

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 20, 2000/Agrahayana 29, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Sachindralal Singh.

Shri Sachindralal Singh was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979 representing the Tripura West Parliamentary Constituency.

An able administrator, Shri Singh was the first Chief Minister of Tripura. He had also been the Chairman of the Tripura Territorial Council besides various other organisations.

An active parliamentarian, he was also a member of the Committee on subordinate Legislation from 1977 to 1979.

A well-known social worker, Shri Singh organised the Tripura Rajya Gana Parishad. He worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the peasants and the downtrodden. He also worked for famine relief in tribal areas in Tripura. He did a pioneering work in the development of Tripura and strove for the development of Railways in his home State.

An uncompromising freedom fighter, Shri Singh agitated against the autocratic monarchy rule in Tripura. He was connected with the Chittagong Armoury Raiders. He was imprisoned for more than 14 years.

Shri Sachindralal Singh passed away on 8 December, 2000 at New Delhi at the age of 93.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed soul.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.01½ hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 441.

11.02 ¼ hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Augmentation of Water Resources in the States

+
*441. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in the country to assist the State Governments to increase water resources including rain water harvesting system;

(b) the allocation made and the amount released to each State during each of the last three years till date scheme-wise; and

(c) the achievements made by each State in implementing these schemes?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement*

There are eleven Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in the country to assist the State Governments to increase the water resources including rainwater harvesting. These Schemes are:

Ministry implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes	Schemes under operation
1	2
1. Ministry of water Resources *	i) Command Area Development Programme.
	ii) Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics.

1	2
2. Ministry of Agriculture	iii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River valley Projects iv) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers v) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas
3 Ministry of Rural Development	vi) Integrated Rural Development Programme ** vii) Million Wells Scheme ** viii) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme ix) Ganga Kalyan Yojana ** x) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna xi) Employment Assurance Scheme

* A scheme Satluj Yamuna Link Canal was in operation till 1990 as a fully funded scheme by Centre under non-plan. The work on the scheme is withheld since 1990 and the case is subjudice.

**These schemes have been discontinued with effect from 1.4.1999 and a new self employment programme i.e. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna has been launched since that date.

Central assistance to the States is provided on the basis of the approved financing pattern, provision of budget made by the State governments for State sector, approved norms and the performance under the concerned schemes. The position of the funds released and achievements made during the past three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000) state-wise as reported under different schemes is given in Annexure I (a) to I (k).

Annexure - I (a)

Details of State wise Central Releases made under the Command Area Development Programme during the period 1997-1998 to 1999-2000.

(Rs. In lakhs)

S. No	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Central Release			
		Year 1997-98	Year 1998-99	Year 1999-2000	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
States					
1	Andhra Pradesh	3839.57	0.00	0.00	3839.57
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
3	Assam	124.00	0.00	0.00	124.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Goa	20.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
6	Gujarat	97.11	324.19	650.00	1071.30
7	Haryana	1116.85	1294.63	841.74	3253.22
8	Himachal Pradesh	73.07	52.90	15.81	141.78
9	Jammu and Kashmir	189.90	233.99	248.99	672.88
10	Karnataka	437.87	668.00	885.37	1991.24
11	Kerala	200.00	806.04	788.11	1794.15
12	Madhya Pradesh	6.25	245.99	167.20	419.44
13	Maharashtra	298.30	1719.15	660.60	2678.05
14	Manipur	86.91	132.33	128.05	347.29
15	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	18.40	18.40
16	Nagaland	0.00	6.43	15.00	21.43
17	Orissa	231.47	774.40	365.28	1371.15
18	Punjab	0.00	500.00	3352.06	3852.06
19	Rajasthan	2226.65	3834.87	2700.00	8761.52
20	Tamil Nadu	552.46	2507.27	2336.74	5396.47
21	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Uttar Pradesh	3057.83	3959.24	2804.92	9821.99
23	West Bengal	90.00	275.00	306.73	671.73
	Total	12648.24	17334.43	16295.00	46277.67

*Union Territories

1	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	12648.24	17334.43	16295.00	46277.67

* The Daman Ganga project is spread over Gujarat & the U Ts of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. It is counted once under Gujarat

Annexure - I (a)

Details of State wise Physical Achievements in respect of On-Farm Development Works for the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000 under the Centrally Sponsored CAD Programme

(Unit = Thousand hectare)

S. No.	States/UTs	Field Channel				Warabandi				Land Levelling				Field Drains			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
States																	
1	Andhra Pradesh	2.15	3.34	5.54	11.03	4.80	10.24	6.18	21.22	3.89	4.30	5.00	13.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.15
3	Assam	0.44	0.83	0.00	1.27	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.52
4	Bihar	0.00	0.54	0.47	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	1.44	1.50	2.94	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Gujarat	7.24	20.60	5.73	33.57	5.87	8.38	3.34	17.59	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02
7	Haryana	28.21	23.65	25.11	76.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	1.41	0.00	0.30	1.71	2.38	0.00	0.25	2.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.15	0.58
9	Jammu and Kashmir	6.97	5.39	3.35	15.71	45.64	90.69	37.34	173.67	2.27	1.26	0.26	3.79	2.27	2.45	0.96	5.68
10	Karnataka	11.03	10.35	13.04	34.42	16.29	8.20	8.43	32.92	0.00	5.41	15.43	20.84	0.25	2.82	3.04	6.11
11	Kerala	7.89	7.12	2.59	17.6	9.11	20.28	5.74	35.13	0.23	0.12	0.08	0.43	16.37	32.54	21.23	70.14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12	Madhya Pradesh	4.23	10.86	10.84	25.93	0.17	1.18	0.00	1.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Maharashtra	25.23	27.67	27.27	80.17	21.24	8.69	0.25	30.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.27	27.27	40.54
14	Manipur	3.33	4.48	2.87	10.68	0.57	0.16	1.05	1.78	0.35	0.15	0.00	0.50	0.07	0.08	0.57	0.72
15	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Nagaland	0.00	0.05	0.16	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.12	0.18
17	Orissa	7.00	12.89	9.11	29	15.00	13.40	6.83	35.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.06	3.96	1.74	10.76
18	Punjab	0.00	0.00	40.37	40.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Rajasthan	54.25	65.95	49.09	169.29	54.25	0.00	0.00	54.25	3.98	11.28	1.81	17.07	2.78	9.76	1.81	14.35
20	Tamil Nadu	46.61	53.82	53.89	154.32	75.91	81.82	75.65	233.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Uttar Pradesh	112.20	71.54	115.49	299.23	176.26	89.29	121.58	387.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.14	13.14
23	West Bengal	0.82	3.36	4.57	8.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total States		319.01	322.44	369.87	1011.32	428.35	333.77	268.14	1030.26	11.23	22.56	22.58	56.37	27.75	64.96	70.18	162.89
*Union Territories																	
1	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total UTs		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total		319.01	322.44	369.87	1011.32	428.35	333.77	268.14	1030.26	11.23	22.56	22.58	56.37	27.75	64.96	70.18	162.89

*The Daman Ganga project spread over Gujarat and UTs of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. It is counted once under Gujarat.

Annexure - I(b)

Details of State wise Central Releases made under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics (Expenditure on the Statistical Cells) during the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(Unit = Rupees in Lakh)

S.No	Name of the State / Union Territory	Central release			Total
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	
States					
1	Andhra Pradesh	10.00	15.22	14.07	39.29
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Assam	5.08	5.57	7.46	18.11
4	Bihar	0.00	6.22	0.00	6.22
5	Goa	0.00	0.00	3.92	3.92
6	Gujarat	12.91	24.33	18.29	55.53
7	Haryana	0.00	15.84	7.77	23.61
8	Himachal Pradesh	5.20	13.01	7.76	25.97
9	Jammu and Kashmir	7.66	9.53	10.01	27.20
10	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Kerala	0.00	0.00	34.64	34.64
12	Madhya Pradesh	9.94	11.64	0.00	21.58
13	Maharashtra	0.00	21.93	20.97	42.90
14	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	11.2	11.20
18	Orissa	8.48	9.17	12.45	30.10
19	Punjab	9.27	9.33	5.38	23.98
20	Rajasthan	3.65	1.78	0.00	5.43
21	Sikkim	0.00	4.33	1.01	5.34
22	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	1.61	1.61
23	Tripura	0.00	6.46	6.44	12.90
24	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	West Bengal	9.38	10.29	13.75	33.42
Total States		81.57	164.65	176.73	422.95
Union Territories					
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.87	2.01	0.00	3.88
3	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total UTs		1.87	2.01	0.00	3.88
Grand Total		83.44	166.66	176.73	426.83

These cells have been constituted in the States for collection of information on Minor Irrigation Statistics.

ANNEXURE - I (c)

Details showing State-wise Allocation of funds, Releases of Central Assistance and Achievements made under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects during the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000

S. No.	Name of State	Allocation made (Rs. in lakh)				Amount released during (Rs. lakh)				Achievement in thousand hectare			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	668.00	600.00	780.00	2048.00	668.00	651.50	765.00	2084.50	14.79	12.44	14.43	41.66
2	Assam	20.00	50.00	20.00	90.00	20.00	10.00	0.00	30.00	2.78	0.54	0.28	3.60
3	Bihar	50.00	100.00	100.00	250.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.10	0.00	0	0.10
4	Gujarat	266.00	403.00	500.00	1169.00	266.00	433.00	480.00	1179.00	5.02	6.57	7.99	19.58
5	Himachal Pradesh	400.00	500.00	500.00	1400.00	400.00	520.00	340.00	1260.00	5.99	7.75	4.74	18.48
6	Jammu and Kashmir	458.00	550.00	600.00	1608.00	458.00	599.00	650.00	1707.00	7.10	7.88	9.5	24.48
7	Karnataka	950.00	1000.00	1500.00	3450.00	950.00	1115.00	1500.00	3565.00	40.26	23.35	40.72	104.33
8	Kerala	0.00	50.00	100.00	150.00	0.00	68.88	40.00	108.88	0.53	0.00	0.2	0.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	(a) Madhya Pradesh	900.00	1050.00	900.00	2850.00	700.00	1032.72	800.00	2532.72	13.67	26.62	19.46	59.75
	(b) Narmada Valley Dev. Authority	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	200.00	559.86	500.00	1259.86	0.00	0.00	13.26	13.26
10	Maharashtra	820.00	1000.00	1000.00	2820.00	820.00	1300.00	700.00	2820.00	29.63	10.31	23.71	63.65
11	Orissa	100.00	250.00	300.00	650.00	100.00	112.39	300.00	512.39	3.62	7.22	1.56	12.40
12	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
13	Rajasthan	870.00	1100.00	960.00	2930.00	870.00	879.00	900.00	2649.00	16.37	17.29	18.5	52.16
14	Sikkim	0.00	50.00	50.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
15	Tamil Nadu	600.00	500.00	400.00	1500.00	600.00	580.00	375.00	1555.00	8.52	7.43	6.08	22.03
16	Tripura	31.00	50.00	50.00	131.00	31.00	30.00	51.00	112.00	0.16	0.35	0.67	1.18
17	Uttar Pradesh	100.00	220.00	200.00	520.00	100.00	254.72	186.90	541.62	2.47	3.96	2.55	8.98
18	West Bengal	100.00	250.00	200.00	550.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	1.01	17.72	0.14	18.87
19	Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)	400.00	400.00	500.00	1300.00	400.00	400.00	500.00	1300.00	0.00	0.00	24.9	24.90
	Total	6733.00	8123.00	9260.00	24116.00	6733.00	8546.07	8087.90	23366.97	152.02	149.43	188.69	490.14

Annexure - I(d)

Details showing State-wise Allocation, Release of Central Assistance under Centrally Sponsored Soil Conservation in the catchments of flood prone rivers scheme during the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000

S. No.	Name of State	Allocation made during the period(Rs. lakh)				Releases made during the period (Rs.Lakh)				Achievement in Thousand hectare			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total
1	Assam	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Bihar	48.00	100.00	100.00	248.00	48.00	0.00	0.00	48.00	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10
3	Haryana	90.00	160.00	250.00	500.00	90.00	218.00	80.00	388.00	3.15	3.25	4.80	11.20
4	Himachal Pradesh	250.00	300.00	400.00	950.00	250.00	373.20	222.88	846.08	3.12	4.13	3.92	11.17
5	Madhya Pradesh	694.00	800.00	900.00	2394.00	694.00	812.01	800.97	2306.98	12.04	15.34	18.34	45.72
6	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Punjab	30.00	80.00	50.00	160.00	30.00	51.00	20.00	101.00	2.90	0.60	0.00	3.50
8	Rajasthan	747.00	1000.00	1000.00	2747.00	747.00	680.00	530.00	1957.00	17.38	9.21	18.96	45.55
9	Uttar Pradesh	2000.00	2240.00	2250.00	6490.00	2000.00	2179.72	1801.13	5980.85	50.96	50.05	67.78	168.79
10	West Bengal	0.00	100.00	150.00	250.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	20.00	0.62	0.00	0.75	1.37
11	Head Quarters	0.00	0.00	40.00	40.00	19.00	20.00	36.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		3859.00	4780.00	5240.00	13879.00	3878.00	4353.93	3490.98	11722.91	91.27	82.58	114.55	288.40

Annexure - I (e)

Details of State wise Allocations and Releases made under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Watershed Development Project in rain fed areas during the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000

S. No.	Name of the State / Union Territory	Allocation made during the period (Rs. Lakh)				Central Release (Rs. in Lakh)				Area Treated in hectare			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
States													
1	Andhra Pradesh	700.00	900.00	900.00	2500.00	700.00	900.00	900.00	2500.00	29037	36728	37484	103249
2	Arunachal Pradesh	10.00	31.00	17.00	58.00	10.00	31.00	17.00	58.00	200	830	0	1030
3	Assam	15.00	125.00	0.00	140.00	0.00	125.00	0.00	125.00	17597	1715	0	19312
4	Bihar	15.00	125.00	0.00	140.00	0.00	125.00	0.00	125.00	7976	990	1925	10891
5	Goa	5.00	8.00	3.00	16.00	0.00	8.00	3.00	11.00	400	1000	1000	2400
6	Gujarat	700.00	2000.00	2000.00	4700.00	700.00	2000.00	2000.00	4700.00	17901	61780	91187	170868
7	Haryana	80.00	220.00	35.00	335.00	80.00	220.00	35.00	335.00	3337	6544	5367	15248
8	Himachal Pradesh	120.00	175.00	200.00	495.00	120.00	175.00	200.00	495.00	587	2600	5915	9102
9	Jammu and Kashmir	108.00	38.00	15.00	161.00	108.00	38.00	15.00	161.00	52	0	167	219
10	Karnataka	2100.00	2000.00	1700.00	5800.00	2100.00	2000.00	1700.00	5800.00	54768	92300	48372	195440
11	Kerala	500.00	1434.00	350.00	2284.00	500.00	1434.00	350.00	2284.00	0	0	18480	18480
12	Madhya Pradesh	1750.00	1609.00	2650.00	6009.00	1434.00	1609.00	2650.00	5693.00	16955	90230	90082	197267

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	Maharashtra	2500.00	3060.00	800.00	6360.00	2500.00	3060.00	800.00	6360.00	58036	71675	46660	176371
14	Manipur	250.00	200.00	300.00	750.00	250.00	200.00	300.00	750.00	0	250	8900	9150
15	Meghalaya	15.00	200.00	250.00	465.00	0.00	200.00	250.00	450.00	1233	3552	0	4785
16	Mizoram	225.00	700.00	466.00	1391.00	225.00	700.00	466.00	1391.00	2820	11233	12500	26553
17	Nagaland	160.00	500.00	500.00	1160.00	160.00	500.00	500.00	1160.00	0	11149	11103	22252
18	Orissa	1200.00	550.00	200.00	1950.00	1200.00	550.00	200.00	1950.00	28000	13623	9815	51438
19	Punjab	40.00	45.00	8.00	93.00	40.00	45.00	8.00	93.00	632	1125	0	1757
20	Rajasthan	2850.00	4000.00	3700.00	10550.00	2581.00	4000.00	3700.00	10281.00	75950	89459	85167	250576
21	Sikkim	90.00	150.00	200.00	440.00	90.00	150.00	200.00	440.00	2000	4500	4370	10870
22	Tamil Nadu	900.00	1650.00	1700.00	4250.00	900.00	1650.00	1700.00	4250.00	25145	50567	48899	124611
23	Tripura	130.00	300.00	350.00	780.00	130.00	300.00	350.00	780.00	1403	6412	10450	18265
24	Uttar Pradesh	1000.00	1750.00	1512.00	4262.00	1000.00	1750.00	1512.00	4262.00	20311	69947	80556	170814
25	West Bengal	10.00	600.00	750.00	1360.00	10.00	600.00	750.00	1360.00	13176	22408	19897	55481
Total States		15473.00	22370.00	18606.00	56449.00	14838.00	22370.00	18606.00	55814.00	377516	650617	638296	1666429
Union Territories													
1	Andaman and Nicobar	25.00	65.00	34.00	124.00	25.00	65.00	34.00	124.00	517	972	920	2409
2	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.00	5.00	1.00	8.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	0	0	0	0
Total - UTs		27.00	70.00	35.00	132.00	26.00	66.00	34.00	126.00	517	972	920	2409
Grand Total		15500.00	22440.00	18641.00	56581.00	14864.00	22436.00	18640.00	55940.00	378033	651589	639216	1668838

Annexure - II(f)
Details Showing State wise Allocation and Releases made under Integrated Rural Development Programme during the period 1997-98 to 1998-99

S. No.	Name of the State / Union Territory	Allocation made during the period (Rs. Lakh)					Central Release (Rs. in Lakh)				
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
States											
1	Andhra Pradesh	8612.22	7734.30	*	16346.52	9634.21	3870.32	*	13504.53		
2	Arunachal Pradesh	644.06	403.82		1047.88	651.30	202.78		854.08		
3	Assam	2834.24	10492.72		13326.96	2038.38	5246.36		7284.74		
4	Bihar	16754.80	25336.66		42091.46	9090.27	6608.31		15698.58		
5	Goa	146.58	17.82		164.4	120.89	24.43		145.32		
6	Gujarat	3160.44	2911.34		6071.78	3850.61	1455.67		5306.28		
7	Haryana	759.66	1712.78		2472.44	938.04	692.00		1630.04		
8	Himachal Pradesh	247.72	721.32		969.04	386.04	323.26		709.30		
9	Jammu and Kashmir	1032.16	892.74		1924.9	777.17	319.20		1096.37		
10	Karnataka	5780.00	580.48		6360.48	4695.63	2439.51		7135.14		
11	Kerala	2103.50	2620.60		4724.1	2226.81	1346.69		3573.50		
12	Madhya Pradesh	10914.94	12842.50		23757.44	9328.36	6421.25		15749.61		
13	Maharashtra	9388.40	11542.22		20930.62	8541.07	5772.63		14313.70		
14	Manipur	464.48	703.42		1167.9	235.15	87.76		322.91		
15	Meghalaya	493.36	788.10		1281.46	323.10	144.49		467.59		
* 16	Mizoram	208.50	182.36		390.86	240.56	104.25		344.81		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
17	Nagaland	346.80	540.60		887.4	208.71	86.70		295.41
18	Orissa	6987.62	8846.44		15834.06	6178.52	4384.65		10563.17
19	Punjab	538.78	832.40		1371.18	716.31	416.18		1132.49
20	Rajasthan	4533.18	4434.88		8968.06	3743.08	2084.45		5827.53
21	Sikkim	57.80	201.90		259.7	126.92	90.57		217.49
22	Tamil Nadu	7786.50	6838.82		14625.32	6981.61	3463.58		10445.19
23	Tripura	662.64	1270.08		1932.7	779.58	635.03		1414.61
24	Uttar Pradesh	20988.66	27883.22		48871.88	18884.17	13889.50		32773.67
25	West Bengal	7719.42	9831.08		17550.48	4525.15	2321.76		6846.91
	Total States	113166.46	140162.56		253329.02	95221.64	62431.33		157652.97
Union Territories									
1	Andaman and Nicobar	73.29	69.58		142.87	41.70	63.00		104.70
2	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15.29	41.53		56.82	31.13	21.88		53.01
3	Daman and Diu	28.9	27.43		56.33	28.91	13.72		42.63
4	Lakshadweep	7.22	6.85		14.07	17.78	3.43		21.21
5	Pondicherry	59.87	56.83		116.7	83.52	29.93		113.45
	Total - UTs	184.57	202.22		386.79	203.04	131.96		335.00
	Grand Total	113351.03	140364.78		253715.81	95424.68	62563.29		157987.97

Scheme discontinued from 1.4.1999

Annexure - I (g)

Details showing Allocation and Releases made under Million Wells Scheme during 1997-98 to 1998-99

S. No.	Name of the State / Union Territory	Allocation* made during the period (Rs. Lakh)				Central Release (Rs. in Lakh)				Achievement of wells (Numbers)			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
States													
1	Andhra Pradesh	4342.14	3165.49	**	7507.63	4280.93	3163.08	**	7444.01	7952	7110	**	15062
2	Arunachal Pradesh	44.58	69.60		114.18	28.61	102.99		131.60	19	80		99
3	Assam	1429.41	1808.38		3237.79	1512.78	3777.99		5290.77	993	2954		3947
4	Bihar	8516.94	10369.79		18886.73	5836.15	7753.78		13589.93	23307	15766		39073
5	Goa	48.16	7.30		55.46	13.13	3.65		16.78	16	51		67
6	Gujarat	1593.91	1191.55		2785.46	1216.18	1191.54		2407.72	2773	2498		5271
7	Haryana	382.88	701.01		1083.89	225.79	473.00		698.79	483	643		1126
8	Himachal Pradesh	153.04	295.23		448.27	120.43	203.49		323.92	602	531		1133
9	Jammu and Kashmir	310.99	365.38		676.37	241.18	319.71		560.89	1182	1628		2810
10	Karnataka	2915.55	2390.40		5305.95	2550.56	2390.40		4940.96	3096	2106		5202
11	Kerala	1060.71	1072.56		2133.27	1029.53	1055.09		2084.62	3976	4070		8046
12	Madhya Pradesh	5502.11	5256.18		10758.29	4221.40	4401.39		8622.79	15296	17584		32880
13	Maharashtra	4733.53	4725.23		9458.76	4096.46	4725.23		8821.69	8324	8243		16567
14	Manipur	57.14	121.24		178.38	33.76	118.94		152.70	218	465		683
15	Meghalaya	66.85	135.83		202.68	42.10	274.79		316.89	468	809		1277

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	Mizoram	28.16	31.43		59.59	28.19	70.00		98.19	325	865		1190
17	Nagaland	71.66	93.16		164.82	71.66	104.36		176.02	608	256		864
18	Orissa	3522.49	3620.68		7143.17	3581.61	3620.68		7202.29	15798	11124		26922
19	Punjab	272.28	340.69		612.97	107.71	0.00		107.71	0	0		0
20	Rajasthan	2285.93	1815.11		4101.04	1630.98	463.06		2094.04	2128	2838		4966
21	Sikkim	26.09	34.80		60.89	26.09	77.50		103.59	89	47		136
22	Tamil Nadu	3925.23	2798.99		6724.22	3925.23	2798.99		6724.22	3626	5048		8674
23	Tripura	74.21	218.89		293.1	74.21	486.16		560.37	801	3870		4671
24	Uttar Pradesh	10581.64	11412.05		21993.69	9669.41	7446.38		17115.79	44	396		440
25	West Bengal	3891.19	4023.65		7914.84	2170.89	1769.75		3940.64	403	6154		6557
Total States		55836.82	56064.62		111901.44	46734.97	46791.95		93526.92	92527	95136		187663
Union Territories													
1	Andaman and Nicobar	21.11	13.47		34.58	0.00	0.00		0.00	4	6		10
2	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11.46	13.47		24.93	5.73	13.47		19.20	16	22		38
3	Daman and Diu	6.76	0.45		7.21	0.00	0.00		0.00	2	0		2
4	Lakshadweep	10.58	0.90		11.48	5.29	0.00		5.29	140	0		140
5	Pondicherry	20.66	17.06		37.72	0.00	0.00		0.00	0	0		0
Total - UTs		70.57	45.35		115.92	11.02	13.47		24.49	162	28		190
Grand Total		55907.39	56109.97		112017.36	46745.99	46805.42		93551.41	92689	95164		187853

