petroleum products are supplied to Nepal through this depot. Any incident if occurred in this depot would cause a heavy loss to life and property. A dry port has already been constructed in Nepal.

Through this House, I urge to shift this depot to dry port of Nepal. If it is not possible, it may be shifted to a less populated area to avoid loss to life and property in case of any accident.

**(viii) Need to release funds to the Government
of Kerala for settlement of landless
tribals in Wayanad**

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALAL (Mavelikara) : The Kerala Government is committed to locate land for allotment to the tribals. But in spite of strenuous efforts, Government could not locate enough land in resettling the landless tribals. Financial position of the State does not permit purchase of land. Most of the tribal population resides in Wayanad. The number of landless tribals in Wayanad alone is estimated to be 13303. About 2184 tribes in Wayanad have less than one acre of land. If the problem of landless tribals in Wayanad can be settled, the Government can start other activities in the resettled areas. The Kerala Government has requested for additional Central assistance of rupees one hundred crore during this financial year for purchase of land for settling landless tribals in April, 2003. However, it seems that the Central Government has not taken any action so far.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to release rupees one hundred crore to Kerala Government immediately to purchase land for settling landless tribals.

**(ix) Need to provide compensation to the
farmers whose crops have been affected due
to drought in Kodarma Parliamentary
Constituency, Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH (Kodarma) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Giridih, Kodarma and Hazaribagh districts come under Kodarma Parliamentary Constituency of Jharkhand State. Bhadaï crop in these three districts has been destroyed in the absence of adequate rainfall and Sapling of Paddy could not be undertaken till now. A very serious financial problem will emerge before the farmers of all the three districts if it does not rain even now. I demand the Central Government to provide early compensation to the farmers in these three districts whose

crops have been damaged so that they could become financially strong.

**(x) Need to withdraw the move to shift the
headquarter of Syndicate Bank from
Manipal to Bangalore**

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi) : Dakshina Kannada was once considered as the cradle of private Indian banking and financial institutions. Many such banks, who pioneered private and rural banking, have now been nationalised.

Among them is Syndicate bank which has now spread its network of branches nation-wide. It is also the lead bank in many districts predominantly agricultural. It had also pioneered the small saving Pygmy door-collection programmes. Syndicate bank is presently headquartered at Manipal. Its name is so deeply associated and engrained with the history of Manipal, the people of the region consider both the names Manipal and Syndicate bank, Synonymous and have become inseparable.

Against this backdrop, there are moves by the bank management to shift its corporate headquarters from Manipal to Bangalore. Manipal offers all the communication networking facilities and other banking infrastructure that Bangalore offers and there is no valid reason for shifting the headquarters to Bangalore. This reported move has hurt the sentiments of the people of the region. I urge the Government to abandon this move in public interest.

**(xi) Need to repair Farakka bridge on river
Ganga and also construct second
alternative bridge there**

SHRI ABUL HASANT KHAN (Jangipur) : Farakka Barrage-cum-Bridge on river is strategically located and is the only link between the North-East and the rest of the country. National Highway No. 34 passes through the bridge and it also links Nepal, Bhutan, Indo-China Border at Nathu-La Pass.

[Shri Abul Hasant Khan]

Such an important bridge is in distress and the Farakka Barrage Bridge Authority have warned that a disaster may take place anytime if the loading pressure of vehicles continues and further increase. Apart from roadways; railways caters more than 20 pairs of trains every day.

Accordingly, the barrage authorities have approached the Central Government a number of times for an alternative second barrage with an estimated cost of Rs.120 crore. There was a provision for a second bridge on river Ganga when the existing bridge was constructed but the Centre had rejected the proposal which would cost nearly 120 crore rupees for want of fund. The existing bridge can earn 20 crore rupees annually through toll tax and initial investment for the second bridge can be made from there. Money can also be obtained from financial institutions.

I urge the Central Government to repair the existing bridge and construct the second alternative bridge immediately.