* Central + State Allocation

** Scheme discontinued from 1.4.1999

Annexure - I(h)

Details showing Allocation and Releases made under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

S.N o.	Name of the State / Union Territory	Allocation made during the period(Rs.Crore)				Central Release(Rs. in Crore)				Population Covered (in lakh)			
		1997- 98	1998- 99	1999- 2000	Total	1997- 98	1998- 99	1999- 2000	Total	1997- 98	1998- 99	1999- 2000	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
States													
1	Andhra Pradesh	79.640	99.914	92.83	272.384	88.068	99.914	125.34	187.982	32.260	27.570	49.60	109.430
2	Arunachal Pradesh	14.440	36.230	21.76	72.430	24.760	21.638	19.80	46.398	0.490	0.180	0.83	1.500
3	Assam	24.380	61.200	41.8	127.380	23.765	64.170	20.90	87.935	4.850	8.330	26.27	39.450
4	Bihar	93.800	117.685	93.8	305.285	0.000	0.000	46.90	0.000	30.330	14.710	2.37	47.410
5	Goa	2.270	2.837	3.52	8.627	1.965	0.000	0.00	1.965	0.030	0.230	0.20	0.460
6	Gujarat	49.870	58.605	64.28	172.755	58.866	69.513	78.44	128.379	10.140	19.890	25.28	55.310
7	Haryana	27.360	21.909	33.34	82.609	32.592	20.250	38.57	52.842	16.940	12.820	28.66	58.420
8	Himachal Pradesh	15.960	19.671	23.16	58.791	17.090	29.133	31.07	46.223	1.520	1.450	2.95	5.920
9	Jammu and Kashmir	44.310	55.146	64.34	163.796	46.940	46.594	31.90	93.534	0.000	1.700	0.45	2.150
10	Karnataka	73.250	91.774	93.59	258.614	99.377	100.706	114.09	200.083	30.700	21.240	25.3	77.240
11	Kerala	37.240	46.735	43.07	127.045	35.647	46.735	34.46	82.382	4.260	5.780	4.67	14.710
12	Madhya Pradesh	88.170	110.631	94.44	293.241	83.457	110.611	123.30	194.068	44.490	36.680	24.13	105.300
13	Maharashtra	106.020	133.015	136.14	375.175	120.872	163.845	173.02	284.717	33.950	56.860	51.81	142.620

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	Manipur	5.290	13.300	9.07	27.660	9.070	6.667	0.00	15.737	1.320	0.000	0.94	2.260
15	Meghalaya	5.680	14.250	9.74	29.670	7.432	17.090	7.79	24.522	0.550	0.570	1.57	2.690
16	Mizoram	4.060	10.180	6.96	21.200	5.836	10.177	6.96	16.013	0.320	1.040	1.73	3.090
17	Nagaland	4.220	10.580	7.24	22.040	2.110	7.969	5.79	10.079	0.040	0.600	0.19	0.830
18	Orissa	41.730	52.365	48.74	142.835	50.384	47.937	48.48	98.321	8.240	6.970	10.39	25.600
19	Punjab	13.300	16.686	17.2	47.186	17.140	22.053	23.21	39.193	2.030	1.240	3.12	6.390
20	Rajasthan	118.630	109.545	172.41	400.585	137.832	119.416	156.54	257.248	7.110	3.710	35.44	46.260
21	Sikkim	3.720	4.340	4.6	12.660	4.356	14.011	10.46	18.367	0.090	0.230	0.49	0.810
22	Tamil Nadu	63.140	79.225	65.35	207.715	58.344	105.275	89.58	163.619	29.590	41.710	66.87	138.170
23	Tripura	5.030	12.620	8.62	26.270	7.620	21.289	11.62	28.909	0.950	1.070	0.55	2.570
24	Uttar Pradesh	147.750	185.379	147.75	480.879	151.827	162.971	148.25	314.798	94.110	54.890	33	182.000
25	West Bengal	57.040	71.696	70.08	198.816	44.115	64.269	56.06	108.384	12.400	20.330	43.06	75.790
Total States		1126.300	1435.518	1373.83	3935.648	1129.465	1372.233	1402.53	2501.698	366.710	339.800	439.87	1146.380
Union Territories													
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0.125	0.125	0.13	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.070	0.020	0.25	0.340
2	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.125	0.125	0.13	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.040	0.060	0.14	0.240
3	Daman and Diu	0.050	0.125	0.13	0.305	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.23	1.230
4	Delhi	0.125	0.050	0	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.000	1.240	0	1.240
5	Lakshadweep	0.050	0.125	0.13	0.305	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.030	0.000	0	0.030
6	Pondicherry	0.125	0.050	0.05	0.225	0.100	0.000	0.00	0.100	0.090	0.150	0.57	0.810
Total - UTs		0.600	0.600	0.57	1.770	0.100	0.000	0.00	0.100	0.230	1.470	2.19	3.890
Grand Total		1126.900	1436.118	1374.4	3937.418	1129.565	1372.233	1402.53	2501.798	366.940	341.270	442.06	1150.270

Annexure - I (I)

Details Showing Allocation and Releases made under Ganga Kalyan Yojana during 1997-98 to 1998-99

S. No.	Name of the State / Union Territory	Total Allocation	Central Release (Rs. in Lakh)				Individual Projects (Numbers)				Group of Projects (Numbers)				
			1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
States															
1	Andhra Pradesh	929.50	780.62	0.00	*	780.62	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	69.41	56.67	0.00		56.67	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
3	Assam	306.19	426.22	0.00		426.22	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
4	Bihar	1807.34	1531.15	0.00		1531.15	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
5	Goa	16.29	12.89	0.00		12.89	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
6	Gujarat	341.54	286.59	0.00		286.59	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
7	Haryana	81.68	68.85	0.00		68.85	22	0		22	0	0	0		0
8	Himachal Pradesh	27.18	22.49	0.00		22.49	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
9	Jammu and Kashmir	102.50	90.82	0.00		90.82	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
10	Karnataka	623.33	524.11	0.00		524.11	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
11	Kerala	227.25	190.66	0.00		190.66	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
12	Madhya Pradesh	1177.24	989.16	0.00		989.16	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
13	Maharashtra	1012.56	850.96	0.00		850.96	21	0		21	0	0	0		0
14	Manipur	50.33	40.87	0.00		40.87	4	0		4	0	0	0		0
15	Meghalaya	53.09	43.41	0.00		43.41	0	0		0	0	0	0		0

* The scheme has been discontinued from 1.4.1999

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	Mizoram	0.00	18.35	0.00	0.00	18.35	194	0	0	194	0	0	0	0
17	Nagaland	36.79	30.52	0.00	0.00	30.52	138	0	0	138	0	0	0	0
18	Orissa	753.95	633.23	0.00	0.00	633.23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Punjab	58.49	48.96	0.00	0.00	48.96	135	0	0	135	0	0	0	0
20	Rajasthan	488.61	410.99	0.00	0.00	410.99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Sikkim	6.83	5.09	0.00	0.00	5.09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	0.00	257.95	0.00	0.00	257.95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tripura	87.50	112.98	0.00	0.00	112.98	1160	0	0	1160	0	0	0	0
24	Uttar Pradesh	2262.06	1846.79	0.00	0.00	1846.79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	West Bengal	832.88	699.58	0.00	0.00	699.58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total States		11352.54	9979.91	0.00	0.00	9979.91	1674	0	0	1674	0	0	0	0
Union Territories														
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	2.73	0.00	0.00	2.73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Daman and Diu	0.00	5.09	0.00	0.00	5.09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Lakshadweep	0.00	1.27	0.00	0.00	1.27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Pondicherry	0.00	10.55	0.00	0.00	10.55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total - UTs		0.00	19.64	0.00	0.00	19.64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		11352.54	9999.55	0.00	0.00	9999.55	1674	0	0	1674	0	0	0	0

Annexure-I (J)*Details showing State-wise Releases made under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) 1999-2000*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Central Releases (Rs. in lakhs) 1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8372.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	92.14
3.	Assam	3606.83
4.	Bihar	11918.05
5.	Goa	59.78
6.	Gujarat	2903.06
7.	Haryana	1784.18
8.	Himachal Pradesh	719.74
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	411.69
10.	Karnataka	2348.33
11.	Kerala	2083.35
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10857.33
13.	Maharashtra	9284.11
14.	Manipur	119.10
15.	Meghalaya	131.52
16.	Mizoram	58.15
17.	Nagaland	102.09
18.	Orissa	7222.67
19.	Punjab	664.98
20.	Rajasthan	3566.34
21.	Sikkim	68.38
22.	Tamil Nadu	7548.46
23.	Tripura	488.12
24.	Uttar Pradesh	14509.84
25.	West Bengal	3952.84
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	29.90
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	29.89
28.	Daman & Diu	29.89
29.	Lakshadweep	29.89
30.	Pondicherry	29.89
Total		93023.34

Note : Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) has been launched with effect from 1.4.1999. With this, the erstwhile programmes viz. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Supply of Tool kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), Ganga Kalyan Yojna (GKY) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS) ceased to be in operation.

Annexure-I (K)

Details Showing State-wise Releases and Works Completed under Employment Assurance Scheme during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Financial Progress					Physical Progress				
		Central Releases (Rs. in lakhs)					Work Completed (Nos.)				
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16740.00	16740.00	10288.76	43768.76		30557	22030	17716	70303	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1890.00	2140.00	719.27	4749.27		1688	1653	2841	6182	
3.	Assam	8592.00	11018.00	4701.11	24311.11		9772	5720	6046	21538	
4.	Bihar	18234.00	18596.00	25388.02	62218.02		12030	12826	10228	35084	
5.	Goa	140.00	180.00	55.00	375.00		41	81	58	180	
6.	Gujarat	4320.00	4410.00	4301.49	13031.49		2662	2209	3934	8805	
7.	Haryana	2670.00	1660.00	1981.53	6311.53		2265	1436	2749	6450	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2550.00	2050.00	945.06	5545.06		3604	6708	5537	15849	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4760.00	4760.00	2755.00	12275.00		21550	14136	7171	42857	
10.	Karnataka	10600.00	10350.00	6670.05	27620.05		21596	22802	15396	59794	
11.	Kerala	3989.00	3861.00	3486.12	11336.12		2326	2605	2834	7765	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	21507.85	22033.00	17464.11	61004.96		9266	17729	9302	36297	
13.	Maharashtra	11334.51	8167.17	11002.98	30504.66		11661	8306	15591	35558	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Manipur	810.00	890.00	307.87	2007.87	1563	1105	1465	4133
15.	Meghalaya	220.00	610.00	220.74	1050.74	502	854	492	1848
16.	Mizoram	800.00	800.00	402.16	2002.16	2100	1639	1436	5175
17.	Nagaland	2100.00	2100.00	276.09	4476.09	298	263	2896	3457
18.	Orissa	14721.58	12752.00	17621.12	45094.70	14052	15830	15424	45306
19.	Punjab	1840.00	2720.00	813.98	5373.98	61	1236	1119	2416
20.	Rajasthan	9265.00	8935.00	6888.13	25088.13	5595	6168	4028	15791
21.	Sikkim	220.00	320.00	313.10	853.10	530	760	730	2020
22.	Tamil Nadu	18720.00	18720.00	10597.49	48037.49	17589	22369	5165	45123
23.	Tripura	1440.00	1440.00	711.46	3591.46	4492	0	1766	6258
24.	Uttar Pradesh	31448.06	35153.65	36155.49	102757.20	NR	19060	14572	33632
25.	West Bengal	7790.00	8270.00	9483.71	25543.71	9834	8993	7956	25783
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	80.00	40.00	27.36	147.36	5	7	2	14
27	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	30.00	30.00	27.36	87.36	24	0	12	36
28	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.91	0.91	5	0	0	5
29	Lakshadweep	0.00	100.00	1.82	101.82	18	13	16	47
30	Pondicherry	60.00	0.00	34.66	94.66	13	51	58	122
-	/	196872.00	198845.82	173641.95	569359.77	184699	196589	156540	537828

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of water storage is one of the most serious problems of the country. Ours is such a country where certain regions are affected by drought and certain regions have surplus water. If there is nature's imbalance in the country, the results would be devastating. Cherapunji has the highest rainfall of 1100 million cubic metres, but after the rainy season is over, drinking water is not available there. On going through the reply given by the hon. Minister would like to say that the Satluj Yamuna Link Canal Scheme was in operation till 1990 as a fully funded scheme of the Central Government under an action plan. The work on the scheme was withheld in 1990 and since then the case is subjudice. It is such an important case and it is pending in the court for the last 10 years. I would like to know the reasons for the pendency of this case in the court for the last 10 years and the meaningful efforts made by the Union Government therefor?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : The hon. Member has himself stated while asking the question that it is still pending before the court. Unless the court takes a decision on the matter, it is very difficult to say anything or give a timeframe by which this may be resolved, or this project can be implemented.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : What has the Government done? The case is pending in the court for the last ten years and the Union Government is doing nothing.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What the Central Government is doing to expedite the court matter?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, we are doing our best to expedite it in the court. Unless court gives the judgement, it is very difficult on my part to say anything at what time this can be achieved.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : What did the Government do to expedite the case, I would like to know? The case is subjudice, ten years have passed. 50 more years will pass like this and the Government would continue to respond like this. Kindly give a positive reply to my question that what meaningful efforts have been made by the Government in all these years? It is such a serious question, the water problem is crucial in this country. There is drought in some parts of the country and some parts are flooded. The attitude of the Government is not positive on such an important case. Mr.

Speaker, Sir, kindly help me in getting the reply as to what efforts have been made by the Government to settle this dispute in these ten years and what has been done to expedite it?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, I share the concern expressed by the hon. Members here. He will agree with me that it is subjudice. Whatever is possible on our part we will do. We can expedite it. I can not say anything beyond that (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : That is no reply (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper, please sit down.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, you will appreciate that since it is subjudice, what can the Government do excepting to pursue or to expedite the process of this judicial adjudication in the court. We can just expedite and pursue from our own source so that this can be settled on time..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : What is the stay order?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Hon'ble Prime Minister, you should appoint ministers who have some knowledge of the subject..... (Interruptions). 29 per cent land in this country is unutilised. 50,000 litres of water can be stored in one hectare of land. How much water is available for storage in the country and whether this has been identified in all the states of the country? ... (Interruptions) I would like to know whether the Government has sent its team to various states or found out through some source as to how much water is available for storage and to what extent arrangement has been made for this purpose.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The matter is subjudice ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, I would like to point out here, as far as Yamuna-Satluj Canal is concerned, the Government of India has already incurred an expenditure of Rs. 499.10 crore for executing this work. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not getting proper reply to any of my questions.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Let me have my say. Then, he can judge whether it is correct or not.

Sir, you there to regulate the proceedings of the House. Unless I speak something how can they say?
....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please continue.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, he has asked what action the Government has taken to pursue this process of Yamuna-Sutluj Canal system. I have already answered that it is *sub judice*. That is why, we cannot do anything. However, the Government has already spent Rs. 499.10 crore. There is a difference of outlook between the Governments of Haryana and Punjab. They could not pursue it or could not come to a conclusion. One Government went before the court. Now, it is *sub judice*. We have already spent Rs 499.10 crore. We have very much sincere and the Government is very much sincere to get completion of the project for State's benefit.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : There is no, stay. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is replying to the second part also.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, the hon. Member should have the patience to listen. He asked a question as to what action has been taken with regard to the storage of water for irrigation purposes and has expressed his concern about how to increase the percentage of irrigation in the country. It is a known fact that our rivers have 1869 Million cubic metres of water in our country. Out of this, only 619 Million cubic metres are utilisable. In addition, 432 bcm of ground water is being utilised today. The State-wise details have also been assessed and published along with the answer to the main question.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, the hon. Minister has given reply on the subject of water storage and water resources. I come from Bihar. Therefore, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to the Annexure-I(A), page 1 to the reply given by him. It has been

stated in the reply that under CAD programme Bihar was allocated 'Zero' amount in the three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000. Not even a paisa has been given in all the three years. Likewise for minor irrigation scheme, Bihar was allocated Zero amount in 1997-98, Rs. 6.22 lakh in 1998-99 and Zero in 1999-2000. Under the river valley project ...
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rai, you have to ask the supplementary and no to read the Minister's reply.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, this is the background of the question. By placing these figures, we want to tell you as to how injustice is done to Bihar. Rs. 250 lakh have been allocated under the River Valley Project for the three years whereas the amount released is only Rs. 50 lakh. Similarly, Rs. 248 lakh have been allocated under Flood Prone Rivers Scheme but only Rs. 48 lakh have been released.

Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister in the part 'A' of the question whether injustice is done to Bihar by releasing the amount on paper only? 'B' part of my question is that 24 districts of Bihar remain affected by floods.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Either you ask question or take your seat.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, I hail from Sitamarhi. This area is destructed due to floods in Bagmati, Adhwada group of rivers, Kamala Balan and Kosi rivers. Hon'ble Prime Minister had initiated measures for a permanent solution by holding talks with Nepal through your intervention and through our efforts in this direction. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister, through you whether Nepal has refused to construct dams at Seesapani on Kamala - Balan, Ramnagar Ramaiya in Adhwada group. Noonghar in Bagmati and Kosi on Sapt Kosi rivers?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will disallow your supplementary.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, I would like to know what the Government propose to do for permanent solution to floods? 24 districts of Bihar are facing flood situation. I

would like to have a categorical reply from the hon'ble Minister in regard to permanent solution to floods in North Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no supplementary.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, we would like to know as to what was discussed with Nepal in regard to North Bihar? On this issue, the Sarvadaliya Barh Surakha Sangharsh Samiti and Bihar Navnirman Samiti etc. are on agitation in Bihar. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the problem of floods in North Bihar would be solved or not?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, would you like to say something?

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no rule for you in the House.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can reply with regard to Bihar only.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Yes, Sir. This question is about the Centrally sponsored scheme. In the Ministry of Water Resources we have three schemes; CAD scheme, Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics and Exploration of Groundwater in different States. Under CAD Scheme, over the years, we have given Rs. 109.18 crore to the State of Bihar. Bihar Government have not received the funds because they have not given the matching share of funds. The patterns of funding in the CAD Scheme is fifty-fifty. Unless the State Government provides a matching shares of 50% of funds and utilised the money released by the Central Government, and the Utilisation Certificate, the States are not entitled to receive the fund under the scheme. That has been the fact in the case of Bihar and that is why they have not received the money...(Interruptions) during the years mentioned in the reply to the main question.

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, this is a very important issue. There should be a half an hour discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER : Let me allow two or three supplementaries on it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Cheligarh in Gajapati district of Orissa has a water Harvesting Scheme for supply of water to Gajapati district and to the Berhampur city...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : What is the fault of people of Bihar in it?...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Ask for half an hour discussion...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will take action against you. Please sit down.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : May I request the hon. Minister, through you, to intimate as to what steps have been taken by him to start this work.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : The hon. Member has asked a question which is different from the main question. If you permit, I can answer it. He has referred to a specific project.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it related to the main question ?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : No, Sir, it is not related to the main question but I can answer it.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not answer it.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Drought is natural calamity. Would the Government consider a proposal regarding interlinking of various rivers; if so, what are the details thereof ?

MR. SPEAKER : The question is with regard to augmentation of water resources.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : We are discussing about the water resources. It is a very important question. The hon. Prime Minister has stated the House that interlinking of rivers is on the priority list of the Government. I would like to know the details thereof...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Besides other Members, whatever Shri Yerrannaidu raises in the House, the Government has special obligation to answer it.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : I may say that this Government is for interlinking of rivers but if the State Governments do not allow the Center to share surplus water and to have a consensus on sharing of the river waters, it will be very difficult for us to implement this programme. We are very much eager to do it. But, there are state Governments in the country which are not willing to share the surplus water and that is why this project had been stalled.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Recently, the supreme Court has also given a ruling that making available drinking water is a fundamental right. Drinking water is not available throughout the country. The position is, by the turn of the century we would not be able to get the drinking water. There is a project under the Command Area Development Authority. They are not functioning properly. What steps the Government has taken in this regard? Moreover, we have the underground water also. There is a Government proposal to have one lakh wells in rural areas but the groundwater is not available. There is a proposal with the Ministry to construct one lakh wells throughout the rural areas that is in the villages.

But the ground water is not available. So, what are the steps the Government proposing to take for rectifying the deficiencies that are found in command area schemes as well as Rural Area Water Scheme?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, as the hon. Member has mentioned, recently the Supreme Court has made an observation that it is the Fundamental Right of every citizen to have access to drinking water. We are fully in agreement with the Supreme Court. The Government is committed to provide drinking water to the people, that is why, they have many programmes. Sir if you allow me, I can cite many schemes that have been initiated.

So far as the Central Government Water Board is concerned, we are also drilling exploratory tube wells throughout the country just to find out whether water is available, and if it is available, at what depth as well as whether that water is fit for drinking. We are digging the exploratory wells all over the country including the State of Kerala. As far as providing drinking water to the citizens of

the country is concerned, we are committed to it. We have drawn up programmes for that. The Ministry of Rural Development is having different programmes in this regard. I will certainly assure the hon. Members that wherever there are deficiencies or difficulties in getting water, we will provide water to these habitations and villages also.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I come from a coastal area and the general impression is that the coastal areas, because of the rain, have no drinking water problem. But the fact is that while we have heavy rains during one season, the drinking water gets salty because of the nearness to the sea. So, we have tremendous drinking water problem in the summer season. I am asking the hon. Minister whether he has considered any schemes in this regard. We are already successfully running some such schemes. But they are not enough without sufficient funding.

The natural water basins to be identified and rain water harvesting schemes to be managed by the villages themselves should be introduced so that the rain water which goes into the sea during certain seasons is made to flow into the natural water basin. This has worked successfully in many parts of the world and in some parts of our country also. But somehow the coastal areas get no funding because the impression in Delhi is that coastal areas get have plenty of water so they do not need any specific scheme. I am, therefore, asking the Minister if this problem could be looked into and special allocation can be made for rain water harvesting and checkbunds to prevent the small streams from going into the sea and mixing up of the sweet water and salt water is also prevented. I am requesting the Minister to please do let us know if he can do something about it.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, the Central Government in the Ministry of Water Resources have interaction from time to time with the State Governments. Whatever schemes the State Governments submit to us, we certainly examine them. We also have pilot projects to suggest how these schemes can be undertaken or executed.

So far as the National Policy for Drinking Water is concerned, we have provided top most priority to it. Various programmes for rain water harvesting and watershed development have been successful in different parts of the country.

As far as salinity ingress of water is concerned, it has been the concern of the Government. From time to time, we are writing and having interaction with the State Government. Whatever proposal or schemes are submitted by them, we get them examined and we also sanction them. To some extent, we try to help them financially also.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, As per the information given by the hon'ble Minister regarding Maharashtra in Annexure(1). Rs. 298 lakhs have been released in 1997-98, in the year 1998-99 the amount was Rs. 1719 lakhs and it has further come down to Rs 660 lakhs in 1999-2000 for release under the Command Area Development Programme. I wanted to know through you from the hon'ble Minister, what are the reasons for the fall in the amount released during the said three years?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, I have stated earlier that when 50% of the matching funds the State Government provides, against the matching funds, the Centre provides them the funds. In this particular case, as he has mentioned, in 1997-98, the State Government of Maharashtra must have provided enough funds that is why, the figure is more. Subsequently, the matching share must have been less, that is why, this figure has come down.

[Translation]

SCs/STs below poverty line

+
*442. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

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

(a) whether half of the total population belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities in the country is still living below the poverty line as reported in the 'Navbharat Times' New Delhi dated October 1, 2000 under the caption 'Garib Rajyon ki Daridrata Aur Badh Rahi Hai: Yojna Ayog';

(b) if so, the special steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to bring the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities above the poverty line; and

(c) funds allocated therefor during the current financial year and the remaining Ninth Plan period, State-wise?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The news item in the 'Navbharat

Times' dated October 1, 2000 relates to incidence of poverty among the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. As per information received from the Planning Commission, the overall poverty percentage among SC and ST has declined from 57.60% in 1983-84 to 48.37% in 1993-94 in respect of SC and from 63.14% in 1983-84 to 51.14% in 1993-94 in respect of ST respectively.

(b) and (c) Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been a matter of priority for the Government. The Central Government has taken special initiatives and programmes for upgrading the status of SCs/STs. Some of these are-

In order to give a greater thrust to development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the State Governments and Central Ministries have been asked to implement special plans, namely, Tribal Sub-Plan(TSP) for the STs and Special Component Plan(SCP) for SCs. Under this strategy, certain percentage of the plan fund of the States/Ministries in proportion to the population of STs and SCs are being earmarked for spending exclusively on welfare of STs and SCs.

- Special Central Assistance is being provided as an additive to the TSP and SCP of the States.
- Grant under Article 275 of the Constitution is being provided for promoting welfare of Scheduled Tribes.
- The National SC/ST Finance Development Corporation is providing loan at concessional rate of interest to the STs and SCs.
- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs are implementing a number of specific schemes for economic empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as providing assistance for educational and social empowerment.

Details of provision kept under the special plans by the State Governments and assistance provided to State Governments are enclosed at Annexure I & II.

Provision under different schemes for the current year 2000-01 is given at Annexure III. Annual Plan allocation for 2001-2002 is yet to be finalised. Funds under these schemes are sanctioned to the States as per the guidelines on the State's submitting proposals with requisite information and utilization certificate of the amount provided in earlier years.

Annexure I-A

Details of Flow to Tribal Sub-Plan for Scheduled Tribes during 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000.

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No	States/UTs	1997-98 Flow to TSP	1998-99 Flow to TSP	1999- 2000 Flow to TSP
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	191.93	158.09	152.59
2	Assam	132.65	168.66	126.35
3	Bihar		726.76	1044.53
4	Gujarat	489.06	663.72	853.08
5	Himachal Pradesh	90.72	122.67	135.00
6	Jammu & Kashmir	231.12		56.94
7	Karnataka	84.98	76.18	88.25
8	Kerala	19.42	61.17	60.11
9	Madhya Pradesh	590.64	634.32	847.27
10	Maharashtra	550.00	561.00	580.59
11	Manipur	160.77		
12	Orissa	576.62	643.85	627.88
13	Rajasthan	390.17	384.55	427.31
14	Sikkim	11.56	14.24	25.01
15	Tamil Nadu		46.24	58.49
16	Tripura	125.94	120.51	
17	Uttar Pradesh	32	40.10	42.45
18	West Bengal	102.79	70.92	424.24
19	A & N Island	25.52	41.22	62.50
20	Daman & Diu	2.73	8.40	2.71
	Total (All TSP States)	3808.62	4499.60	5615.30

Annexure I-B

Details of Special Component plan for Scheduled Castes during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1997-98 SCP Outlay	1998-99 SCP outlay	1999- 2000 SCP outlay
1	2	3	4	5
1	A.P	339.72	573.46	544.27
2	Assam	88.63	93.50	84.42
3	Bihar	354.79	627.97	594.36
4	Gujarat	171.52	199.55	260.82
5	Goa	2.19	1.84	2.65
6	Haryana	202.65	365.37	407.47
7	H.P	124.62	172.81	190.09
8	J&K	155.40	103.00	12.97
9	Karnataka	385.10	400.50	442.77
10	Kerala	310.23	304.01	301.46
11	M.P.	307.30	315.79	214.42
12	Maharashtra	600.00	608.00	640.00
13	Manipur	4.13	22.00	7.04
14	Orissa	282.04	322.15	347.78
15	Punjab	210.00	220.00	242.00
16	Rajasthan	660.01	688.74	797.41
17	Sikkim	4.22	0.36	0.52
18	Tamil Nadu	752.23	825.53	997.41
19	Tripura	40.58	40.88	49.48
20	U.P.	1484.00	2159.81	2394.00
21	West Bengal	300.38	235.30	1414.14
22	Chandigarh	10.21	12.87	14.19
23	Delhi	205.01	205.46	245.30
24	Pondicherry	35.47	32.68	53.53
	Total	7026.92	8531.58	10412.20

Annexure II-A

Release of Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan For Scheduled Castes during 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No	States/UT	1997-98 Released	1998-99 Released	1999-2000 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	2680.13	3388.78	4134.94
2	Assam	142.18	596.66	695.31
3	Bihar	2808.20	3620.07	3471.49
4	Gujarat	1659.99	371.40	682.27
5	Goa	3.83	2.72	5.49
6	Haryana	546.41	741.77	840.36
7	Himachal Pradesh	256.91	259.56	298.18
8	Jammu & Kashmir	73.87	132.80	183.44
9	Karnataka	1389.35	1820.07	2097.36
10	Kerala	645.94	724.54	813.24
11	Madhya Pradesh	1945.24	2237.08	3303.27
12	Maharashtra	1922.45	1673.92	2067.30
13	Manipur	6.58	10.62	12.54
14	Orissa	1925.47	2281.57	1907.72
15	Punjab	0	1119.74	1280.29
16	Rajasthan	2279.81	2575.48	2792.68
17	Sikkim	4.44	4.03	22.37
18	Tamil Nadu	1756.90	3236.93	4036.92
19	Tripura	106.28	108.72	159.14
20	Uttar Pradesh	7646.66	7518.15	9728.65
21	West Bengal	2848.78	3378.39	4962.00
22	Chandigarh	18.16	22.00	25.00
23	Delhi	135.43	201.71	149.91
24	Pondicherry	23.99	73.29	30.13
Total		30827.00	36100.00	43700.00

Annexure II-B

Release of Funds under Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub-Plan during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2581.54	2728.47	2182.94
2	Assam	1460.00	2069.56	2443.50
3	Bihar	-	-	4779.13
4	Gujarat	2632.77	3689.70	3139.98
5	Himachal Pradesh	521.89	689.44	514.05
6	Jammu & Kashmir	521.80	739.22	776.38
7	Karnataka	500.00	686.64	616.13
8	Kerala	196.12	408.17	218.63
9	Madhya Pradesh	9207.83	9476.17	9797.15
10	Maharashtra	3400.89	3532.21	2974.57
11	Manipur	950.00	779.52	608.65
12	Orissa	5576.27	5911.86	5698.28
13	Rajasthan	2341.13	3475.72	2915.24
14	Sikkim	60.00	60.00	86.28
15	Tamil Nadu	243.71	295.91	258.27
16	Tripura	885.00	977.77	831.57
17	Uttar Pradesh	112.91	57.54	99.85
18	West Bengal	1600.39	2222.10	1759.40
19	A & N Island	118.00	133.90	255.40
20	Daman & Diu	50.75	66.10	44.60
Total		32961.00	38000.00	40000.00

Annexure II-C

Releases made under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution for Scheduled Tribes during last three years
(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No	States/UTs	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	453.50	607.00	613.86
2	Assam	305.00	210.00	420.17
3	Bihar	641.75	483.50	967.23
4	Gujarat	625.00	450.00	900.70
5	Himachal Pradesh	108.00	16.00	31.92
6	Jammu & Kashmir	131.75	63.50	124.12
7	Karnataka	270.00	140.00	280.03
8	Kerala	111.75	123.50	46.92
9	Madhya Pradesh	1262.50	2125.00	2250.96

1	2	3	4	5
10	Maharashtra	667.25	534.50	1069.75
11	Manipur	123.00	69.00	92.41
12	Orissa	657.00	514.00	1027.93
13	Rajasthan	600.00	700.00	800.29
14	Sikkim	103.25	9.75	13.29
15	Tamil Nadu	121.00	42.00	83.93
16	Tripura	231.25	162.50	124.74
17	Uttar Pradesh	110.50	21.00	42.08
18	West Bengal	339.25	578.50	556.75
19	Arunachal Pradesh	120.00	60.00	80.45
20	Meghalaya	255.50	166.50	221.88
21	Mizoram	124.00	107.50	95.53
22	Nagaland	138.75	316.25	155.06
Total		7500.00	7500.00	10000.00

Annexure II - D

National Scheduled Castes /Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation

State-wise Cumulative Sanctions & Disbursements as on 31-10-2000

Sl. No	State	No. of Scheme	Project Cost	NSFDC Share	No. of Beneficiaries	Gross Funds Disbursed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	131	18485.60	11520.99	96823	10185.38
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	48	137.98	100.90	52	102.18
3.	Assam	76	2524.16	2047.94	2416	1877.66
4.	Bihar	55	5885.19	4391.35	8065	3096.64
5.	Chandigarh	25	625.63	446.11	400	429.67
6.	Dadra and N. Haveli, Diu	14	235.25	194.50	97	165.90
7	Delhi	50	2092.82	1183.60	1463	952.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Goa	22	254.80	194.77	105	160.48
9.	Gujarat	103	9080.65	6079.72	10616	6046.36
10.	Haryana	30	2664.34	1851.04	1366	1490.57
11.	Himachal Pradesh	81	2351.14	1544.52	927	1552.26
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	21	1207.52	855.09	625	750.17
13.	Karnataka	207	9301.14	5426.78	21432	5104.93
14.	Kerala	112	4263.91	2872.60	5565	2402.68
15.	Lakshadweep	18	105.17	84.30	23	80.56
16.	Madhya Pradesh	126	16690.61	11181.81	2225	10258.89
17.	Maharashtra	170	9987.23	6559.91	9297	5887.22
18.	Manipur	64	1044.84	726.30	917	576.18
19.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
20.	Mizoram	120	1314.08	965.04	1917	875.22
21.	Nagaland	146	1306.35	913.41	1082	913.11
22.	Orissa	77	4171.76	3618.73	2335	2407.01
23.	Pondicherry	48	473.29	354.52	275	327.45
24.	Punjab	24	2970.48	1925.85	1680	2138.78
25.	Rajasthan	55	2873.67	2188.17	2925	1211.03
26.	Sikkim	33	655.60	551.42	549	474.64
27.	Tamil Nadu	97	6087.67	3337.83	7449	3831.63
28.	Tripura	64	1845.47	1492.68	1720	1259.81
29.	Uttar Pradesh	47	10230.35	6455.94	34822	4546.89
30.	West Bengal	114	5973.55	4457.23	12944	2870.95
Grand Total		2178	124778.25	83522.95	248437	71976.53

Annexure – III(A)*Outlay for Scheduled Caste Development schemes*

Sl. No.	Scheme	2000-01-BE Amount in crore Rs
1.	Post Matric Scholarship(CSS)	135.00
2.	PCR and Atrocities (CSS)	30.00
3.	Hostel for SC boys & Girls (CSS)	22.00
4.	NSFDC(CSS)	35.00
5.	SCDC(CSS)	25.00
6.	NSKFDC(CSS)	22.00
7.	Book Banks (CSS)	3.00
8.	Liberation & Rehab. of Scavengers (CSS)	75.00
9.	Pre-Matric Scholarship(CSS)	10.00
10.	Coaching & Allied (CSS)	3.00
11.	Supporting Project to All India Nature of SCs(Research & Training)(CSS)	0.50
12.	Upgradation of Merit of SCs/STs student (CSS)	1.00
13.	Assistance to NGOs	30.00
14.	SCA to SCP (CS)	470.00
15.	Spl. Educational Dev. Programme (CS)	2.00
16.	Ambedkar Foundation (CS)	1.00
Total for SCD		864.50

Annexure - III (B)*Outlay for Annual Plan 2000-2001 for the schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.*

(Rs. In Crores)

S. No.	Scheme	Outlay for 2000-2001
1.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)	400.00
2.	Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution	200.00
3.	Girls Hostels for STs	13.00
4.	Boys Hostels for STs	12.00
5.	Ashram Schools in TSP areas	15.00
6.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations	30.00
7.	Research and Training	8.00
8.	Investment in TRIFED	1.00
9.	Price Support to TRIFED	4.00
10.	Grant-in-aid to State TDCCs	15.00
11.	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets	6.00
12.	Vocational Training Centre	12.00
13.	Village Grain Bank Scheme	2.00
14.	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups	14.00
15.	Book Banks for ST students	1.00
16.	Coaching & Allied Scheme	1.50
17.	Post-matric scholarship	70.00
18.	Upgradation of Merit of ST Students	0.50
19.	Grant-in-aid to Scheduled Tribes Finance Corporation	2.60
Total		810.00

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is giving here data. Under Article 275 of the Constitution, funds are allocated by the Central Government for the upliftment of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. During 1983-84 51.60 per cent people belonging to the scheduled castes were below poverty line and this figure fell down to 48.37 per cent during 1993-94. Similarly, during 1983-84, 63.14 per cent people belonging to the scheduled tribes were below the poverty line and this figure came down to 51.14 per cent during 1993-94. Their number should have decreased day by day, but actually there is no proper budgetary allocation for this purpose. The population of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes was 22.50 per cent in 1950. However, now their population is more than 27-28 per cent if census is done. Government of India's guidelines are also there in this regard.

If the people of these categories are to be uplifted, then under the special component plan the budgetary provisions for every department should be made. Keeping in view the population of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. But this is not done. Every year the Government only plays with data. We are fed up with the data. We want your protection in this regard. If the people of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes are to be really uplifted then such provisions will have to be made. If you do not uplift them, the people of these classes will vote you out of power. You have come to the power with their support whether you belong to the treasury benches or the opposition. They are a sizable population.

MR. SPEAKER: Athawaleji, you please ask your supplementary question.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the issue of supplementary question. My question is that there is a need to uplift the people of these classes. The hon. Prime Minister is sitting here. He is in a strong position at present. He does not have any problem whatsoever. Right, he has a problem of numbers in Rajya Sabha but here in Lok Sabha, there is no such problem. I would like to impress upon the hon. Prime Minister that there is a need to formulate a special Five Year Programme for the economic development of the people of these classes. I would like to ask whether his Government is contemplating to formulate a new Five Year Programme. If so, the time by which decision in this regard is likely to be taken. I want the Prime Minister to reply to this question.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member, that we are in a somewhat better position at present. He has raised a very important issue. The

Government has formulated several developmental schemes for the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. But these are inadequate in view of the population of these people. The other problem is relating to implementation of these schemes. At times, there is no shortage of funds. The funds are there but that do not reach to the people. The people do not get benefits of those funds. Therefore, the Government is concentrating on implementation part. If the people, Members of Parliament and MLAs lend their cooperation, the people will get the due benefits from the schemes meant for them.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the amount that is given to the students of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes as scholarship need to be enhanced after every two years. Keeping in pace with the rise in the prices. I want that the hon. Minister should also reply to this.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. We have raised the amount of scholarship. We will be raising it from time to time because it is quite true that when I took over, it was very outdated and it was impossible for anybody to live with such a small sum of money.

Regarding the previous question about what is being done to lift the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes above the poverty line, there are several schemes. There are 13 Ministries which have an SCA Plan. Apart from that, there are Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme. There are crores of rupees going to these schemes. As the Prime Minister said, it is difficult to get them implemented to the individual, unless he is aware of these schemes. What we do in our Ministry, about the schemes that come under my Ministry, is this. Firstly, we have simplified the paper work enormously. We have started using radio and television to inform them on what the schemes are. We have started using our District Offices intensively so that forms are readily available. We had sent a big booklet of schemes last year to every Member of Parliament so that they can advise us. We held a meeting of MPs belonging to SCs and STs. They gave us 20 suggestions and many to these suggestions have been implemented. We are calling another meeting at the beginning of the next session to give our report card, as it were. We have started a new scheme, through our corporation, for SCs and STs. They are providing micro-financing. We are starting for more state Channelising agencies, and anybody who comes with an innovative scheme, which is implementable, we are doing that.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were expecting that today the Government would explain through the reply to the question that the economic condition of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has been improved by way of properly implementing the Special Component Plan and the Tribal Sub. Plan formulated by hon. Shrimati Indira Gandhi under Five Year Plan. However, it is disheartening to read the long article published in 'The Navbharat Times' and also what has been mentioned in the report of the Parliamentary Committee on S.C. and S.T. which clearly state that several State Governments have diverted the funds allocated under Special Component Plan and the Tribal Sub-plan instead of utilising them for the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. The hon. Prime Minister has rendered his sermon speech coupled with blessings. But that is hardly going to improve the situation. No body is going to accept what he has said. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to how much funds were actually allocated under the special component plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan during the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans and how those funds were utilised by the different states. I would like to know the name of those states which diverted the funds and what actions were taken against them. This is what I want to ask.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, I will collect the information about how it is being spent. Regarding the amount of money given to them, if you give me just a minute, I will find out from my papers and reply.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you look at the question - it has been specifically asked in the C. part of it. But unfortunately the hon. Minister has not come fully prepared. She has no information. It has just now been mentioned that funds are also allocated under the provisions of Article 275 of the Constitution. The Government of India has set up the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Finance Corporation. But the Article 338, the President.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister reply. She is replying.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question. This is concerning crores of countrymen.

My question is absolutely relevant and not irrelevant. Kindly get me an answer as to the names of the States which have diverted the funds. What notice did the Government of India take and what action was taken against them?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Sardar Buta Singh, please understand that this is Question Hour.

....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, in 1997-98, the amount of flow to the Tribal Sub-Plan for Scheduled Tribes was Rs. 380 crore and today, it is Rs. 561 crore.
...(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, kindly help me.
...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : You asked me what is the flow.

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any State which has diverted these funds for some other purpose?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : We are constantly monitoring them. No State will openly confess having diverted it.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : The Committee on SCs and STs has submitted a report before the Parliament. Even the Planning Commission has said it in the body of the answer itself. Sir, she does not know anything about SCs and STs.

MR. SPEAKER : No, this is not proper.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : There has been a general report on the diversion of funds which is evident because you may see that the percentage of people coming above the poverty is not increasing. So, obviously, there has been a diversion of some sort.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, she is evading the answer.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I am not evading the answer.

MR. SPEAKER : Let her complete her answer.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : However, specific details of diversion are not available. I would be happy to collect them and send them to the hon. Member later.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : She does not know anything about it. The Government of India is sitting idle.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : She has already said that she is not ready with the answer, She would send it later.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, every Ministry is supposed to have it very minutely maintained how the funds are utilised. Such details she should have. She has no details as to how the funds are utilised.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : She is going to send the information to the hon. Member.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that she has already given the reply. She is going to send the information to the hon. Member.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Let the information be made available.

MR. SPEAKER : She is going to do that only.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kriplani you please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. What is this?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shrichand Kriplani, the Minister is yet to reply. What is this ?

....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Let the Minister say(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : She has already said that.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (JALORE) : She has not replied(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sardar Buta Singh, please take your seat. How can you disturb the Question Hour ?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sardar Buta Singh, please take your seat. You are not listening to the Chair.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, are you going to reply?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Yes, Sir. I would like to reply.

There is no specific incident of diversion which is being reported to us by the States. However, let me explain it. If the hon. Members have specific incidents, they can let me know.

Let me read from the Report of the Planning Commission because the Hon. Members have mentioned that the Planning Commission specifically said about that. I would like to read it out to you. It is very important that they listen. It says

"As we look back on the historical planning process, we find that attention to development of SCs was even less than that of STs. For instance, no new administrative structural adjustments were brought out like the special multi-purpose blocks of the 50s and tribal development blocks of the 60s. Perhaps the assumption was that the SC people would obtain a share....."

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing the Minister also to reply. What is this ?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, Please complete your answer.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on records.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please complete your reply.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, the Minister is there to reply.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper. Nothing should go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is there to reply. What is this ?

....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : May I reply ?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sardar Buta Singh, let her complete. What is this ?

....(Interruptions)

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

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Is this the way to behave during the Question Hour ? Please take your seats. What is this ?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please complete it.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the Minister's reply.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, are you going to complete your reply or not?

....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Please allow me... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, please take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please complete your reply.

....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, I just want to say that if the hon. Members have any specific details regarding diversion of funds, I would look into the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sardar Buta Singh, what is this? You are a senior Member?

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should protect the interest of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question that has been asked ... (Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : The reply to that is not coming forth. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : That is being replied to, but you have one additional question in regard to which the hon. Minister has said that she has no immediate answer to that. The reply to your question will be communicated to you. Your question is not something which has no answer or the Government would not like to answer it. ... (Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government may take time....(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : That is exactly what she is telling...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the information that the hon. Minister has given in her reply it seems that she has not furnished information about all the states and it also seems that all those schemes concerning the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have not been implemented in all the states because she has furnished the details of only 20 states in regard to funds allocated under the Tribal Sub-Plan and she has furnished the details of only 22 states in regard to allocation of funds under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution made during the last three years. Similarly, in regard to the Special Central assistance given under Tribal Sub-plan, the details of only 20 states have been given. If these schemes have not been implemented in all the states what is the reason therefor. And if those schemes have been implemented in all the states, will the hon. Minister provide information about those states which have not been mentioned in her reply. What are the details of those 19 schemes which are being implemented for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Moreover, no information has been given about the "Annpurna Yojna" which is being implemented for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes throughout the country. I would also like hon. Minister to give information in that regard.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : The assistance is given to the States as per the percentages of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population. There are certain States which do not have Scheduled Castes. However, I would supply the other information, if you so desire.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the names of those States which have no S.C. and S.T. population.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri D.V.G. Shankar Rao will speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I would like the Minister to clarify.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I have called Shri D.V.G. Shankar Rao.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want any clarification, you can do so only after he completes his speech.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Sir, our Government is implementing schemes for economic empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in this country.

Through you, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister, how many backlog posts are vacant in the Central Services for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and what steps are being taken to fill up these vacancies effectively. Is there a time-bound programme or not?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, this question does not apply to me; it applies to the Department of Personnel.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very much confused. You were in the Chair yesterday. The reply given by the hon. Hon. Minister of Rural Development yesterday and the reply given by the hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment today are very much confusing. I do not know which one is correct. Because of this, I am drawing your attention that yesterday the hon. Minister of Rural Development, while stating about the data of the persons living below poverty-line, categorically said that the NSSO consumer expenditure data is not available separately for backward and tribal areas. But here it is available with the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. How can it be? One Minister is saying that there is no data about the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, another Minister is saying that yes, it is there. How is it possible? So, I would like to ask the Prime Minister, through you, Sir, – Mr. Prime Minister, please lend your ear to me – to please tell me which Minister is correct and whether the Planning Commission data for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is available or not.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your Supplementary?

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister as to which Minister is correct.