**(xii) Need to retain normal annual allocation of
Rs.190 crores for rural road connectivity
in Andhra Pradesh**

DR. RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI (Bapatla) : Sir, the Ministry of Rural Development has indicated that the allocation for PMGSY Phase-IV for Andhra Pradesh will only be Rs.90 crores as against normal annual allocation of Rs.190 crores. This is on the plea that there are no significant number of unconnected habitations in the State.

Andhra Pradesh is predominantly a rural State with 72.65% of population living in rural areas. There are 67,505 habitations out of which only 53,986 habitations are connected with some kind of road leaving 13,519 habitations without any connectivity. Under the PMGSY in the State only 4380 habitations could be connected till now.

Many of the habitations in the Andhra Pradesh are

connected with earthen and gravel roads which are in a bad shape. It would require an amount of Rs.5422 crores to bring up the entire road network in the State to that of an acceptable standard under PMGSY.

Under these circumstances, the present allocation of Rs.190 crores itself may not be sufficient if the road has to be upgraded to all weather standards as per the norms of PMGSY,

I request the Government of India to review the status and retain the normal annual allocation of Rs.190 crores for rural road connectivity to connect all habitations in Andhra Pradesh.

**(xiii) Need to expedite construction of Agra-
Kanpur highway in Etawah Parliamentary
Constituency, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through this House, I would like to submit that people in Parliamentary Constituency Etawah are facing lot of problems due to delay in construction of Agra-Kanpur national highway. Besides, the work on this highway is not being done as per the standards. Potholes have been formed on the roads. Problem has become grave as the construction work on bye-pass road in Etawah has been stopped for quite a long time.

Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister to give priority to the early construction of road in the interest of the people.

**(xiv) Need to widen N.H.-5 and make it four-lane
connecting Ennore Port in Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur) : The Ennore Port is the first limited port in India which was inaugurated on 02.02.2001 by our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri A.B. Vajpayee under the Presidentship of the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Karunanidhi, which falls

under Sriperumbudur constituency, due to this port, the connectivity of port roads are very busy due to container vehicle movements. The road is connecting N.H.-5 with Ennore Port. Hence, the road may kindly be converted into four-lane traffic road.

The Ennore Port, basically falls under the District where Perinagar Anna was born I urge that the Government to re-name the port as "Peraingnar Anna Port" instead of, Ennore Port.

(xv) Need to declare 'Giripar' area of Himachal Pradesh as a Scheduled Tribe area

[Translation]

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an area of Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh where people belonging to all sub-castes of Hatti tribe are peacefully raising a demand to declare this area as a tribal one for the last 25 years.

Central Government has already declared the Jaunsar Babar area located on the other side of Giri river as a tribal area but the Giripar area has been deprived of this status. Both the areas have similarity in the style of their living, art and culture, costume, food habits, customs, language and festivals. Their problems are similar, their traditions are a same, therefore, they should have been declared as tribal areas simultaneously. However, it could not be happened. Despite having full faith in Indian Constitution, the people of this community resolve their disputes in their respective village Panchayats "Khumli" and both the parties have to abide by the decision. Besides, Hatti community is backward from social, economical and educational point of view. The survey conducted recently has proved it. Though the area is abound with natural reserves but no industry has been established there.

I request the Central Government to make constitutional amendments so as to declare this area as a tribal one.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is it appropriate what you are doing?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I adjourn the House till 2.30 p.m.

13.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

14.31 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Naresh Puglia and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we have to take up further consideration of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2003. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you were on your legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramdasji, I will listen to you. Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats. I will hear you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was on his legs on item No. 8, that is, further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri P.C. Thomas on the 6th August, 2003, namely:-

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, this Bill was taken up for consideration on 6th August, 2003 and you were on your legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

Singh, are you participating in this debate or not? Will you please tell me? Otherwise, I will call the next speaker.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you were on your legs. You may speak now. I am giving you the floor.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go back to your places.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on 8th August, 2003.

14.34 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of
the Clock on Friday, August 8, 2003/
Shravana 17, 1925 (Saka)*

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