MR. SPEAKER : This does not relate to the main Question. What is your Supplementary?

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : My Supplementary is regarding the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I have no information about the percentage. Yesterday, the hon. Minister of Rural

Development categorically said that there is no data of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes available... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, this Question relates to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living below poverty-line. What is your Supplementary?

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : My Supplementary is regarding Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Here it is categorically stated that according to the Planning Commission, the NSSO consumer expenditure data are not available for the backward and tribal areas... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, please ask your Supplementary. What is your Supplementary?

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Sir, my Supplementary is that the Minister of Rural Development says that there are no data available with the Planning Commission, but here the hon. Minister is saying that she has got the Planning Commission data. I would like to know categorically from the hon. Prime Minister, which one is correct. Does the Planning Commission have the data about the tribal and Scheduled Caste people or not? This is my question, Sir.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, the consumer expenditure data is available for SCs and STs, not for tribal and backward areas... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are disturbing the House and, at the same time, you are asking me to postpone the Question. See, how you are behaving in the House!

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now Question No.443.

Sanctions

*443 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the recent UN Summit held in New York, big powers gave any assurance to India with regard to withdrawal of sanctions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Sir, it is a great surprise to see the reply to this Question because I have

seen the earlier Unstarred Questions dated 1.3.2000, 27.7.2000 and 3.8.2000 answered in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The Members have asked you what are the effects of the Sanction and you have replied to their Questions. I do not know how this particular Question is not replied here. It means that there are no Sanctions or that particular thing is over now. I am bringing this to the notice of the hon. Speaker.

I do not understand why the Government is shy of telling it. In the months of March and July this year they have said that out of sanctions on 200 organisations, sanctions on 51 organisations have been lifted. Why are you shy here to tell anything about lifting of the sanctions? I do not understand it. I do not think that the Government wants to hide anything on this. I particularly want a clarification on this.

Secondly we are glad that the hon. Prime Minister of India personally attended the General Assembly of the United Nations and in that United Nations General Assembly he had ample opportunities to see the top leaders of the world and represent the cause of India because India is suffering; once the economic reforms have been started in the country and again the sanctions have been launched on.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shinde, there are others also who want to ask supplementaries.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Yes sir. I will ask a specific question. What efforts have you made when you were in the United Nations?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, because the phraseology of the question has said whether the Big Powers gave any assurance to India with regard to withdrawal of sanctions during the Millennium Summit, that is why the response has to come. We are not shy at all. I will give full information to the hon. Member if he likes. But there is no sufficient time now.

Sir, following the May, 1998 tests, sanctions – I call them Restrictive Economic Measures – were imposed against India by, among others, countries like the United States of America, Japan, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland and Australia. As of now, all those countries, other than Japan, have either greatly modified their Restrictive Economic Measures programme or have completely abandoned them. For example, some of the Nordic countries like Sweden and Norway have now completely changed their programme. The United States of America has greatly modified the programme and as indeed, in the month of November even the President of America gave an executive waiver authority.

Regarding the idea that the hon. Member carries that we are trying to keep anything away from the House, please be assured that we are not keeping anything at all away from the House. Because of paucity of time I am unable to answer to his satisfaction. If the hon. Member wants to know the information, I will happily provide it.

So far as the hon. Prime Minister's participation in the Millennium Summit and what he particularly referred to are concerned, may I inform the hon. Members that when the hon. Prime Minister addressed the Millennium Summit on the 8th September, 2000 he, among other aspects, emphasised the need for redressing the asymmetry that existed between the developed and the developing countries in deriving the benefits of globalisation, and he urged the international community for a new global strategy aimed against poverty. The hon. Prime Minister also stressed that there should be a concerted global action against international terrorism and for the early conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention against terrorism. The hon. Prime Minister reiterated that India had a natural claim to the Permanent Membership of the expanded United Nations Security Council.

In the bilateral meetings that the hon. Prime Minister had then during the Millennium Summit and also subsequently in Washington, he said – as the hon. Prime Minister did emphasise earlier – that the entire question of imposition of Restrictive Economic Measures against India is both unjustified and counter-productive.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Sir, the hon. Prime Minister and Mr. Bill Clinton met in the White House. Before meeting the general public, there was a private meeting with the President of the United States of America.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shinde, the time is very very short. You have to put a sharp question.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : What exactly was the priority accorded to lifting of the Sanctions? Nothing has happened between March and September. After September, ever since the Prime Minister met Mr. Bill Clinton, what exactly has the Government done in this regard? I would like the Minister to explain as to what are the specific Sanctions that have been lifted after that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Minister has referred to the lifting of sanctions, the restrictive economic measures against 51 entities. Those were lifted by President Clinton prior to his visit to India. After the hon. Prime Minister visited the United States of America, the United States, as it were, went into election mood. Thereafter, it was election period,

which has only just now concluded. So far as the executive authority of the President ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : There was no discussion in the White House between President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Of course, there was a one-to-one discussion between the two Heads of Government. Discussions that are held in one-to-one meetings between Heads of Government, you will appreciate, are of confidential nature and must remain so.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Persons benefited under PMRY

*444. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL

SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons benefited from the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana during the last three years, State-wise ;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the applicants have to face great difficulties in getting loans under the said scheme;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to amend the rules to provide loans easily under this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The number of persons disbursed loan under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the last three years i.e. 1997-98; 1998-99 and 1999-2000 based on the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India is attached as Statement.

(b) and (c) The evaluation study of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the year 1994-95 has shown that the beneficiaries faced certain problems in getting loan which are of general nature i.e. undue delay and procedural difficulties in disbursement, under financing from the banks, difficulty in obtaining loan forms from the banks etc.

(d) and (e) The amendment in the rules/parameters of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is a continuous process based on the feedback received from the implementing agencies i.e. Banks, States/UTs and the District Industries Centres.

Statement

State-wise Target Fixed and number of persons benefited under the Prime minister's Rozgar Yojana for the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(As reported by Reserve Bank of India)

Sl. No	States/UT	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		Total	
		Plan Target (Nos.)	Disbursement by Banks (Nos.)	Plan Target (Nos.)	Disbursement by Banks (Nos.)	Plan Target (Nos.)	Disbursement by Banks* (Nos.)	Plan Target (Nos.)	Disbursement by Banks (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Northern Region									
1	Haryana	4200	4925	4150	5736	4150	3854	12500	14515
2	Himachal Pradesh	2300	2009	2300	1917	2450	1690	7050	5616
3	Jammu and Kashmir	1300	1969	1300	835	1300	747	3900	3551
4	Punjab	4500	7934	4500	8068	4250	6749	13250	22751
5	Rajasthan	8200	9681	8150	10026	8050	7617	24400	27324
6	Chandigarh	600	114	100	75	500	42	1200	231
7	Delhi	4700	755	4700	506	4850	510	14250	1771
North Eastern Region									
8	Assam	6700	7437	6700	5425	6400	2991	19800	15853
9	Manipur	1000	658	1000	393	1000	158	3000	1209
10	Meghalaya	300	377	300	201	300	287	900	865
11	Nagaland	250	335	250	39	200	42	700	416
12	Tripura	650	211	650	105	560	162	1860	478
13	Arunachal Pradesh	150	178	125	166	100	105	375	449
14	Mizoram	200	334	200	34	200	31	600	399
15	Sikkim	100	58	100	45	100	40	300	143

* Disbursement may go up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Eastern Region									
16	Bihar	21500	12139	20500	8205	21800	5392	63800	25736
17	Orissa	6800	4903	6700	2906	7100	680	20600	8489
18	West Bengal	23000	4017	23000	2615	22800	1982	68800	8614
19	Andaman and Nicobar	100	61	100	76	75	94	275	231
Central Region									
20	Madhya Pradesh	15400	22231	15400	19054	15800	11234	46600	52519
21	Uttar Pradesh	25800	31476	25800	34830	26000	29583	77600	95889
Western Region									
22	Gujarat	8400	7110	8300	10607	8300	9620	25000	27337
23	Maharashtra	21300	30514	21250	26352	21800	20238	64350	77104
24	Daman and Diu	50	23	25	21	25	16	100	60
25	Goa	600	251	600	301	500	380	1700	932
26	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50	67	25	28	50	25	125	120
Southern Region									
27	Andhra Pradesh	17100	20556	17100	15092	16800	10448	51000	46096
28	Karnataka	11000	14021	10950	12791	11100	8306	33050	35118
29	Kerala	16000	11542	16000	11756	16000	10291	48000	33589
30	Tamil Nadu	18500	12745	18400	11289	17000	9183	53900	33217
31	Lashadweep	50	40	50	31	20	19	120	90
32	Pondicherry	500	308	500	319	500	207	1500	834
Not specified					6				
All India		221300	208979	219225	189850	220080	142723	660605	541552

Migration to Gulf countries

*445. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have imposed a ban on the migration of Indian labourers to the Gulf countries;

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

(c) the time by which the said ban is likely to be lifted?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) The Government have not imposed any ban as such on emigration of Indian workers to the Gulf

countries for contractual employment except where cases of harassment, non-payment/delayed payment of wages to workers etc., have come to notice.

(c) Restrictions imposed are relaxed as and when Government satisfaction is reached that the deployment would be as per the terms and conditions of employment.

Mandal Commission

446. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several State Governments have not implemented the recommendations of the Mandal Commission so far;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have issued directives to the State Governments for implementation of the recommendations of the said commission and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the Union Government have succeeded in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) (a) and (b) Most of the States/UTs have implemented the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. However, the States of Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and UT of Lakshadweep have not implemented the recommendations of Mandal Commission as these States/UT are mainly tribal dominated and have not identified any backward caste/community. The States of Goa and Manipur and the UT of A and N Islands are in the process of implementing the recommendations of Mandal Commission. The State Government of Tripura has not yet extended the reservation to OBCs as there is already 51% reservation for SCs/STs/physically handicapped/ex-servicemen in the State.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court in their Judgement given in Indira Sawhney and others Vs Union of India and Others case, popularly known as 'Mandal Case' issued several directions to the Government of India and State Govts./UT Administrations. The Government of India have also issued instructions to all States/UTs regarding exclusion of Creamy Layer among OBCs for the purpose of reservation in services and posts under Government of India on 15.11.1993.

As regards the implementation of the recommendations of Mandal Commission by the Central Government, the Central Government has notified the Central List of OBCs in respect of 26 States/UTs and has been implementing the reservation policy for OBCs in accordance with the Supreme Court directives given in the Indira Sawhney and others Vs. Union of India and others case. However, the responsibility of implementation of the recommendations of Mandal Commission in the State lies with the concerned State Governments.

Iodised Salt at subsidized Rate

*447. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering/ providing iodised salt to the poor people at subsidized rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Salt Commission has conducted preliminary assessment of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a)to(d) Government considered a suggestion to provide iodized salt to the population below the poverty line at a subsidized rate. The idea was discussed with all concerned, including the Salt Commissioner, but was not found feasible for the following reasons :

1. Several States/Union Territories are already supplying iodized salt through the Public Distribution System covering all or part of their population.
2. There is negligible difference between the price of loose iodized salt and non-iodized salt.
3. The coverage of iodized salt all over the country has already reached 70% without any subsidy.

It was also felt that consumption of iodized salt was not popular in some areas mainly due to lack of knowledge about its beneficial impact on human health. Therefore, it has been decided to create public awareness about the comparative advantage of consuming iodized salt and its

relative affordability, particularly amongst those living in rural, remote, and tribal areas and in urban slums.

Scheme by UNDP and India for Sanitation and Drinking Water

*448. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether poor sanitation and non-availability of clean drinking water in India has been reported in a publication released recently by the United Nations Development Programme;

(b) whether the data of the Planning Commission and the UNDP in this regard are the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government and the U.N.D.P. have jointly formulated any scheme regarding sanitation, supply of drinking water, medical facilities and construction of metalled roads, etc.; and

(e) if so, the details of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) (a) to (c) The Human Development Report – 2000 released by the United Nations Development Programme reflects that 71% of population is without access to sanitation while 19% have no access to safe water. We understand that the data used in the above report is calculated on the basis of access data of the UNICEF and the UNICEF have primarily relied on Government's Statistics of 1996 and appear to have supplemented them from other sources also. The Central Government's Statistics are based on the reports furnished by the State Governments and released by the concerned administrative ministries. As per these figures the population without access to sanitation is 75% and for drinking water is 19%. The two sets of figures broadly tally.

(d) and (e) Union Government and UNDP have jointly formulated projects under Country Cooperation Framework-I (CCF-I). Particulars of projects having components of drinking water, sanitation and medical facilities are given in the statement below.

Statement

Particulars of CCF – I Projects having component of drinking water and sanitation

Project No.	Location	Executing Agency	Implementing Agency
IND-97-411	Chattisgarh	MoRD	CEO ZP, Raigarh
IND-97-441	Gujarat	MoRD	Banaskantha, DWCRA Mahila Sewa Association
IND-97-445	Rajasthan	MoRD	Tgarun Bharat Sangh (NGO)
IND-97-447	Orissa	MoRD	Lokadrustri (NGO)
IND-97-452	Rajasthan	MoRD	Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (NGO)
IND-97-454	Tamil Nadu	MoRD	MSSRF
IND-97-945	New Delhi	Dept. of UD	Asian Centre for Organisation & Development
IND-97-946	All India	MoE&F	World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme

Schemes having health component :

There is one UNDP assisted pilot scheme for community initiated in health under three areas, namely, (i) multi-sectoral approach through Panchayat and local communities, (ii) school health and (iii) community financing with the main objectives to enhance capacity of the district block and gram panchayat functionaries including health to provide support to village health communities for multi-sectoral approach to health care, to demonstrate sustainable and effective partnership between communities, local bodies and health systems for school going children and to empower communities to better manage their health care through establishing partnership with health services providers and thereby reduce the burden of expenses on health care.

Insurance for HIV patients

*449. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting with some insurance companies was held in April, 2000 for providing insurance cover to the HIV/AIDS infected persons;

(b) if so, the details of decisions taken in the meeting; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) A meeting was held under the Chairpersonship of Additional Secretary and Project Director, National AIDS Control Organisation, Government of India on 19.04.2000 to discuss various issues related to the insurance coverage of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

As per the feedback provided by the representatives of various insurance companies, LIC policies do not debar consideration of any application on grounds of any disease. However, at the time of granting policy, selection is made whether the proposals are to be accepted at standard rates or with extra premium or declined, depending on the family and personal history and state of health revealed by medical and special medical reports.

It was also stated by the representative from Life Insurance Corporation of India that the policies are not cancelled because of any disease contracted including HIV/AIDS by policy holder after commencement of the policy, provided full and complete disclosures are made at the stage of making the proposal.

However, under Mediclaim policy it was observed that the HIV/AIDS is not included for reimbursement of claims. Thus, National AIDS Control Organisation has approached the Department of Insurance, Ministry of Finance on 26th April 2000 to look into this issue so that under Medi-claim policy, individuals having HIV-related illnesses are given benefit of the schemes.

Child Labour

*450. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp increase in the number of child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce a Bill to determine minimum wages for them;

(d) if so the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to make a provision for imparting compulsory education to them;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the States which have been given approval to set up special schools for child labour as on date; and

(h) the number of child labour likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) Authentic figures of child labour in the country are generated by the decennial census. According to the 1981 Census, the estimated figure of working children was 13.6 million whereas the number of working children in the country was of the order of 11.28 million as per 1991 Census.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The provision for extension of Minimum Wages for working children is already covered under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(e) and (f) Government has already initiated action by introducing a Bill to this effect in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 1997.

(g) and (h) 93 National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) are currently under implementation in 13 child labour endemic states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal for rehabilitation of about 2.00 lakh children withdrawn from work. These children are being imparted educational assistance in Special Schools under NCLP.

Disposal of Nuclear Waste

451. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether low level radio-active nuclear waste generated after Pokhran Nuclear blasts has been dumped at Pokhran in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the nuclear waste is posing a threat for the entire world;

(d) if so, whether the Government have developed any modern technique or drawn up any long term plan for the disposal of nuclear low level radio-active waste in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

(f) whether any agreement has been signed with any foreign country for disposal of nuclear low level radio-active waste; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) There has been no dumping of any radioactive waste at Pokhran in Rajasthan. In fact it is well known that our nuclear tests did not cause any radioactive contamination in the environment and that the nuclear tests were totally contained.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. India has been practising the safest management of radioactive waste for over four decades and the technologies being employed in the country are 'state-of-the-art' and comparable to the best in the world.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Ground Water

*452. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that water level in several parts of the country is declining alarmingly, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to establish national hydrological stations in States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh to monitor the level of ground water;

(c) whether the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has prepared any report in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (d) The long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a situation of fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the country. The names of the States/districts having pockets where fall in the ground water level for more than 4 metre (1980-99) has been observed are indicated in Statement. Fall in the level of ground water ranging from 0.40 to 2.32 metre during pre-monsoon and from 0.05 to 4.0 metre in

post-monsoon period in the State of Andhra Pradesh has been observed during (1980-99).

The Central Ground Water Board has established 14,981 national hydrological monitoring stations in various States to monitor the ground water level. The number of national hydrological monitoring stations set up by the Central Ground Water Board in Andhra Pradesh is 1100, while the State Ground Water Organisation has established 3611 monitoring stations in Andhra Pradesh.

It is not the function of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to prepare reports regarding water levels with the data provided by the hydrological monitoring stations. The Central Ground Water Authority has been set up under the Environment(Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water management and development.

It is the Central Ground Water Board, which prepares reports on the water level on the basis of measurements taken from the national hydrological monitoring stations four times in a year and a "year book" is prepared by the end of the year.

Water being a State subject, steps to check the declining trend in ground water level is to be taken by the State Governments. In order to prevent the decline in the levels of ground water, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have taken up recharging measures under the Neeru-Meeru Programme since May, 2000. The first phase of this programme is completed. The State Government is also implementing various watershed development programmes.

The Central Ground Water Board has sanctioned five artificial recharge schemes in the State of Andhra Pradesh under the Central Sector Scheme on artificial recharge of ground water. The Central Ground Water Authority has also organised mass awareness programmes in the districts of Nalgonda and Mehboobnagar about the need for protection and conservation of ground water.

The other steps taken by the Central Government to check decline in the ground water level include :

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories, to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iii) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them

to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies in artificial recharge of ground water in some 'Over-exploited' and 'Dark' blocks of the country.

Statement

Name of the State/District having pockets with fall in ground water level of more than 4 metres (1980-99)

Sl. No.	State	Districts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Shrikakulam, Chittoor
2.	Bihar	East Singhbhum, Ranchi, Samastipur, Chapra, Dharbhanga
3.	Haryana	Kurushetra, Kaithal, Mehandargarh, Jind
4.	Karnataka	Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bellari, Shimoga, Bangalore, Mysore, Gulbarga
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain, Dewas, Shajahanpur, Dhar, Sagar, Bilaspur, Raipur, Surguja, Guna, Narsinghpur
6.	Maharashtra	Akola, Nagpur, Jalgaon, Osmanabad, Satara, Aurangabad, Sangli, Buldhana, Amravati
7.	Orissa	Koraput, Mayurbhanj
8.	Punjab	Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ferozpur, Ludhiana, Patiala, Sangrur, Faridkot, Fatehgarh.
9.	Rajasthan	Nagaur, Bikaner, Jaipur
10.	Tamil Nadu	Salem, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tanjavour, Paddukottai, Kamrajar, Thirunaganar
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda, Farukhabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Fetehpur, Allahabad, Banda, Nainital
12.	West Bengal	Purulia, Midnapur

Inter-State Water Disputes

*453. COL.(RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are inter-State water disputes between various States for the last several years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to work out modalities for solving these long pending disputes;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to set up The National Water Dispute Tribunal headed by a sitting Supreme Court or High Court judge or retired judge for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the time by which such Tribunal is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) and (b) Ravi and Beas water dispute and Cauvery water disputes were referred to the tribunals under the provisions of the Inter State Water Dispute (ISWD) Act, 1956 in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively for adjudication. Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal has submitted its report on 30.1.1987. The Central Government as well as the party States of Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab have sought explanation and guidance on certain points from the Tribunal under Section 5(3) of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal passed an interim order on June 25, 1991 giving relief to State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry. The Central Government has published the interim order in the official gazette on 10.12.91 making it final and binding on the parties to the disputes. The ISWD Act does not prescribe any time limit for the tribunals to submit their report.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Private Participation in Irrigation

*454. SHRI RAJO SINGH Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of private agencies whose participation in irrigation projects is under the consideration of the Union Government;

(b) whether some State Governments have sent such proposal to the Union Government for approval;

- (c) if so, the details thereof, and
- (d) the total land likely to be irrigated by these projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (d) No State Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government for Private Sector participation in irrigation projects. As such, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Polio eradication

*455. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has set any deadline for eradication of polio in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which India is likely to achieve the objective by the said deadline;
- (d) whether the Indian Government have requested to WHO to extend the deadline; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Health Organisation has set the deadline for global certification for polio eradication by 2005. This sets a goal for all countries of the world to reach the 'zero incidence' of Polio three years prior to 2005 and to maintain the status of zero incidence till 2005.

- (c) India is likely to achieve the goal by the deadline.
- (d) and (e) No, Sir.

Reappearance of River Saraswati

*456. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indian Geologists are engaged in the job of discovering on the river Saraswati; and
- (b) if so, the facts thereof?

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

(b) The Department of Drinking Water Supply under the Ministry of Rural Development has sanctioned a R&D project entitled "Reconstruction of Palaeo-Drainage Network in

Western Rajasthan" at a total cost of Rs. 47.30 lakhs in 1998-99. It is a three years project being implemented by the Ground Water Department, Government of Rajasthan in collaboration with the Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, the Central Ground Water Board, Jaipur and the Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Mumbai. The main objective of the project is to identify potential pockets for ground water in the ancient course of river Saraswati through proper construction of the river course through a multi-disciplinary study.

Pulse Polio Immunisation

*457. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme has covered all the segments of population particularly in the tribals and remote areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of children covered under the programme during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether there are reports that tribal-dominated areas in the country were not covered under the programme; and
- (d) if so, the remedial action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) The Pulse Polio Immunization Programme has covered all the segments of population including in tribal areas and people residing in remote areas of the country.

(b) The details of coverage round wise under the programme during each of the last three years are as under :

Rounds	Children Covered In Crore
7th December, 97	12.73
18th January, 98	13.41
6th December, 98	13.36
17th January, 99	13.63
24th October, 99	14.15
21st November, 99	14.23
19th December, 99	14.7
23rd January, 2000	15.06

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Criteria for Allocation of Funds

*458. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee of the NDC on the criterion for allocation of funds under major Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme was set up on March 31, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of its recommendations;

(c) whether it is a fact that several State Governments urged a return to 1987-88 (Pre-Lakdawala) methodology so that the State Governments that have several social security schemes for the poor are not penalised; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendation of the NDC Committee is as follows :

The NDC Committee discussed various criteria for allocation of funds under major Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes. There was a consensus and agreement on continuation of the presently used criterion, i.e., 15 per cent adjusted shares as approved by the full Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister. This allocation criterion is based on an adjustment formula to contain the losses under the Expert Group estimates to not more than 15 per cent of their expected entitlement based on the Task Force methodology 1993-94. For States where the loss was less than 15 per cent, the Expert Group estimates were retained. For the remaining States, it was ensured that they would not get less than the lower of the two shares computed on the Task Force estimates for 1993-94 and the Expert Group estimates for 1993-94. However, some States made the observation that some incentive might be provided to the States that had performed well in terms of poverty reduction. It was also noted that there were special needs and pockets of acute distress in some States and these issues also needed to be addressed. The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission appreciated their concern and agreed

that such issues could be considered at the time of the formulation of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

The above recommendation of the NDC Committee would be placed before the National Development Council (NDC).

(c) The Planning Commission has received representations from the States of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for return to the 1987-88 Task Force methodology.

(d) Consequently, this issue of determining a criterion for allocation of fund under major rural poverty alleviation programmes was placed before the last meeting of National Development Council (NDC) held on 19.2.99. In pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting a committee of National Development Council (NDC) was setup on 31.3.1999 under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with members from both Central Ministries and State Governments to determine the criterion for allocation of funds under major rural poverty alleviation programmes. The recommendation of the NDC Committee is given in part (b) above.

Fellowship by Ambedkar foundation

*459. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether overseas fellowships are being given for higher studies by the Ambedkar Foundation;

(b) if so, the details of fellowships given in each subject during each of the last three years alongwith the names of awardees, State-wise;

(c) the criteria being followed for selection of awardees;

(d) whether there is abnormal delay in conducting the interviews and declaration of results for selection of awardees;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Question does not arise.

Privatisation of Health Services

*460. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise health services in the country;

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

(c) whether the privatisation of health services would ensure prompt and effective treatment to the people of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) In view of the commercial nature of operation, high cost of treatment and the urban and semi-urban bias in location of private hospitals, a large segment of rural poor will have no access to such health care services.

Nuclear Waste

4784. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the countries are maintaining secrecy in dumping the nuclear waste in their respective countries;

(b) if so, whether India is also maintaining secrecy;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the waste is being dumped taking into account the safest possible location in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, disposal of radioactive waste from civilian programmes is not kept secret.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All radioactive wastes are treated to reduce their volume and fix them in suitable matrices for long term storage in engineered facilities and only very low level liquid and gaseous wastes are allowed to be discharged within allowable limits prescribed by the respective national regulatory bodies after proper treatment and dilution.

[Translation]

Promotion of Agro Based Forestry and Horticulture

4785. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to promote agro based forestry and horticulture in the country particularly in Maharashtra; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Margin Money Scheme launched by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for the development of village industries, including agro based industries is being implemented in all the States of the country including Maharashtra. Under this scheme, margin money at 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and additional 10% from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs of the project cost is provided by the KVIC. For the weaker sections, the margin money is given at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the balance amount (upto Rs. 25 lakhs) it is 10%.

[English]

Privatisation of IIT

4786. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kharagpur IIT and Marine Institute, Calcutta are going to be privatised; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No Sir. There is no proposal to privatise either Kharagpur IIT or Marine Engineering and Research Institute, Calcutta.

(b) Does not arise.

Handing Over of Personal Belongings

4787. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of requests made for handing over personal belongings of Indians who expired abroad to his Ministry in 1995;

(b) the details of expired people and claimants;

(c) the number of claimants out of them pertaining to Kuwait;

(d) whether certain belongings of Indians who expired in Kuwait had been sent to his Ministry in May, 1995;

(e) if so, details thereof;

(f) whether the belongings as mentioned at (d) above have not yet been handed over to the claimants;

(g) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(h) the time by which belongings are likely to be handed over to the claimants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The belongings of the deceased Indian nationals abroad are not usually sent to the Ministry of External Affairs but directly to the next of kin/legal heirs. In 1995 there were only 2 cases where the belongings of the deceased were sent to the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) and (e)

Name of the dead	Claimant of personal belongings
1. Shri Totikonda Thothadri	Shri J. Kannan
2. Shri Rajindran Laxman Gadala	Shri Narayan Gadala

(c) Two.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) The belongings of Late Shri Totikonda Thothadri seem to have been lost in transit.

(h) The legal heirs of late Shri Totikonda Thothadri will be paid estimated fair value of the lost belongings from the welfare fund for Expatriate Indians in Kuwait.

Border Area Development Fund

4788. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have constituted Border Area Development Fund for those States whose borders are with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of amount allocated for each border State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Border Area Development Programme is in operation in the border blocks of seventeen states which have an international border including states which border Pakistan namely, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir Punjab and Rajasthan.

(c) The amount allocated for each border state is given in the statement.

Statement

Border Area Development Programme : Statewise Allocations in the Ninth Plan

States	(Rs. Crore)			
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5
Assam	4.12	4.27	7.20	7.20
Gujarat	8.58	8.88	9.87	9.87
J & k	20.68	31.38	33.52	33.52
Meghalaya	3.95	4.11	4.52	4.52

1	2	3	4	5
Mizoram	6.73	6.82	8.00	8.00
Punjab	8.54	8.82	9.70	9.70
Rajasthan	85.63	56.52	37.17	29.17
Tripura	10.96	11.34	12.47	12.47
West Bengal	30.81	31.86	38.05	38.05
Arunachal Pradesh	4.00	11.00	13.00	13.00
Manipur	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Nagaland	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Himachal Pradesh	-	4.00	4.00	4.00
Sikkim	-	4.00	5.50	5.50
Uttar Pradesh	-	4.00	12.00	12.00
Bihar	-	-	7.00	7.00
Total	192.00	195.00	210.00	202.00

Note : BADP was extended to the blocks bordering China and Bhutan in 1998-99 and to the blocks bordering Nepal in 1999-2000.

World Bank Assistance

4789. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka Government had requested to the Union Government to provide World Bank assistance for building a drug testing laboratory at Bangalore;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken this issue with the World Bank;

(c) if so, details of the latest position; and

(d) the time by which the Union Government are likely to urge the World Bank to provide the loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Karnataka Government alongwith various other State Govts. had submitted their proposal for assistance to augment their drug testing facilities under a proposed capacity building programme with World Bank Assistance.

The overall proposal for capacity building is to be taken up with the World Bank for their consideration. Hence no time frame can be indicated.

Bilateral Agreements

4790. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries with which Government have signed bilateral agreements in different sectors during the last three years till date; and

(b) the details of the major provisions of the agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Sir, the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SSC Exams

4791. SHRI JAI PRAKASH Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applicants selected by Staff Selection Commission for the recruitment of Stenographers Grade-'C' during the last three years out of which opted Hindi language as a medium of their examination, year-wise;

(b) whether the appointment letters have not been issued to the successful candidates;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to issue appointment letters to the successful candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL

INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) This examination was not held during the years 1997 and 1998. In 1999, the recruitment of Grade 'C' Stenographers was included in the Combined Matric Level Examination, the final result of which is yet to be declared. The relevant information in respect of last three recruitments done by Staff Selection Commission is indicated here-in-below :

		Year of examination for recruitment of Grade 'C' Stenographers		
		1994	1995	1996
(i)	Total number of successful applicants recommended for appointment	50	270	158
(ii)	Number of applicants Selected who opted for Hindi stenography	Nil (Since no vacancy was reported)	08	03

(b) to (d) The Staff Selection Commission being the recruiting organisation sends dossiers of successful candidates to the user Ministries/Departments/ Organisations reporting the vacancies. The indenting Ministries/ Departments etc. issue offer of appointment/appointment letters to candidates after completing pre-appointment formalities as per rules/procedures, like medical examination and verification of character, antecedents, etc.

[English]

Rebate on Coir Products

4792. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been allowing 20 percent rebate for the sale of coir products for a period of 90 days every year;

(b) whether claims of the Kerala Government for reimbursement of the eligible Central assistance under the scheme are pending;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to expedite the pending claims of Kerala for reimbursement;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government to give the formal sanction for the continuance of the rebate scheme for 90 days for coir yarn and coir products during the current financial year 2000-2001; and

(e) if so, the decision of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Upto year 1999-2000, Government was allowing 20% rebate for the sale of coir products for a period of 90 days every year. In acceptance of the recommendations of the Planning Commission, it has been decided to introduce the Scheme of Market Development Assistance (MDA) in the Coir sector with effect from 2000-2001 in replacement of the existing rebate scheme on sale of coir yarn and coir products.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Survey regarding Tuberculosis

4793. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tuberculosis disease is rising in alarming proportions;

(b) whether the W.H.O. and the Central Government have conducted any survey recently regarding this disease; and

(c) if so, the time by which the latest survey conducted and the main findings of the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir. The number of TB cases reported under the National TB Control programme have been more or less the same during the last five years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The only authentic survey on a country-wide basis on the magnitude of TB problem in the country was conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) from 1955-58. To estimate the annual risk of TB infection (ARI) in different parts of the country, a study is being conducted by National TB Institute, Bangalore in collaboration with TB Research Centre, Chennai; Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha and New Delhi TB Centre since January 2000 and is to be completed in about three years.

Violation of Labour Laws

4794. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious violation of labour laws by the foreign Multinational Companies in different parts of the country, particularly Hindustan Lever Limited (HLL), Coke India Limited and Pepsi India Limited; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to see that the management of the various Multinational Companies do not violate the various labour laws?

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

NMFDC

4795. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation was set up in 1994 with an authorized capital of Rs. 500 crore for providing loans for setting up of self employment ventures to minorities who are below double poverty lines income i.e. Rs. 22,000 per annum at that time;

(b) if so, whether the share capital of the said Corporation has been raised keeping in view the per capita income and growing GDP;

(c) the number of persons benefited by this Corporation and total loan provided so far during the last three years for self employment to minorities; and

(d) further action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make the National Minorities Finance Development Corporation more effective and functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) NMDFC was set up in September, 1994 for providing loan to persons living below double the poverty line, belonging to the minority communities, with an authorized Share Capital of Rs. 500 crores. Against this, the Central Government is contributing Share Capital every year. Further State Governments are also requested to contribute. NMDFC has a paid up Share Capital of Rs. 212.22 crores.

(c) Details are given in the Statement.

(d) Following steps taken have been taken for the effective implementation of schemes of NMDFC :

(i) Apart from State Channelising Agencies for assisting minority communities, extension of micro-financing through non-governmental organizations has been introduced.

(ii) Appointment of additional channelising agencies, tie-ups with NABARD and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh to assist large number of beneficiaries.

(iii) Meetings with State Governments and non-governmental organizations to review the performance and launching of new schemes/programmes.

(iv) Introduction of revised lending policy for providing greater freedom and flexibility to the State Channelising Agencies.

(v) Introduction of schemes to strengthen infrastructural facilities of the State Channelising Agencies.

Statement

Number of persons benefited and amount of loan given under NMDFC

(Number of Beneficiaries and Amount in Rs. lacs)

Year	Under Term Loan Scheme		Under Micro-Finance Scheme*	
	Amount	Beneficiaries	Amount	Beneficiaries
1997-98	2341.26	4932	Nil	Nil
1998-99	5938.99	14333	43.08	3281
† 1999-2000	6077.82	22510	52.41	7359

* Micro Finance Scheme was launched from 1998-99.

Agro Products

4796. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the State Governments which have banned the sale of their agro products in other States, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the States which have monopolised the purchase of certain agro products; and

(c) the details the agro products which are banned by the Union Government in terms of quantity for export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Short Realisation of Visa Fees

4797. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether short realisation of visa fees has taken place in Europe and CIS countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount of money involved in it;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures being taken to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes sir;

(b) Some Missions have inadvertently not followed a part of the instructions when visa fees were revised in January, 1995. As a result short realisation of visa fees has taken place in a few European and CIS countries. The amount of money involved is about Rs.2.5 crores;

(c) The short realisation of visa fees has occurred due to oversight or misinterpretation of the instructions. The Missions in Europe and CIS countries where most of these unintentional lapses have occurred were opened rather recently; and

(d) In order to prevent recurrence of such instances, a circular containing all the latest instructions on charging of fees for issue of visas and related services has been issued to all Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Confirmations have been received from all the Missions and Posts regarding implementation of these instructions.

National Health Policy

4798. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any review of the National Health Policy in view of emergencies of various diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether AIDS is proposed to be included in the National Health Policy; and

(d) if so, the details of programmes undertaken/ proposed to be undertaken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The Draft National Health Policy focusing inter-alia on all communicable and non communicable diseases including AIDS was discussed at the Sixth Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, the apex advisory body, held from 8th to 10th April, 1999 at New Delhi. The Council suggested a more in-depth examination of the strategies for strengthening of public health infrastructure at State level, human resource development including medical education, inter-sectoral coordination and interface between the Indian System of Medicine and modern medicine etc. Accordingly, the Draft National Health Policy is being appropriately redrafted in order to incorporate the various suggestions.

[Translation]

Corruption at Lower Level of Administration

4799. SHRI RAJESH VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the position of Rajasthan in the matter of corruption prevailing in administration as compared to other States;

(b) the arrangements made at Tehsil level to uproot corruption in rural areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan;

(c) whether the Government are aware that Patwari and Tehsildar are the initial units of administration in the rural

areas who are exploiting the illiterate rural masses by adopting unfair means; and

(d) if so, the arrangements made by the Union Government and Rajasthan Government to save the rural masses from this exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The matter regarding eradication of corruption in administration in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat falls within the jurisdiction of the respective State Governments.

However, as far as the Central Government is concerned, the Government is fully committed to provide clean administration at all levels of public services. The Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertakings are responsible to ensure probity and integrity in their respective organisations. A three pronged strategy of Surveillance, Prevention and Punitive/Deterrent action is followed by the Government in this regard. Recognising that an important aspect of Preventive Vigilance is to ensure transparency in public administration, measures of administrative reforms such as introduction of Citizen's Charters and setting up of Facilitation Centres have been initiated. The review and simplification of laws, rules and procedures has also been taken up. The punitive actions being taken under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 duly supported by various rules governing the service conditions of public servants, also act as a deterrent against corruption. The responsibility of ensuring speedy disposal of disciplinary cases vests with the respective Ministry/Department. However, the drive against corruption in public services to check mal-practices in administration is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment.

Transfer Policy for Officers Posted in NE States

4800. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any such rule for serving employees of the Union Government that employees posted in the offices and institutions of the Union Government located in the North-Eastern States are transferred to the

places of their choice after completing of their period of posting;

(b) whether some offices/institutions of the Union Government are not following the said transfer rules;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Union Government to ensure the proper compliance of the said transfer rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) This Department has not issued any instructions that the Central Government employees posted in North-Eastern States will be given posting of their choice after completing their tenure. However, there are instructions that weightage will be given to such employees in deputation to Central tenure posts on satisfactory performance of duties in the North East posting. Different Departments of the Government have formulated their Department-specific Schemes laying down the post tenure and station tenure of various civil service/post keeping in view the availability of manpower, functional needs, financial constraints, sensitivity of posts, etc.

It is left to the individual Departments to enforce these orders and grant extension of station/post tenure in public interest or on compassionate grounds. The employees have also the right to make representation to the competent authority for redressal of grievances, if any, in the matter.

[English]

Upgradation in Pay Scales

4801. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Non-Resident Nurses working in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi have been demanding financial upgradations in their existing pay scales;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is wide disparity in pay scales of Nurses and Non-Resident Nurses resulting resentment; and

(d) if so, the time by which corrective steps would be taken to provide Non-resident Nurses the pay scales equivalent to Nurses in the Hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) In the recent past, no representation for financial upgradation has been received. The cadre of Non-Resident Nurses is being phased out. The 5th Central Pay Commission has not recommended upgradation for the post of Non-Resident Nurses. However, they will be getting the benefit of Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme. It may be mentioned that Non-resident nurses are deployed only in OPDs and perform day duty whereas staff nurses are posted round the clock in shift duties and accordingly the pay scales of both these categories are different.

Agricultural Credit

4802. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has constituted a panel on Agricultural credit;

(b) if so, the objectives of this panel;

(c) whether this panel is supposed to formulate appropriate strategies for the Tenth Plan in the field of agricultural credit, cooperatives and crop insurance;

(d) whether the terms of reference been finalised; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Planning Commission has constituted a Working Group on Agricultural Credit, Cooperation and Crop Insurance for the Tenth Plan with the objective to review the flow of credit to agriculture sector, development of cooperatives and status of Crop Insurance and suggest strategies for the Tenth Plan.

(e) The terms of reference for the Working Group are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Agricultural Credit, Cooperation and Crop Insurance :

I. Agricultural Credit :

1. To review the flow of credit to agricultural sector during the 10th Plan, identify of the factors affecting the growth of agricultural credit and suggest strategies for accelerating the flow of credit to meet the investment requirements of the farming community.
2. To review the credit needs of the weaker sections of the farming community, particularly small and marginal farmers, scheduled tribe and scheduled caste farmers, identify the problems and constraints in the flow of credit to these categories of farmers and suggest measures for easy availability of credit to them for agricultural production and other agricultural activities.
3. To assess the short term and long term credit requirement for agricultural production and work out target for 10th plan.
4. To review the magnitude of agricultural indebtedness and also status of overdues/financial health of PACs (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) and Land Development Banks, identify the factors affecting financial health and efficiency of Cooperative Credit Societies and suggest measures and institutional framework for making the Cooperative Credit Societies more efficient, competitive and cost effective in the wake of liberalisation of banking sector.
5. To study the short term and long term impacts of economic reforms on cooperative credit structure.
6. To make a study of revamping/strengthening of Cooperative Credit Structures so as to meet the investment requirements for accelerating the growth of agriculture section.
7. To review the present status of agricultural credit in the North-Eastern States, identify the constraints/bottlenecks in the flow of agricultural credit to the farmers of this region and suggest concrete measures for encouraging greater flow of bank credit for agricultural production and other agricultural activities in the Region.

8. To critically review the performance of the on-going schemes of the Department of A&C, RBI, NABARD and Department of Banking (M/o Finance) and suggest any modifications/discontinuation or any new schemes to be taken up to meet the desired goal.

II. Cooperation :

9. To review the status of Cooperative Movement and its role in the economic development of the country in general and in the agricultural economy of the country, in particular identify weaknesses of Cooperative Movement and Cooperative Movement to meet the desired goal.
10. To make a special study of the role of the cooperatives and challenges to be met in the wake of globalisation of Indian economy and also the issues relating to competitive efficiency of the cooperatives, constraints and remedial measures for improving the commercial and economic viability of the cooperatives with regard to modernisation, diversification, technology upgradation, quality improvement, marketability and export promotion, etc.
11. Formulate suitable programmes and schemes for the 10th plan indicating policies, objectives, strategy targets, programmes for development of cooperatives with due regard to the self-reliance, export promotion, removal of regional imbalances, reduction in rural poverty, generation of more employment opportunities and improvement in socio-economic conditions of the weaker section of the rural community.
12. To study the regional disparity in the development of Cooperatives, identify the factors inhibiting the development of cooperatives in the States and suggest suitable programmes for encouraging cooperatives in the cooperatively under-developed States.
13. To suggest measures for Human Resource Development in the Cooperatives.
14. To review the role and functioning of consumer cooperatives and suggest suitable measures for their improvement.

III. Insurance :

15. To review the present status of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme) and

suggest measure for making the scheme more cost effective and beneficial to the farming community.

Workshop on Employment of Disables

4803. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU
Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have organized a Workshop of Public Sector Undertakings for employment of people with disabilities on November 15, 2000;

(b) if so, the number of Public Sector Units participated in this Workshop;

(c) the response of Public Sector Undertakings to employ persons with disabilities;

(d) whether they have given any assurance to enhance employment of people with disabilities; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed by PSUs to employ such people all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organized a Conference of Public Sector Undertakings on employment of persons with disabilities on 15th November, 2000 in which officials from about 48 Public Sector Undertakings participated.

(c) to (e) The response from the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) was quite encouraging. During discussions the doubts raised by certain PSUs about practical difficulties in implementing the reservation policy were clarified and the PSUs were requested to prepare an action plan to fill up the identified vacancies, including backlog vacancies, for the persons with disabilities as and when recruitment takes place so that 3% quota is achieved at the earliest.

[Translation]

Human Development Index

4804. CH. TEJVEER SINGH :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India ranks lowest in the World in terms of Human Development Index as per the report of the U.N.D.P. relating to Human Resource Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the strategy being contemplated by the Government in order to bring India at par with the World standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) (a) and (b) UNDP Human Development Report 2000 placed India in the group of medium human development countries with an overall rank of 128 out of a total of 174 countries.

(c) The parameters used for measuring the human development index are life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate, combined enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education and adjusted per capita income in purchasing power parity in US dollars.

Life expectancy has gone up from 37 years to 62 years in the last 50 years. In order to improve the health status of our population, several steps are being taken to address the problem including improvement in health care infrastructure and personnel, provision of reproductive and child health care, provision of family planning services, specially to meet the unmet need for contraception, to reduce infant mortality rate to below 30 per 1000 by 2010, and reduce maternal mortality rate, achieve universal immunisation of children, and prevent and control communicable diseases.

While literacy has also gone up considerably in the last 50 years; as per the 1991 census, it was still as low as 52%. The latest available data from the NSSO show that literacy had gone up to 62% by 1997. Eradication of illiteracy is a priority with provision of free and compulsory education upto elementary stage. Towards this end improvement in physical infrastructure, appointment of additional teachers and provision of teaching/learning materials will be given priority, particularly in the areas where there are gaps in achievement.

Public investment in both health and education has gone up considerably in the last five years. The Central outlay for health and family welfare increased from Rs. 1535 crore in 1996-97 to Rs. 3520 crore in 2000-01. The Central expenditure on elementary education was Rs. 4006 crores in the Eighth Plan period. The Central outlay for elementary education was increased to Rs. 16370 crore in the Ninth Plan period.

In addition, India has achieved a growth of about 6% in the last three years. All efforts are being made to increase the rate of growth further.

Indo-Russian Agreement on Rocket Technology

4805. SHRI A. NARENDRA :

SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Russia propose to stop implementation of the agreement made with India in regard to supply of Rocket Technology; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to make the country self reliant in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The agreement with Russia, signed in 1991 for technology transfer for cryogenic stage for GSLV, was changed into a supply contract in 1994. Out of the seven cryogenic stages to be supplied under this contract, four stages have already been received in India.

(b) The government has approved, in 1994, a project for the development of indigenous cryogenic upper stage.

[English]

Allocation for National Laboratories under ICMR

4806. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the annual allocation for running the national laboratories under ICMR etc.;

(b) the number of patents held by National Laboratories commercially exploited and the earning therefrom;

(c) whether the said national laboratories/research institutions are accruing benefit to the industry from their efforts;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to enforce strict fiscal discipline on those research institutions/laboratories which fail to show results; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The Annual Allocation for the last three years, as reported by ICMR, is as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Heads	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Non-Plan	3759.82	5301.46	6237.47
Plan	3611.67	4999.77	5925.00

(b) and (c) According to ICMR, about 25 patents have been obtained by them. Although there is no monetary earning from these patents, the Labs and Research Institutions of ICMR are certainly contributing to the National Health cause.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Surat Passport Office

4807. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the passport office at Surat has not become fully operational;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made to make it fully operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) There is no Passport Office at Surat. There is a Passport Application Collection Centre at Surat, which is fully operational.

(b) The opening of new Passport Offices is governed by certain criteria set up by the Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs. The criteria, inter-alia are that the number of passport applications received from a region should not be less than 50,000 annually over a period of three years and the existence of other offices in the region. The Passport Application Collection Centre, Surat does not meet these criteria.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

In-Situ Promotions

4808. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

SHRI SURESH KURUP :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether 900 Section Officers and 200 Under Secretaries were promoted to the higher grade on insitu basis in the Central Secretariat Service;

(b) if so, the reasons for not effecting the promotion to Assistants and Upper Division Clerks who are stagnating in the grades; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure promotional prospects of Assistants and Upper Division Clerks in CSS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Owing to protracted litigation in Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and Supreme Court on inter-se seniority of direct recruit and promotee Section Officers(SOs), panels of Central Secretariat Service(CSS) for promotion to Under Secretaries(USs) and Deputy Secretaries'(DSs) level could not be prepared after 1986 for US and after 1993 for DS. This resulted in acute stagnation in the grades of SOs and USs. Following Supreme Court's order dated May 9, 1997, a Common Seniority List (CSL) of SOs was issued on 3.12.1997. Subsequently, orders were issued in September, 1998 and August, 1999 to upgradé 'temporarily' 256/900 (approx.) posts from the grades of USs/SOs to that of DSs/USs respectively for giving upgradations on personal/insitu basis to the eligible officers.

For the Assistants and Upper Division Clerks, however, the select lists for promotion to the higher grades of SOs/Assistants, were/are being brought out regularly on an annual basis. Meanwhile, Assured Career Progression Scheme had been introduced for Groups 'B' 'C' and 'D' employees of Central Government in August 1999, which is applicable to the Assistants(Group 'B') and UDCs (Group'C') also. Assistants and UDCs thus stand on a different footing. Their case for in-situ/personal upgradations on the analogy of the aforesaid orders issued in 1998 and 1999 does not hold.

Efficiency/Improvement in Work Culture

4809. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA : Will the PRIME Minister be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government are conducting any programme on experimental basis with the active participation of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to introduce total quality management concepts in the Government;

(b) if so, the details of such programme; and

(c) whether the Government propose to extend the programme to all Ministries/Departments in a phased manner to tone up the Efficiency and improve work culture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) In the year 1996-97, a pilot project for training faculty members of selected Central and State Government Training Institutes in the methods of Total Quality Management was funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the Government of United Kingdom. Subsequently, a 3-year project to train 30 Officers/faculty members has been funded by the DFID for the period 1998-99 to 2000-2001. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has been associated as a Consultant for this project. Under this 3-year project, 22 Officers/Faculty members have already undergone training and another 8 officers/Faculty members are being deputed for training during the final year of the project viz., 2000-2001.

(c) Since the current project, which is to terminate during the year 2000-2001, is meant primarily for training institutions, there is no scope to extend this to Ministries/Departments. However, Ministries/Departments are free to take up quality initiatives to tone up the efficiency and improve work culture.

ESIS Board

4810. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the ESIS Board Hepatitis 'B' vaccination drive in their medical treatment;

(b) whether universal vaccination programme is available to the member, labour under ESIS scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of present system of ESIS regarding universal vaccination; and

(e) whether ESIS hospitals have amenities, facilities and system to admit and treat patients suffering from hepatitis 'B' and AIDS disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) Under the ESI Scheme Hepatitis B Vaccination is being provided to the ESI beneficiaries including their children as and when required and recommended by the physicians. Based on the recommendation of the physicians, it is also being provided to the persons who are at higher risk of getting Hepatitis B. However, Hepatitis B immunization is not included in the list of vaccinations prescribed for infants/children under National Immunization Programme. Under the ESI Scheme, universal vaccination schedule includes BCG, DPT, OPV, MMR, DT, Measles, and TT.

(e) Yes, Sir.

USA Visa Conditions

4811. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the visa conditions now being enforced by the U.S. State Administration are highly prejudicial to Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Visa policy and its administration thereof is the sovereign right and prerogative of the host country. Government are not aware of US visa policy being specifically targeted against Indian nationals.

(b) and (c) do not arise.

Recommendations of Working Group of Information Technology

4812. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of working group of the Information Technology have been accepted by the Department of Personnel and Training;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the working group; and

(c) the details of the recommendations have not been accepted by the DOPT out of them, alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) The Government had set up an Expert Group for Computerisation in December 1996. The Group submitted its report in July 1997. The major recommendations of the Group relate to formulation of a five-year plan for Information Technology by Ministries, spreading IT awareness through workshops, conferences etc., increasing availability of computers, changing recruitment qualifications, training in computers, issuing guidelines and laying down standards for computerisation, cyber laws, delivery of government services, networking of computers, setting up a High Powered Committee, under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary etc. The recommendations of the Group were deliberated upon in various fora and most of them have been taken up for implementation.

In addition, an Executive Committee of the above mentioned High Powered Committee under the chairmanship of the Additional Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and PG has been constituted to follow up on the decisions of the High Powered Committee. Under the direction/guidance of these committees, interalia, action has been taken to designate a Joint Secretary level Officer as IT Manager in every Ministry/Department. A minimum Agenda for e-governance has been drawn up and is under implementation. 2-3% of the Plan Budget of every Ministry/Department has been earmarked for promotion of IT, including purchase of hardware/software.

Use of Atomic Energy

4813. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of locations where atomic energy has been used in the country for peaceful purposes during the last five years, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to explore new areas in the country for the purposes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The application of Atomic Energy in India for peaceful purposes has been in the fields of industry, medicine and agriculture apart from generating nuclear power and is not location specific.

(b) to (d) Research and Development effort in identifying newer application of Atomic Energy for the peaceful uses is an ongoing process apart from setting up of additional Nuclear Power Plants for generation of electricity.

[Translation]

Relaxation in Visa Laws

4814. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether France propose to relax visa laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Fate of Sikh and Hindu families in Afghanistan

4815. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :

SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fate of Sikh and Hindu families in Afghanistan's Kandahar town hangs in balance as reported in the Asian Age dated October 18, 2000;

- (b) if so, the factual position in this regard; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the news report in the Asian Age on 18th October, 2000. While India does not have any official representation in Afghanistan, Government is generally aware that the Taliban who subscribe to obscurantist ideologies pursue a policy of harsh discrimination against minorities including religious minorities. Government has drawn the attention of its foreign interlocutors to these discriminatory policies.

Harassment to Indian Doctors

4816. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether Indian doctors practising in Australia have alleged harassment and acts of racism;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) One Indian doctor who was practising in the State of Queensland, Australia has alleged harassment and acts of racism. No other Indian doctor in Australia has complained to us.

(b) The complaints centered around (1) alleged pressure on her by her Australian employer to commit unethical practices such as administering psychotropic substances and false certification of insanity; (2) denial by the Medical Board of Queensland of registration despite her possessing the requisite sponsorship from another employer; and (3) refusal by the Australian High Commission of a 'bridging visa' to return to Australia.

(c) Earlier MEA had taken up the matter with the Australian High Commission in Delhi who regretted that rules do not permit bridging visa to be issued outside Australia. More recently the Indian High Commission in Canberra has contacted the Australian authorities in Queensland, in context of her complaint of harassment.

CBI HQ Sitting on Tinder Box

4817. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated November 8, 2000, captioned "CBI HQ sitting on tinder box" ;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove the stocked explosives from the premises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was reported that about 30 kg of RDX besides 15 detonators and 6 timers, which were seized by the CBI on 14.10.2000, had been kept in the Malkhana in the CBI Head Quarter at New Delhi, and that CBI has neither expertise nor the facilities to handle the RDX.

(c) The RDX along with other materials seized by the CBI, were kept in the Malkhana as case property in a totally safe condition. However, with the permission of the Court, the said RDX has since been deposited at the Headquarters of National Security Guard (NSG), Manesar on 5.12.2000 for safe custody.

Neradi Barrage

4818. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct Neradi Barrage over the river Bausadhara in Orissa;

(b) whether the extent of benefits to be derived from the project in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh has been properly assessed;

(c) if so, the total areas of land is likely to be submerged in both the States and the total number of villages/urban areas and population is likely to be affected;

(d) the hectares of land is likely to be irrigated in both the States after completing the Barrage, State-wise;

(e) whether some people of Orissa are agitating over this issue since long; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted project report of Vamsadhara Stage-II during 1983 to the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. The project proposal envisaged construction of a barrage at Neradi across Vamsadhara river for providing irrigation facilities to an area of 43415 hectares besides providing stabilization to an area of 59986 hectares in Andhra Pradesh. Irrigation in the State of Orissa was not envisaged in the project proposal. However, provision for a head sluice is made to meet the future demand of Orissa. The Neradi Barrage would cause submergence of 106 acres of land in Orissa. However, no village is affected.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Clearance of the project is linked with the resolution of inter-state issues between the States of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

Indo-Russian Federation Ties

4819. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed bilateral economic cooperation with Russian federation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of fresh policy and administrative initiatives taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation during ninth plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) During the State Visit to India by the President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, in October 2000, bilateral trade and economic relations were reviewed in the discussions between the leaders of the two countries. It was noted that the level of our trade and economic cooperation was not commensurate with its true potential. The leaders directed the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC) to suggest new approaches and innovative ideas to expand and diversify bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The 7th session of the IRIGC, which will be held in Moscow in January 2001, will consider in detail the entire gamut of trade and economic cooperation between India and the Russian Federation.

Consultative Status to VHP

4820. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Members of Parliament to intervene and ensure that VHP does not get consultative status in UN Economic and Social Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Communications have been received from two Hon'ble Members of parliament in this regard.

(c) The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) makes decisions on grant of consultative status to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as the basis of recommendations made by the Committee on NGOs set up by the Council. The Committee scrutinises applications in order to ascertain whether they satisfy criteria laid down by the Council for granting of consultative status. India is currently a member on the Committee and will continue to work with other members of the Committee in accordance with established procedures.

Scheme for Leftist Extremist Affected Areas

4821. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any development schemes for the areas affected by leftist extremist in Orissa is pending with the Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to take initiative to prepare any action plan to develop those border districts of Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount proposed to be sanctioned for the purpose; and

(f) the kind of cooperation likely to be extended by the State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE *MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME

IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No, Sir. The Action Plans prepared by the State Governments including Government of Orissa, encompassing development and security aspects of the problems being faced in the affected areas have been examined. It has been decided that agreement should be sought on basic components of a development strategy that could be supported rather than increased funding. Hence the States should earmark funds under existing programmes to ensure that flow to the affected districts is adequate and not diverted. The Planning Commission would support any such reprioritisation on account of incorporation of an anti-extremist development strategy in the State Plans.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Planning and Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. However, Planning Commission coordinates and monitors the Long Term Action Plan for KBK districts of Orissa which includes some of the areas affected by leftwing extremism.

(f) Since the development strategy for these areas is to be prepared by the State Government, full cooperation is likely to be extended.

Submission of Passport Applications by Private Agencies

4822. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have granted permission to private agencies to submit passport applications ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The Government has authorized those travel agents who are members of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI), and are recognized by International Air Travel Association (IATA), to submit passport application forms to the passport offices. In addition, all those travel agents who were recognized by this Ministry prior to July, 1992, when the system of recognition was dispensed with, are eligible to submit passport application forms to the passport offices.

Narmada Bachao Andolan

4823. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to initiate any legal action against the leaders of the Narmada Bachao Andolan for immediate compliance of the ruling of the Supreme Court in regard to construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project; -

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are aware of reports for alleged receipt of aids from some foreign countries as well as from some Indian nationals for this organization; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) to (c) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 18.10.2000 has inter-alia, directed that construction of the dam will continue as per the award of the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal and also permitted construction of the dam upto 90 m. immediately. As per the decision, the construction work on the Narmada Dam has already started w.e.f. 31.10.2000. No legal action against the leaders of the Narmada Bachao Andolan is contemplated.

(d) There have been some reports in the press and electronic media regarding alleged receipts of funds in general.

(e) Appropriate action can be taken after specific instances are brought to the notice of the Government.

Sardar Sarover Dam

4824. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) in view of the recent judgment of the Supreme Court on Sardar Sarovar Project, actions being taken by the

Union Government to call meeting of four beneficiary States viz. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government as well as the State Government of Gujarat to take Narmada water to the drought prone areas of Gujarat particularly to Mehsana, Patan, Surendranagar, Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Kutch-Bhuj, Amreli, Vadodara and Saurashtra districts;

(c) whether the Union Government are aware of the continuous drought situation in half of Gujarat on account of failure of monsoon in this year;

(d) if so, the assistance is provided by the Union Government to Gujarat to meet serious situation of supplying fodder to the cattle and drinking water to the human and cattle in the drought prone areas of the State; and

(e) the time by which the water of Narmada dam is likely to be made available to these water starved districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) to (e) In pursuance of the Supreme Court judgment dated 18.10.2000, Narmada Control Authority held its 61st meeting on 17.11.2000 wherein representatives of the four party states participated. An action plan to raise the height of the Narmada Dam beyond 90m., pari passu with environment and resettlement and rehabilitation clearance, at each stage of the construction, was considered in the meeting and the following time frame was finalized :

Height of the Dam	Allotment of Land and House to PAFs	Completion of Construction
100 m	December 2001	June 2002
110 m	December 2002	June 2003
121 m	December 2003	June 2004
138 m	December 2004	June 2005

Government of Gujarat have taken up construction of Narmada Main Canal as well as Kachchh and Saurashtra branch canals to take Narmada Water to the drought prone areas of Gujarat. Govt. of India were providing central loan assistance under the AIBP for the construction of canals and, so far a sum of Rs.300 crore has been released to Govt. of Gujarat. The schedule of completion of Main Canal and the above two branches is given below :

Canal Component	Schedule of Completion
Narmada Main Canal	
a) upto Saurashtra Branch off take point	December, 2001
b) upto Kachchh branch off take point	December, 2003
Saurashtra Branch and its sub-branches	December, 2004
Kachchh Branch	Work proposed to be taken up from 2001 to 2002

Government of India are aware of the drought situation prevailing in Gujarat, however, it is the primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India, however, supplement the efforts of the State Government. Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2000-01 amounting to Rs.131.14 crore has already been released to the State Government for undertaking immediate relief measures.

[Translation]

Irregularities in KVIC

4825. SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some complaints relating to irregularities in the Khadi Gram Udyog Commission;

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

(c) whether any committee was constituted by the Government to inquire into these complaints;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints making allegations are received from time to time, upon which appropriate action is taken by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government has appointed a full time Chief Vigilance Officer in the KVIC to look into the irregularities/complaints.

[English]

Discrimination on the basis of Religion

4826. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state .

(a) whether discrimination amongst Scheduled Castes is prevalent in India on the basis of religious faith;

(b) whether Christians of Scheduled Caste origin are denied benefits of Scheduled Castes;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(d) whether such people are given rights of Scheduled Caste once they denounce Christianity;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and steps being taken to end such discrimination;

(f) whether several organizations of Dalits, Christians and Dalit Christians have demanded that Dalit Christians be given the rights of Scheduled Castes;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government had sought to bring a Bill in the Lok Sabha accepting this demand in 1996; and

(i) if so, the present status thereof and the time by which such a legislation is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) As per provision under the Constitution and orders issued thereunder the list of Scheduled Castes have been notified. Under these orders, no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu, the Sikh or the Buddhist religion is deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste.

Where a Scheduled Caste person gets converted to a religion, other than Hinduism or Sikhism or Buddhism and

then reconverts himself back to Hinduism, the Sikhism or the Buddhism, he will be deemed to have reverted to his original Scheduled Castes, if he is accepted by the members of that particular caste as one among them.

(f) to (i) The matter has been under consideration as per approved modalities. However, no time frame can be assigned, as it requires consultation with several agencies.

[Translation]

Special Category Status

4827. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE

Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) The criterion laid down for giving special category status to the States;

(b) The names of States which have been given the special category status;

(c) whether present Bihar State also fulfils all conditions to get special category status; and

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to give the special category status to present Bihar in view of its income and expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) States included among the Special Category States, for the purpose of Central Assistance for Plan Financing, are those which have a strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries and are hilly States, some with large tribal population and/or which have been constituted out of former small Union Territories/Districts, with limited and weak resource base compared to their development needs.

(b) Presently, the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura have been given Special Category Status.

(c) Bihar State does not fulfil all the criteria to get Special Category Status.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

CSS Officers

4828. SHRI RAM SAJIVAN :

SHRI RAJESH VERMA :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned 'No end to woes of CSS Officers' appearing in the 'The Pioneer' dated November 18,2000;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to remove stagnation along with the disparity in pay scales in each category of Central Secretariat Service(CSS); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The issues mentioned in the news item referred to in part (a) of the question and the status as to the reaction of the Govt. thereto are given below :

S.No.	Issue	Status
(i)	Revision of pay scale of Section Officers of Central Secretariat Service(CSS) from Rs. 6500-10500 to Rs. 8000-13500..	The Section Officers of Central Secretariat Service have already been granted pay scale Rs. 6500- 10500 with effect from 1.1.96 on the recommendation of the 5th Central Pay Commission and there is no proposal to grant higher pay scale
(ii)	Filling of all the posts of Deputy Secretaries/Under Secretaries's level in the Central Secretariat by CSS officers.	Posts of Under Secretaries and above, other than the posts of Under Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries as are filled by CSS officers in accordance with the rules of the CSS, are filled under the Central Staffing Scheme. The demand of the CSS officers to reserve all posts of Under Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries for the CSS has the implication of disqualifying officers of All India Services and Group 'A' Central Services from appointments in Government of India until they complete 14 years' service and become eligible for appointment at Director level. It has not been found possible to accept such a proposal.
(iii)	Restoration of open pass to Group 'B' Assistants.	The Staff side had raised the demand in the Departmental Council (JCM) of the Department of Personnel and Training but it could not be agreed to by the competent authority.
(iv)	The Section Officers of CSS should be accorded Group'A' status and the post of Section Officer may be re-designated as Assistant Secretary to the Government of India as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs.	The recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee was considered but it was not found feasible to accept the same. This aspect was, however, earlier looked into by the High Powered Committee chaired by Shri A.R. Bandopadhyay in December 1991. The Committee observed that it was not feasible to recommend Group 'A' status for the Section Officers and suggested that the matter be placed before the next Pay Commission. The Fifth Pay Commission also considered the question and it did not recommend Group 'A' status for SOs of CSS.

(c) and (d) In view of the fact that Government have already announced Assured Carrier Progression Scheme (ACP) on 9th August 1999 for Group B,C and D posts and isolated posts of all categories of the Central Government, there is now no proposal for grant of any further benefit in this regard.

Rescue Centre for Circus Animals

4829. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has set up a rescue centre for rehabilitation of circus animals at the Banneshghatta National Park near Bangalore;

(b) if so, the amount released by the Union Government for this purpose;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to open such rescue centres in each States; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has decided to set up 5 rescue centres to accommodate the animals that may be restored from circuses as a consequence of ban on the exhibition of tigers, lions, bears, panthers and monkeys. The Bannerghata National Park is one of the five rescue centres for which an amount of Rs. 205.00 lakhs has been allocated.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present for rehabilitation of circus animals in all the states. However, the Non-Governmental Organisations are being assisted, through release of Grant-in-aid, in the construction of shelter houses for animals.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance to Subernarekha Irrigation Project

4830. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any effort for providing the World Bank assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for the completion of Subernarekha multipurpose irrigation project of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the achievement made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The World Bank does not provide any assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Khadi and Village Industries

4831. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any plan to delink the Khadi and Village Industries loans from State Governments guarantee and provide a one time grant to revamp and modernise the Orissa Khadi and Village Industries Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) provides grants and loans to the State/UT KVI Boards as per the conditions laid down in the Loan Rules adopted for this purpose. These Loan Rules are uniformly applicable to all State/UT KVI Boards as well as other implementing agencies. In the interest of the safety of the funds being provided by the KVIC, certain measures in the form of hypothecation/mortgage and Government Guarantee (from institutions and State KVI Boards respectively) are taken.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Industrial Training to Women

4832. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Government for industrial training to women of backward areas during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding misuse of the financial assistance;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to constitute monitoring team in this regard, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The state-wise financial assistance provided by the Government under Vocational Training Project for industrial training to women of backward areas during each of the last three years is as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
U.P.	13.98	37.46	-
M.P.	2.39	0.08	0.06
T.N.	27.34	29.92	0.42
Andhra Pradesh	42.46	38.86	-
Orissa	35.73	11.73	-
Assam	16.12	9.19	0.85

(b) to (e) No complaint regarding misuse of financial assistance has been reported from the States except from the State of Andhra Pradesh where Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) is conducting an enquiry into the misuse of funds during 1997-98.

Committee on Medical Council of India

4833. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some irregularities in the functioning of the Medical/Dental Council of India have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Committee has been constituted to investigate the working of the Medical/Dental Council of India; and

(d) if so, the time by which this investigation Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The Central Government has under Section 54 of the Dentists Act, 1948, constituted a Commission of Enquiry to look into the various cases of Violations of the provisions of the Act by Dental Council of India.

Besides, the Commission of Enquiry may also look into such other matter of irregularity as may be brought to its notice, and proceed to enquire in a Summary manner, and recommend such remedies as the Commission may consider proper and necessary.

The Commission was required to submit its report by 2.5.1998. Since the Commission has not completed its work, the tenure of the Commission has been extended on 23.10.2000 for a further period of 6 months.

Test Tube Technology

4834. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the facility of new technology such as Test Tube Technology (I.V.F.) in the medical field is not available to general public in the Government Hospitals;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to provide such facilities to the people in Government Hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The facility of Test Tube Technology (IVF) is not available in Central Government Hospitals viz, Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, LHMC and Associated Hospital in Delhi. 'Health' being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of every State/Union Territory to provide facility of Test Tube Technology in the hospitals under their control.

(c) A proposal to upgrade the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in LHMC and Associated Hospitals, New Delhi is under consideration. Such a facility is contemplated to be included in the proposal.

*[English]***Dissemination of Statistical Data**

4835. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Policy on Dissemination of Statistical data has been announced; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) National Policy on Dissemination of Statistical data was announced by the Government on 6th January, 1999.

(b) According to the policy, all the Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India would make available to national and international users published and unpublished validated data, including unit level data without identification particulars, which are not sensitive in nature. Price of data thus supplied would include the cost of stationery, computer consumables and computer time for sorting information but not the cost of collection and validation.

Tarapur Nuclear Power Plant

4836. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the twin-reactors of Tarapur Atomic Power Station have been hungering for adequate fuel in recent months;

(b) if so, whether Russia has agreed to supply low enriched uranium fuel for the plant;

(c) if so, the details of terms and conditions for the supply of low enriched uranium fuel; and

(d) the extent to which the demand of Tarapur Nuclear Plant have been met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) To sustain the fuel supply for Tarapur Atomic Power Plant, Russia have agreed to supply low enriched uranium fuel. The terms and conditions are similar to those for such supplies in the past.

Meteorological Satellite

4837. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is building a separate meteorological satellite (METSAT);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the METSAT is likely to be launched;

(d) whether it is true that there have been problems with each one of the VHRRs (Very High Resolution Radiometers) which has flown on the three indigenously built INSAT-2 satellites equipped with INSAT-2A, 2B and the 2E; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the ISRO to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) METSAT will have the payloads of Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR) and Data Relay Transponder.

(c) METSAT will be launched by end 2001.

(d) Payload for collecting visible pictures are operational in INSAT-2A and INSAT-2B. Payload for infrared data collection failed after about one year of operation in the satellites INSAT-2A and 2B. VHRR of INSAT-2E is not operational due to a problem of servo control. Charged Coupled Devices payload of INSAT-2E is operational.

(e) A National level committee had studied the configuration of METSAT Satellite particularly from the point of view of previous on-orbit anomalies. The recommendations of the committee are taken into account in the configuration of METSAT.

Indo-Pak Talks

4838. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the USA is seriously considering declaring some organised groups in Pakistan as terrorist outfits;

(b) if so, whether the US Government has fully endorsed India's views that Pakistan is behind these organised groups;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the US has been able to convince Pakistan to consider their views and create an atmosphere for Indo-Pak talks; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the US has succeeded in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The United States has placed Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HUM) on the list of Foreign Terrorist Organisations. The US officials have also stated that it is examining whether some other terrorist organisations such as Lashkar-e-Toiba should also be placed on this list.

(b) and (c) The US has acknowledged on a number of occasions, including in its annual reports on Patterns of Global Terrorism, that various terrorist organisations use Pakistan as the base for their operations. At a Hearing of the House International Relations Committee of the US Congress on 12th July 2000, the US State Department Coordinator for Counter-terrorism stated that "Pakistan has tolerated terrorists living and moving freely within its territory. Numerous Kashmiri separatist groups and sectarian groups involved in terrorism use Pakistan as a base... We are looking hard at current developments and continue to be intensively engaged with Pakistan on improving cooperation. President Clinton and, most recently, Under Secretary

Pickering both travelled to Pakistan to reinforce tough messages on terrorism and other key concerns."

(d) and (e) The US has asked Pakistan on a number of occasions, including during the visit of President Clinton to Islamabad, to crack down on terrorist organisations and take steps to create the appropriate conditions for a meaningful dialogue with India. A senior US official stated in a press briefing following the meeting between PM and the US President on 15 September 2000 that the US had not seen sufficient diminution of violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

Visa to Afghan Nationals of Indian Origin

4839. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether any policy has been framed by the Union Government for the issuance of Visa to Afghan Nationals of Indian Origin (ANIO);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Due to the prolonged war and ethnic conflict in Afghanistan from 1980 onwards, Afghan nationals - both ethnic as well as those of Indian origin - migrated to India. As per the present policy, Afghan nationals who have come to India with valid travel documents/passports are being granted six monthly extension for their stay in the country. The present extension is valid up to 31st December, 2000.

Financial Assistance by K.V.I.C. to Bihar

4840. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of financial assistance disbursed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to the Rural Industries in Bihar during last three years;

(b) whether the amount provided by KVIC is inadequate;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide more financial assistance to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The disbursement made by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to Bihar State for Khadi and Village Industries during last three years is as under :

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
Year	Grants	Loans
1997-98	752.45	30.31
1998-99	1230.49	60.85
1999-2000	349.84	26.37

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Drug Authority/Drug Controller

4841. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to approve a National Drug Authority/Drug Controller of India to decide the approval of Drugs; and

(b) if so, the composition and the criteria of selection, alongwith the term of such authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is already a post of Drugs Controller of India who heads the Central Standards Control Organisation which is responsible for ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of drugs manufactured and marketed in the country, including approval of new drugs.

(b) The selection to the post of Drugs Controller (India) is made as per the approved Recruitment Rules for the post.

Regional Employment Exchange

4842. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken/initiated any action on the suggestions made by the North East M.Ps

Forum to set up a regional Employment Exchange for sponsoring candidates of the region for all Central, Semi-Central and Corporate Houses to ensure proportionate share of employment and the setting up of a National Technical Educational Institute in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Home Affairs have sought comments from concerned agencies/ Ministries.

Indo-Pak Talks

4843. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the French Government has urged Pakistan to rein in the militants fighting in Kashmir and to create a suitable congenial atmosphere for a dialogue with India to solve the Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, the details of the big powers including EU and Asian nations who have so far endorsed this approach of France?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Statements issued by the French Government, in a national capacity as well as on behalf of the European Union, of which France currently holds the Presidency, have condemned terrorist attacks and called for the termination of the terrorist activities in Kashmir, the implementation of confidence and security-building measures and strict respect for the Line of Control in order to restore a peaceful local climate and enable the dialogue between Pakistan and India to resume in the spirit of the Lahore Declaration. In the context of Government's cease-fire offer, the French Presidency of the EU issued a statement on 8 December 2000 welcoming the cease-fire. It adds that "the EU remains convinced that if such a peaceful solution is to be achieved, a stop must be put to terrorist acts, the Line of Control must be strictly observed and confidence-building and security measures must be implemented in order for dialogue to resume in keeping with the Lahore spirit."

(b) The international community is increasingly expressing concern at Pakistan's state sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. This concern is reflected in the international media coverage on Pakistan, and in the statements by official spokesmen of several governments, including the European Union. There is greater

acceptance of Government of India's view that Pakistan must abandon its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism and violence, respect the sanctity of the Line of Control and end its calls for Jihad, in order to create an appropriate environment for the resumption of dialogue.

Tackling Taliban Menace

4844. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Russia, USA, UK and other countries have agreed to work together to tackle the Taliban terrorist activities in Afghanistan and also in India, Russia and USA;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been worked out to meet this situation jointly;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether all these countries have also raised the matter in the United Nations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) India and Russia had decided to set up a Joint Working Group on Afghanistan during the visit of His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation to India; on October 2-5, 2000. The first meeting of the group was held in New Delhi on November 20-21, 2000 in which both sides reviewed the situation prevailing in Afghanistan in all its dimensions and agreed to continue their cooperation at the bilateral level as well as multilaterally in this respect.

During the visit of Prime Minister to the United States in September, 2000, the two sides agreed to establish a framework of bilateral dialogue on issues of mutual concern relating to Afghanistan. The two countries are currently discussing the structure and scope of this bilateral dialogue.

(d) and (e) Several countries have raised their concern about the situation in Afghanistan in the United Nations. The UN Security Council passed a resolution in October, 1999, imposing sanctions against the Taliban. The UN General Assembly has also adopted resolutions critical of the Taliban.

ESIC Dues

4845. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of amount due from Employees State Insurance Corporation, Hyderabad to Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, towards medical bills/charges for the patients referred by ESI Corporation for specialist treatment;

(b) the time by which the said amount is likely to be paid to Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences;

(c) whether the Government propose to clear the bills on monthly basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) In Andhra Pradesh, provisions of medical care under the ESI Scheme are being administered by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. For specialist treatment the State ESI authorities refer their patients to Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences. According to available information an amount of Rs.6,19,54,397/- is payable by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences towards medical bills/charges in respect of the patients referred to them for specialist treatment.

(b) to (e) The bills of the medical institutions are being cleared by the Government of Andhra Pradesh on Quarterly basis depending upon availability of funds. An amount of Rs.45,99,751/- has since been paid to the Institute during the first quarter of 2000-2001. The remaining amount as admissible under the ESI Scheme will be paid to the Institute as and when sufficient funds are made available by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Scholarship

4846. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to revise the rate of scholarship being provided under the centrally sponsored scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to SC/ST;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Maharashtra has suggested that the rates of maintenance allowance under the Scheme may be revised to "two times of the existing rates".

(c) The suggestion of the State Government of Maharashtra alongwith suggestions received from other States have been considered while assessing the financial requirement under the Scheme.

Denial of Permission to Sikh Pilgrims

4847. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 2500 Pakistan-bound Sikh pilgrims with valid Visa Papers were not allowed to travel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether Pakistan Authorities have been contacted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Expansion/Development of Homoeopathic Pharmacy Council

4848. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for the expansion and development of Homoeopathic Pharmacy Education through recognized Government Institutions and to set up a Homoeopathic Pharmacy Council in the country for Homoeopathic Pharmacists;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the instances taken by the Government in this regard so far;

(c) whether Government have given emphasis to the Homoeopathic Physician in the Homoeopathic Colleges in the country for their Medical Diploma/Degree Education, Training, services in various organizations and practice of the system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The department had constituted an expert committee for examining various aspects of Pharmacy education in Homoeopathy. The committee while making recommendation had also submitted a draft course curriculum for three years diploma course and one year dispensers' course in Homoeopathy. The department has forwarded the same to all State Governments for appropriate action for regulating pharmacy education. Separately, the Government is exploring various mechanisms to centrally regulate the Homoeopathic pharmacy education and practice in the country.

(c) and (d) The Central Council of Homoeopathy regulates the education and Training in Homoeopathy. There are about 150 Homoeopathy Medical colleges admitting 7000 students per annum in the under-graduate course. The physicians holding recognised medical qualifications may take up jobs in the Central and State Governments, private hospitals or set up their own practice.

[Translation]

Pace Maker Banks

4849. DR. M.P. JAISWAL Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish pace maker banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Second Generation Reforms

4850. DR. S. VENUGOPAL Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to launch Second Generation reforms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Economic reform is a continuous process involving changes in a wide range of policies and procedures. The broad direction of reforms has been outlined in the Ninth Five Year Plan and the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan documents. Further direction would be provided in the Tenth Five Year Plan, on which work has just commenced. Detailed reforms regarding each sector are being announced as and when required.

[Translation]

Language Programme

4851. SHRI NAGMANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to give priority to regional languages instead of English in the programmes related to Health and Family Welfare;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The Department of Family Welfare is giving due consideration to the regional languages while publicising the family welfare programmes. It is bringing out Reproductive Child Health Newsletters in Hindi, Assamese, Oriya apart from English. They are also publishing a number of print software in regional languages from time to time. The Family Welfare programmes through the All India Radio are broadcast in Hindi and regional languages also. The Department has also undertaken dubbing of video spots in regional languages as per field requirements. A gist of the recently adopted National Population Policy, 2000 has been printed in all regional languages for use in the respective States.

Under the Department of Health, as part of the National T.B. Control Programme, DO's and DON'Ts and other information about TB are published in national dailies as well as in regional newspapers for mass awareness from time to time.

In the IEC activities relating to the National AIDS Control Programme, due emphasis is given to regional languages. Mass Media activities are being undertaken at the national level through television, radio and print media.

Under National Anti-Malaria Programme slogans in regional languages are being inscribed on postal stationery.

The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy has requested the State Governments to translate the publicity materials made available to them in regional languages.

[English]

Thalassaemic Births

4852. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to check thalassaemic births in the country; and

(b) if so, the programmes launched by the Government to prevent thalassaemic birth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Thalassaemic birth is being controlled only through genetic counseling and preventive diagnosis of affected fetus during pregnancy and terminating the same.

(b) A Programme has been initiated by the Indian Council of Medical Research to check thalassaemic birth in the country. A Research Project entitled "Community Control of Thalassaemia Syndromes-Awareness, Screening, Generic Counselling and Prevention" has also been initiated by ICMR.

Long Distance Service

4853. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has inter-alia made certain observations on policy issues regarding opening of long distance services for competition by Telecommunication on the Ninth Mid Term Review.;

(b) whether the comments from the Ministry of Communications with regard to certain observations of policy issues regarding opening of long distance services for private competition have since been received;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the final guidelines since approved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) In the draft Chapter on Telecommunications of the Ninth Plan Mid Term Review, the Planning Commission had, inter-alia, made the following observations regarding opening of long distance services for competition :

- (i) Free and full competition should be ensured from the beginning. It has to be ensured that no artificial barriers like competitive bidding based on minimum reserve price and restricting the number of players initially are imposed.
- (ii) No entry restrictions except the one-time entry fee and financial soundness and credit worthiness of the operators should be imposed. The quantum of entry fee could be increased appropriately if the one recommended by TRAI is considered inadequate to keep the non-serious players out.
- (iii) Intra-circle long distance traffic has to be permitted to ensure freedom of choice of long distance operator to the subscriber. The artificial distinction between intra-circle and inter-circle long distance connectivity would become redundant in the face of emerging technological innovations. Unrestricted competition among the ISPs has already demonstrated the virtue of this approach to rapidly expand the customer base and reduce cost to the customer at the intra-circle level and the Internet telephony underlining the need to have free competition at the Intra-circle level.

(b) and (c) No comments were received from the Ministry. However, the National Long Distance Services have been opened for competition from August 2000. Free and full competition has been ensured removing all undue restrictions on entry.

(d) The final guidelines approved by the Government for issue of licence for National Long Distance Service are available on Department of Telecom's web site <http://www.dotindia.com>.

Estimate of Labour Force

4854. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any exercise has been initiated to quantify the unpaid work in the economy and prepare alternative estimate of the labour force; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) A pilot Time Use Survey (TUS) was conducted in six selected States namely, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya covering persons aged 6 years and above in the selected households. For collecting information on the time spent on various activities performed by an individual during 24 hours, a detailed Activity Classification was prepared. All the activities included in the Activity Classification were categorized in three Groups, viz. (i) System of National Accounts (SNA) Activities, (ii) Extended-SNA Activities and (iii) Non-SNA Activities. Prevailing wage rates in the districts covered in the TUS were also collected.

The development of appropriate methodology for valuation of unpaid work using the data on time spent on activities covered in the Extended-SNA category and wage rates is at present only a research exercise. Similarly, understanding the implication of the data on time spent in SNA activities on work force estimates is also a part of the research exercise.

MPLADS

4855. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount can be spent on propagating primary education under MPLADS;

(b) if so, the instructions issued in this regard; and

(c) if not, the action proposed to extend MPLADS for propagating primary education as well as giving awards to deserving students and teachers for popularising primary education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) Under the MPLAD

Scheme, works as recommended by Members of Parliament can be taken up by the District Heads for creation of durable assets based on locally felt needs. As provided under the guidelines on MPLADS, construction of buildings for schools, hostels, libraries and other buildings of educational institutions belonging to Government, or local bodies, aided institutions, unaided but recognized institutions which are in existence for not less than two years can be taken up. Hence, the construction of buildings only for primary schools is permissible.

[Translation]

Installation of Deep Tube Wells

4856. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ground water level in certain parts of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is falling rapidly which compelled farmers to install shallow/deep tube-wells;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to provide additional funds to the State Governments for providing subsidy to the farmers for installation of such tube-wells;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the assistance is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :
(a) and (b) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a situation of fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the country. The names of the States/districts including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar having pockets where fall in the ground water level for more than 4 metre (1980-99) has been observed are indicated in the Statement-I.

(c) to (e) The Union Ministry of Rural Development is allocating funds to the State Governments for rural development programmes which, inter-alia, include installation of tube-wells. The funds allocated under the programmes during the last three years till date, year-wise and State-wise are given in the Statement-II. Further allocation of funds to different sectors and implementation of

the various schemes is done by the States according to their own priorities.

Statement-I

Name of the State/District having pockets with fall in ground water level of more than 4 metres (1980-99)

Sl. No.	State	Districts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Shrikakulam, Chittoor
2.	Bihar	East Singhbhum, Ranchi, Samastipur, Chapra, Dharbhanga
3.	Haryana	Kurushetra, Kaithal, Mehandargarh, Jind
4.	Karnataka	Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bellari, Shimoga, Bangalore, Mysore, Gulbarga
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain, Dewas, Shajahanpur, Dhar, Sagar, Bilaspur, Raipur, Surguja, Guna, Narsinghpur
6.	Maharashtra	Akola, Nagpur, Jalgaon, Osmanabad, Satara, Aurangabad, Sangli, Buldhana, Amravati
7.	Orissa	Koraput, Mayurbhanj
8.	Punjab	Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ferozpur, Ludhiana, Patiala, Sangrur, Faridkot, Fatehgarh.
9.	Rajasthan	Nagaur, Bikaner, Jaipur
10.	Tamil Nadu	Salem, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tanjavour, Pudukottai, Kamraj, Thirunaganar
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda, Farukhabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Fetehpur, Allahabad, Banda, Nainital
12.	West Bengal	Purulia, Midnapur

Statement-II

Rs. in lakhs				
Sl. No.	States	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	7444.35	6219.55	3419.83
2	Arunachal Pradesh	311.95	136.74	188.3
3	Assam	8110.29	3553.09	4892.72
4	Bihar	24387.31	20374.56	11202.96
5	Goa	17.21	59.78	50.00
6	Gujarat	2802.24	2341.15	1287.29
7	Haryana	1648.56	1377.36	757.33
8	Himachal Pradesh	694.21	580.06	318.94
9	Jammu and Kashmir	859.33	717.90	394.74
10	Karnataka	5621.68	4696.65	2582.45
11	Kerala	2522.35	2107.37	1158.74
12	Madhya Pradesh	12361.47	10327.33	5678.49
13	Maharashtra	11112.51	9284.11	5104.88
14	Manipur	543.63	238.19	328.00
15	Meghalaya	609.08	266.87	367.49
16	Mizoram	140.79	61.75	85.04
17	Nagaland	417.92	183.06	252.08
18	Orissa	8514.81	7113.90	3911.58
19	Punjab	801.21	669.38	368.06
20	Rajasthan	4268.72	3566.34	1960.94
21	Sikkim	156.37	68.38	94.15
22	Tamil Nadu	6582.53	5499.44	3023.88
23	Tripura	981.79	430.08	592.23
24	Uttar Pradesh	26837.94	22422.38	12328.96
25	West Bengal	9462.70	7905.68	4346.94

OPEC Assistance for Kaka Saheb Gadgil Sagar Project

4857. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Union Government to seek assistance from OPEC for "Kaka Saheb Gadgil Sagar project" Chandu Talab Project in Nimach district of the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) Yes sir.

(b) The proposal was examined in the Ministry and the State Government has been advised to send a revised project document.

Bargi Dam

4858. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has sent a team of technical experts for the inspection of Bargi Dam in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether the team has submitted its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Bargi Dam was jointly inspected by the officers of the Central Water Commission and Narmada Valley Development Authority of Madhya Pradesh on 24.05.1997 and the group submitted its report.

Indo-US Ties

4859. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to seek the cooperation of United States of America in the fields of energy and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other fields of cooperation at present between United States of America and India;

(d) the agreements signed in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken to strengthen Indo-US relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) During the visit of the US President to India in March 2000, the two sides agreed to establish a Joint Consultative Group on Clean Energy and Environment to foster greater bilateral co-operation and Government-to-Government dialogue, and further encourage public and private sector co-operation in these sectors. The first meeting of the Joint Consultative Group was held in Washington on 26-28 July 2000.

The Group decided to revive the Bilateral Energy Consultation and promote technology development projects for clean energy in India. It also agreed to continue discussions on environmental issues, including in the context of the ongoing multilateral negotiations, and work to establish collaborative relationships between US and Indian energy and environmental laboratories.

During the visit of Prime Minister to Washington in September 2000, the two countries signed an MOU on Bilateral Energy Consultations and two Protocols of Intent on Capacity Building and on Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Project.

(c) and (d) India and the United States are engaged in dialogue and cooperation in a number of other areas, including in international political and security matters, economics and commerce, science and technology, health, counter-terrorism and UN peacekeeping operations. The two sides are also currently discussing the structure and scope of bilateral dialogue on Afghanistan, agreed upon by the two sides during Prime Minister's visit to the United States in September 2000.

The cooperation in these areas are being carried out through the bilateral forums that the two sides have created as part of the Dialogue Architecture agreed upon by Prime Minister and President Clinton to pursue the vision of the new relationship they had outlined in March 2000, and reaffirmed during Prime Minister's visit to the United States.

(e) The two sides have agreed to work towards building a closer and qualitatively new relationship between the two countries. Towards this end, the two sides are engaged in regular and wide-ranging dialogue on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern. The dialogue is aimed at deepening mutual understanding and intensifying mutually beneficial cooperation in a broad range of areas. Both sides agree that President Clinton's visit to India in March and Prime Minister's visit to the United States in September contributed towards that goal.

Soil Erosion

4860. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any programme to check major soil erosion of river banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds provided to each State, to check the menace;

(c) whether the Government are aware of major soil erosion in Godavary District of Andhra Pradesh, caused by the river Godavary;

(d) if so, whether the Government have directed the Central Water Commission to study this phenomena; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the soil erosion caused by rivers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) Flood Management is a state subject. Therefore planning, investigation and execution of flood management schemes including anti erosion measures are implemented by the State Government. Central Government render assistance which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The Central Government have been assisting the State Government for flood management in Brahmaputra Valley since 1974-75. An amount of Rs.390.94 crore as Central Loan Assistance and Rs.10.09 crore as Grant has been provided upto 31.3.2000 to the State Government of Assam to check bank erosion in Brahmaputra and the Barak Basins. Central Government has also provided Central Assistance to the State Government of West Bengal amounting to Rs. 30.00 crore during 1998-99 to check bank erosion from the river Ganga.

Number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes have also been framed as under to check river erosion in different States.

- i) Critical anti erosion works in Ganga Basin States and raising and strengthening of existing embankments along Kosi and Gandak rivers at an estimated cost of Rs.159.53 crore for the States of

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The scheme has been approved by the Central Government.

- ii) Flood Control Schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak Basin at an estimated cost of Rs. 50.00 crore for the North-Eastern States.
- iii) Critical anti-erosion works in coastal and other than Ganga Basin States at an estimated cost of Rs.39.93 crore for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa, Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat and Pondicherry.

Schemes at (ii) and (iii) above have been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee.

(c) to (e) Central Water Commission carries out sediment load observation in Godavari basin and brings out annual report "Suspended Sediment Year Book – Godavari". State Government of Andhra Pradesh have undertaken 36 nos. of anti erosion works amounting to Rs. 24.33 crore and proposes to take additional 19 nos. of anti erosion works at estimated cost of Rs.30.40 crore to prevent erosion of Godavari Flood Banks under the World Bank assisted project.

[English]

Safety Measures for Nuclear Reactors

4861. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has made suggestions that the country needs to evolve technology which can help in making nuclear reactors safer as well as economically competitive;

(b) if so, the extent to which the suggestions have been accepted by the Government;

(c) whether a number of safety measures have been incorporated into heavy water reactor;

(d) if so, the other safer and environmental friendly measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in nuclear installations;

(e) whether the Government propose to diversify and develop the Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu; and

(f) if so, the measures taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard alongwith funds provided for the plant during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) (a) and (b) At Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, evolving new technologies for enhancing safety and economical competitiveness of nuclear reactors, is an ongoing process. Projects incorporating several proposals with the above mentioned objectives have been sanctioned by the Government under IX Plan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Taking/proposing safer and environmental friendly measures is also an ongoing process. Some of the fields in which these measures have been taken are Reactor Containment System, Liquid Poison Injection System (LPIS), improved coolant channel material and design, in-service inspection systems, better seismic resistance etc.

Some of the other advanced safety and environment friendly measures in this regard in the advanced reactor systems are natural circulation of primary coolant, negative void co-efficient or reactivity, passive containment isolation, passive containment cooling, core submergence, passive core decay heat removal and gravity driven water pool.

(e) and (f) Apart from the existing two units of Madras Atomic Power Station at Kalpakkam, (MAPS-1 and MAPS-2) 2x170 MWe, the proposals in the Ninth Five Year Plan for Nuclear Power Development at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu include commencement of preliminary work on the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (1x500 MWe) towards the end of IX Plan. Besides, based on in-service inspection, coolant channels of MAPS-1 reactor are expected to be due for replacement during the next couple of years to enhance the life of the reactor by another twenty years. Similar exercise for MAPS-2 will also be carried out whenever the coolant channel replacement for these reactors will be due.

Infant and Mother Mortality Rate

4862. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of infant and mother mortality is the highest in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether the Government propose to offer any package to Orissa for taking care of the Child and Maternity Care Programme in the State in view of the disastrous financial situation of Orissa after the Super Cyclone of 1999 and serious drought situation of 2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the population control programmes proposed to be introduced in the cyclone affected States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) As per the provisional estimates of the Infant Mortality Rate for 1999 made by the Sample Registration System, Orissa has the highest infant mortality rate. The estimated Maternal Mortality Rate as per Sample Registration System, 1998 of Orissa is lower than that of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) to (d) The Family Welfare Programme is a 100% Centrally funded Programme. Under this Programme, assistance is being provided for maternal and child health and fertility regulation services, for population stabilisation to all States, including Orissa. These services include :

For Mothers

For maternal health, the interventions include antenatal and post-natal check-up, services for safe delivery; prophylaxis and treatment of nutritional anemia; immunization against tetanus and provision for emergency obstetric care.

For Children

Immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases; control of deaths due to diarrhea and acute respiratory infections; prophylaxis against Vitamin A deficiency and iron deficiency anemia; and provision of essential newborn care, are provided for children.

For Fertility Regulation

For purpose of limiting family size and birth spacing, family planning facilities are being provided. These are :

(a) Permanent Methods

(i) Vasectomy

(ii) Tubectomy

(b) Spacing Methods

(i) Intra Uterine Device

(ii) Oral Contraceptive Pills

(iii) Condoms

Efforts are being made to improve efficiency of interventions and to improve the access of services for people in selected districts. The Border Cluster Strategy is being implemented in 47 districts of 16 states including 3 districts of Orissa to rapidly reduce the maternal and infant mortality rates. A project for strengthening immunisation and other maternal and child health programmes is under implementation in five districts of Orissa. A scheme for training of dais is being implemented in 142 districts where safe delivery rate is less than 30 per cent including 14 from Orissa. 102 districts including 7 from Orissa have been identified for organising RCH Camps.

Payment of Pension

4863. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the retired employees do not get pension after several months of their retirement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to issue guidelines to the Government Departments to ensure that the pension is given by the next month of the retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) (a) to (c) Pension sanction and payment is a decentralised function. A specific schedule has been laid down in the Central Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 1972 (Rules 56 to 74) and the corresponding rules applicable to All India Service Officers, Armed Forces Personnel and Railway employees for advance action to be taken by the Head of Office and Audit/Accounts officers to ensure timely calculation of retirement benefit and issue of Pension Payment Order not later than one month in advance of the date of retirement. The Heads of Departments/offices are accountable for ensuring that these procedures are followed and also for ensuring timely payment of pension.

Promotion of Small Scale and Cottage Industries

4864. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to promote Small Scale and Cottage Industries in the country, particularly in Orissa; and

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) In addition to the on-going Schemes/Programmes for the promotion of Small Scale Industries in the country, the Government has announced a comprehensive policy package on 30.8.2000, to promote the small scale sector which inter-alia, includes enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructural and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation. A Credit Guarantee Fund trust has been created to provide loans up to Rs. 25.00 lakhs without collateral. A scheme to provide 12% back ended Capital Subsidy on projects of technology upgradation by SSI units in the specified projects/sub sectors has been formulated. Schemes are not formulated State-wise and these are uniformly implemented throughout the country. For the development of cottage industries and handicrafts, the schemes include training for upgradation of skills of the existing/new craft persons, design and technological development, setting up of Craft Development Centres, Common Facility Service Centres in identified craft pockets, exhibition and publicity, revival of languishing crafts, web-based geographical information system on handicrafts and setting up of Urban Hatt.

(b) The Schemes/Programmes for the promotion of Small Scale Industries are uniformly applicable to all the areas and no specific state-wise allocation of funds is made. An amount of Rs. 3011.85 crores for the promotion of Small Scale Sector and Rs. 152.53 crores for the development of cottage industries and handicrafts in the country was allocated during the last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000).

Renovation of Visa Hall

4865. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the High Commission of India, London engaged a computer consultant and renovated its visa hall and spent Rs. 32 lakhs and Rs. 59 lakhs respectively, unauthorisedly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The High Commission in London had undertaken the project to renovate the visa hall as well as to upgrade and computerise the consular work process with the approval of the Ministry of External Affairs. However, due to a number of variations and additions introduced during the renovation work, certain excess expenditure was incurred by the High Commission of India. Similarly, the High Commission had spent certain additional amount on the hiring of services of a computer consultant required to advise the High Commission on the computerisation project.

(c) The expenditure thus committed, though higher than original approved amount, were authorized by the Ministry. Mission has provided the relevant details to the Ministry on the above.

Financial Irregularities in CSMRS

4866. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial irregularity has been committed by the Chairman-cum-Director of Central Soil and Material Research Station (CSMRS) during the last five years;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this matter;

(c) if so, the funds received for vested interest during the period and action taken by the Government against the Chairman; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (d) A complaint dated 26.06.1998 against the Director, Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS), New Delhi, containing allegations of corruption, irregularities and favouritism was received and, the same was investigated. After investigation, it was found that there was no evidence to prove any of the allegations made against him. Thereafter, after consulting the Central Vigilance Commission, the case was closed.

Haj Bill

4867. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce the Haj Bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the Bill;

(d) whether any organisations have demanded early passing of the Bill;

(e) if so, the names of organisations and their representatives;

(f) the time by which it is likely to be passed;

(g) whether it is proposed to increase the number of deputationists to give better service at Mecca and Madina; and

(h) if so, the number of deputationists proposed to be increased during Haj Season 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The Haj Committee Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 15.12.2000.

(b) and (c) Statement of Objects and Reasons outlining the salient features of the Bill is attached.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Several individuals, organizations, Members of Parliament, representatives of the community and the Supreme Court of India have asked for early passing of the Bill.

(f) The time frame would be determined by Parliament.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement of Objects and Reasons

The Haj Committee Act, 1959 (hereunder referred to as the Act), replaced the Port Haj Committees Act, 1932. The central position given to Bombay in the Act, and the composition and the relatively limited powers of the Haj Committee, as established under the Act, was primarily intended to regulate the selection of Indian pilgrims, and their safe transportation, by ships, from Bombay to Jeddah. The said Act, thus established a Central executive authority to regulate sea, and later air travel between Indian points and Jeddah. In Saudi Arabia, the Indian Embassy in Jeddah,

which was replaced by the Indian Consulate General from 1984, continued to have full responsibility for all aspects of Haj management. The Government of India, through the Ministry of External Affairs, were, in consequence responsible for all aspects of Haj management in India and Saudi Arabia.

Uptill mid-1960's, all Indian pilgrims going for Haj travelled by sea from the Port of Bombay. After that, the number of pilgrims travelling by air gradually increased until, in 1995, travel of pilgrims by sea was discontinued, and all Haj pilgrims began to go by air on chartered flights. During the year 1999, these flights embarked from five points in India, that is, Mumbai, Calcutta, Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore; and efforts were made at that time to add other points as soon as additional facilities for handling international passengers become available. Thus, for the Haj-2000, Cochin and Ahmedabad have also been added, as embarkation points for Haj Pilgrims.

Uptill the year 1981, all intending pilgrims were required to send their applications to the Haj Committee, Bombay, which selected the pilgrims by a draw of lots, also called 'Qurrah'. Subsequently, this selection was decentralised, and State Haj Committees were asked to conduct their respective 'Qurrah'. They were also given greater participation in Haj management in such areas as pre-embarkation arrangements, transportation to embarkation points and provision for camp facilities at such points. Thus, from the year 2000, the primary responsibility for training and orientation of pilgrims has also been entrusted to State Haj Committees.

Since the Haj Committee Act, 1959 is more than forty years old, and since important changes in matters relating to Haj, including those mentioned above, have made the Act obsolete, it no longer serves current needs. Some additional and important developments in this regard are :

- (i) The number of Indian pilgrims who perform Haj through the Committee has increased from about 24,000 in the year 1992 to 72,000 in the year 2000. This has presented new management challenges to the Haj Committee;
- (ii) The composition of the Haj Committee, as provided in the Act is unrepresentative in nature. It gives primary importance to Maharashtra, and specifically to Mumbai in the areas of Haj management; this is no longer tenable. Further, Haj sailings were reduced to three in 1984, and were finally ended in 1995. Now, the movement of all Haj pilgrims is by air from different points in India;
- (iii) Over the last forty years, from time to time questions have been raised in different quarters

regarding the respective powers and responsibilities of the Central and State Governments and of the Haj Committee. Again, over the last few years, complaints have been received by the Central Government regarding the mismanagement of its finances by the Haj Committee. These developments have emphasised the importance of ensuring that the new legislation relating to Haj should clearly define the authority of the Central and State Governments in the area of Haj policy and management, as also provide for a reformed and representative Haj Committee, with an effective mechanism to ensure financial propriety, and above all, eliminate ambiguities relating to jurisdictional matters.

The Bill seeks to repeal and reenact the Haj Committee Act, 1959 so as to achieve the above objects.

HIV in Kerala

4868. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to declare Kerala hundred percent safe from HIV infection in view of the fact that not a single case of HIV was detected in Kerala State in last four years (i.e. between 1996 to 2000) as per the figures published in NACO publication, country scenario; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the HIV sentinel surveillance data, the State of Kerala has an estimated number of 1,69,340 HIV infections as on mid 1998.

Installation of Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor

4869. DR. C. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to instal Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at the Indira Gandhi Centre, Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu for Atomic Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the statutory clearance from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board etc. has been obtained for the purpose;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which installation work of the reactor is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is a pool type sodium cooled Reactor with a capacity of 500 MWe. The design work of PFBR for the Nuclear Steam Supply Systems and also the Fuel Handling System are in an advanced stage of completion. The materials specifications, drawings and manufacturing specifications for major components are getting ready. Consulting Engineers have been appointed for System Engineering and the Plant Layout works for the Balance of Plant, for the pre-paration of the Detailed Project Report (DPR). The DPR is targeted to be submitted for obtaining financial sanction by the end of June, 2001.

The R & D Activities, aimed at validation of PFBR design are being carried out both in-house and in collaboration with various R & D Organisations and industries.

Manufacturing Technology development is being carried out for major critical components of PFBR with the active participation of Indian industries, in order to solve the problems in advance and also to reduce the construction time.

(c) and (d) The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has approved the site for installation of PFBR at Kalpakkam. The Preliminary Safety Analysis Report is under evaluation by the Project Design Safety Committee Constituted by AERB and is expected to be completed by March, 2001. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared by the Consultants M/s. MECON is ready for submission to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

(e) The construction work of PFBR is expected to be commenced towards end of 2001.

Roster System in Service

4870. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the verdict of the Hon'ble Supreme Court was given in the case of person belonging to Other Backward Castes but the officials of DOPT misinterpreted the verdict and applied for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken, so far by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) A number of judgement have been delivered by the Supreme Court from time to time in interpretation of the Constitutional provisions which had a bearing on policy of reservation. In the absence of any specific citation, it is not possible to indicate details.

Function of Apollo Hospitals

4871. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 58 MPs have sought a high level enquiry into the functioning of Apollo Hospital alleging large scale irregularities;

(b) whether Apollo Hospital has failed to abide the Memorandum of Understanding especially an important clause for providing free medical treatment to poor;

(c) if so, whether any high level enquiry have been made in this regard;

(d) the findings of such an enquiry committee; and

(e) the decision of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The dispute relating to implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding reached between the Government of NCT of Delhi with the Apollo Hospital is presently sub-judice before the High Court of Delhi.

[Translation]

Survey on Iodine Deficiency

4872. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated any ambitious sample survey scheme starting from foothills of Himalayas in regard to iodine deficiency all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consensus was achieved at the conference of Health Ministers of the States about the essentiality of iodine held on August, 2000; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government on that basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Conducting IDD surveys is an important component of the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme formerly known as National Goitre Control Programme (1962). So far 282 districts covering 25 States and 5 Union Territories have been surveyed and 241 districts have been found to be endemic for IDD/Goitre where the prevalence is more than 10%.

(c) The need to consume iodated salt to overcome the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders was emphasized by almost all the States.

(d) In order to popularise the consumption of Iodated Salt, Government has intensified Information, Education and Communication activities through the Song and Drama Division, Directorate of Field Publicity, Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity, Doordarshan and the All India Radio. Besides, financial assistance to States/UTs for Health Education and Publicity is also being provided.

NMFDC and Multi Sectoral Development Plans

4873. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of beneficiaries belonging to minority community from National Minority Finance Development Corporation and the Multi Sectoral Development Plans during Eighth and the Ninth Five during Eighth and the Ninth Five Year Plan, as on date in Bihar;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan period, year-wise;

(c) the target fixed by the Government to provide benefit to maximum number of persons belonging to minority community under these schemes during Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise particularly for Bihar; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the effective implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) was incorporated in 1994. The details of amount sanctioned and released as well as beneficiaries, belonging to minority community, assisted during the Eighth and the Ninth Five Year Plan in Bihar are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

Under the scheme of Multi Sectoral Development Plans, financial assistance is extended to State Governments for preparing project reports in the identified 41 number of Minority Concentration Districts for development of minorities. These includes Purnea, Darbhanga and Katihar districts of Bihar. Financial assistance under the scheme has been provided to Bihar for preparation of the Plans. The State Governments have been requested for implementation of the plans by dovetailing the on-going schemes. NMDFC has been requested to follow up the matter.

NMDFC assigns an allocation for each State for the year. Amount sanctioned during 1997-98 to 2000-2001 is given in Statement -II enclosed.

Steps taken for the effective implementation of schemes of NMDFC are as follows :

- (i) Apart from State Channelising Agencies for assisting minority communities, extension of micro financing through non-governmental organizations has been introduced.
- (ii) Appointment of additional channelising agencies and tie-ups with NABARD and Rashtriya Mahilla Kosh to assist large number of beneficiaries.
- (iii) Meetings with State Governments and non-governmental organizations to review the performance and launching of new schemes/programmes.
- (iv) Introduction of revised lending policy for providing greater freedom and flexibility to the State Channelising Agencies.
- (v) Introduction of schemes to strengthen infrastructural facilities of the State Channelising Agencies.

Statement-I

Sanction and Release of funds by NMDFC in Bihar

(Beneficiary number and Amount in Rs.Lacs)

Year	Sanctions		Disbursements	
	Amount	Beneficiaries	Amount	Beneficiaries
Eighth Plan				
1994-95	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1995-96	940.95	1550	NIL	NIL
1996-97	76.50	100	NIL	NIL
Ninth Plan				
1997-98	355.51	875	128.96	229
1998-99	233.70	550	242.55	644
1999-00	326.00	652	NIL	NIL
2000-01	326.00	640	NIL	NIL
Total	2258.66	4367	371.51	873

Statement-II

Statewise / Yearwise Report on Sanctions

			(NMDFC) (Amount in Rs Lakhs)									
Sl No.	State	SCA Code	1997-98		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		Total	
			Amount	Benfs.	Amount	Benfs.	Amount	Benfs.	Amount	Benfs.	Amount	Benfs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	A and N Islands	ANIDC	0.00	0	8.50	20	0.00	0	0.00	0	8.50	20
2	Andhra Pradesh	APSMFC	214.95	992	272.57	2011	589.00	11592	589.00	5800	1816.65	22620
3	Assam	AMDFC	0.00	0	127.50	300	143.00	174	143.00	355	519.58	1004
4	Bihar	BSMFC	355.51	875	233.70	550	326.00	652	326.00	640	2258.66	4367
5	Chandigarh	CHCFDCL	36.92	50	12.14	22	25.00	53	25.22	43	119.68	233
6	Delhi	DFC	0.00	0	42.50	100	0.00	0	0.00	0	42.50	100
7	D and N Haveli	DNHOOOFDC	0.00	0	8.50	20	0.00	0	0.00	0	8.50	20
8	Gujarat	GBDC	101.58	400	527.10	1210	147.03	276	0.00	0	1361.24	2892
		GNDC	0.00	0	0.00	0	578.97	1200	726.00	1927	1304.97	3127
9	Himachal	HPMDC	73.61	177	61.56	138	95.00	215	87.00	114	336.24	711
10	Haryana	HBCKN	18.32	138	134.44	290	225.00	528	281.00	661	848.83	2147
11	Jammu and Kashmir	JKSCSTDC	115.43	380	375.40	420	0.00	0	371.40	400	1161.86	1760
		JKWDC	0.00	0	21.25	50	95.00	142	126.74	276	329.24	618
12	Kerala	KBCDC	493.94	1300	298.82	550	612.00	3170	665.00	1845	2565.46	7975
		KSCFFDC	64.06	102	38.25	168	157.00	265	157.00	286	466.31	821
		KSWDC	159.16	317	260.13	427	259.00	571	259.00	616	1403.62	3694

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	Karnataka	KMDC	725.05	1450	492.53	550	632.00	1115	1013.38	2500	3587.05	11585
14	Lakshadweep	LDC	0.00	0	8.50	20	0.00	0	0.00	0	8.50	20
15	Meghalaya	MIDC	0.00	0	21.20	50	0.00	0	0.00	0	30.83	71
16	Maharashtra	MHPBCDC	0.00	0	233.70	550	0.00	0	70.00	140	1261.84	2090
17	Manipur	MTDC	85.60	230	55.46	90	92.00	129	92.00	129	390.09	718
18	Madhya Pradesh	MPBCMFDG	140.68	440	68.00	160	204.00	525	204.00	517	1358.45	5412
		MPHDC	0.00	0	17.91	100	71.00	1010	71.00	300	159.91	1410
19	Mizoram	MCAB	29.75	250	21.20	50	54.00	145	200.00	460	341.55	1027
		ZIDCO	0.00	0	79.23	145	190.62	502	300.00	423	589.22	1118
20	Nagaland	NIDC	38.44	60	62.52	114	124.00	298	200.00	320	424.96	792
21	Orissa	ORSCSTFDG	0.00	0	199.70	960	300.00	900	300.00	1066	799.70	2926
22	Pondicherry	PDBCMDC	0.00	0	8.50	20	0.00	0	46.08	61	54.58	81
23	Punjab	BACKFINCO	355.34	700	580.76	821	494.00	952	850.00	1728	3129.11	5371
24	Rajasthan	RSCSTFDCC	99.53	170	144.62	295	139.00	295	102.00	220	515.75	1040
25	Sikkim	SKSCSTOBDG	0.00	0	8.50	20	0.00	0	0.00	0	8.50	20
26	Tamil Nadu	TABCEDCO	25.50	30	147.50	350	181.00	325	0.00	0	818.00	1705
		TAMCO	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	181.00	325	181.00	325
27	Tripura	TSCDC	55.61	115	21.20	50	36.00	84	36.00	92	152.21	351
28	Uttar Pradesh	UPMDFC	2315.36	3540	855.68	2451	1030.00	3000	1500.00	3000	10828.65	24499
29	West Bengal	WBMDFC	417.14	780	643.28	1090	641.00	950	1200.00	5000	3901.87	9257
	Total		5921.48	12496	6142.35	14162	7440.62	29068	10121.82	29244	43093.61	43093

Resumption of German Aid

4874. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Germany has agreed to resume bilateral aid to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Following the Indian nuclear tests, the then government of Germany had cancelled the annual development co-operation talks scheduled to have been held in Bonn in May 1998. Consequent to this announcement, fresh allocations have not been made for new projects to India although projects in the pipeline were not being affected.

On 22nd September, 2000, the German Ministry for Economic Co-operation announced that it is 'planning to give new pledges of aid to India and Pakistan next year with a view to normalising the co-operation gradually'. This decision was confirmed by Mr. Joschka Fischer, Foreign Minister of Germany, during a press conference in New Delhi on 30th September 2000.

[Translation]

SC/ST/OBCs in Government Service

4875. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6874 dated May 10, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected in this regard ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Information was required to be collected from all the Ministries/Departments. The information is yet to be furnished by fourteen Ministries/Departments. The aforesaid Ministries/Departments are being periodically reminded to supply the information expeditiously.

[English]

Khadi as International Product

4876. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have planned a global campaign to project Khadi as an International Product;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated expenditure is likely to be incurred on the campaign; and

(c) the time by which the Khadi shops at all International airports in the country are likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is promoting Khadi and its products through an intensive advertising campaign. As the advertising is a continuous process, no time frame has been fixed and expenditure would be need based.

(c) Since the setting up of shops at International Airports is presently at a discussion stage, no time frame can be fixed.

Submission of Passport Applications

4877. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Regional Passport Office at Pune has stopped accepting passport applications through passport agents, except those through agents who are members of IATA and TAAI, with effect from September 13, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to revert to the earlier practice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) With effect from 1.8.2000, the Government has authorized those travel agents who are members of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI), and are recognized by International Air Travel Association (IATA), to submit passport application forms to the passport offices. In addition, all those travel agents who were recognized by this Ministry prior to July, 1992, when the system of recognition was dispensed with, are eligible to submit passport application forms to the passport offices.

(b) Numerous complaints were received by our passport offices where the travel agents were instrumental in submitting forged documents enabling unauthorized persons to obtain passports which could seriously compromise national security.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of CGHS Dispensary

4878. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up CGHS dispensary at Sansad Vihar, West Enclave, Saraswati Vihar and Paschim Vihar;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) The beneficiaries living in Sansad Vihar, West Enclave and Saraswati Vihar are attached with CGHS dispensary Shakurbasti for availing medical facilities. As far as Paschim Vihar is concerned there is already one dispensary No. 80 functioning in that area.

Theft of Blank Passport Booklets

4879. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of theft of blank passport booklets reported during each of the last three years from the different passport offices in the country;

(b) the number of blank passport booklets out of them recovered;

(c) the number of persons arrested in this regard;

(d) whether some officials of the passport offices were found involved in these theft cases;

(e) if so, the cases in which departmental inquiry was initiated and action taken against those found guilty; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) One case of theft of 1000 blank passport booklets was reported in 1998 at Passport Office, Ghaziabad.

(b) Of these 972 booklets were recovered.

(c) Three private persons were arrested in this regard.

(d) The complicity of any official of Passport Office Ghaziabad has not been established.

(e) On the basis of a departmental enquiry, proceedings were initiated against one official for failing to adhere to basic security precautions and not handling the keys of the strong room properly. A minor penalty was imposed on the official in May 1999.

(f) Government remains vigilant to protect the custody of blank passport booklets. Strong rooms have been provided in Passport Offices and are regularly checked and kept under the supervision of an officer.

Vilification Campaign by Pak

4880. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the sustained Misinformation and Vilification campaign launched by Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to counter the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Pakistan indulges in vicious anti India propaganda on a daily basis. A major part of this propaganda seeks to distort

and spread misinformation on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan's anti India propaganda is only a manifestation of its compulsive hostility against India. It is also an unsuccessful attempt to deflect the increasing international attention from its state sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and its support to extremist groups that subscribe to obscurantist and violent ideologies.

The international community's strong appreciation of India's credentials for peace and democracy, and its simultaneous acknowledgement of Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India, is a clear testimony of the failure of Pakistan's anti India propaganda.

Sops never reach Dalits

4881. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item captioned 'Rs. 200 crores worth sops never reach Dalits' as reported in the Pioneer dated November 30, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the matter has since been enquired; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the efforts being made to retrieve the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard has intimated that the expenditure on scholarships to Scheduled Castes and Denotified Tribes in the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 318.44 crores, Rs. 353.94 crores and Rs. 358.69 crores respectively. The State Government took a serious view of the reports of misutilization of scholarship money at various levels and issued repeated instructions to all Commissioners/District Magistrates to enquire into all such cases and take appropriate action against the offenders. As a result of the State level campaign, FIRs have been lodged against 416 institutions. Instructions have also been issued to the Police Superintendents of the districts to pursue these cases expeditiously. The State Government has further apprised that no decision has yet been taken on the suggestion made by the Deregulation Committee. They have also stated that no study has been conducted by the Committee and hence there is no estimation that the amount involved is Rs. 200 crores.

Surplus Technical Staff

4882. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Union Government to absorb technical employees of closed autonomous body to another in view of the ruling given by the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines; and

(c) the directions issued by the Union Government to States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Central Civil Services(Redeployment of Surplus Staff) Rules, 1990 being administered by the Department of Personnel and Training deals with redeployment of the Central Government employees working in various Ministries/Departments and Subordinate/attached offices. The employees of autonomous organisations are not covered under the scheme.

(b) No guidelines have been issued by this Ministry in respect of the surplus technical staff of closed autonomous bodies.

(c) Does not arise.

Ousters of Bijal Irrigation

4883. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bijal Irrigation Project in Gajapathi district, Orissa has been cleared;

(b) if so, the number of people likely to be displaced due to the execution of this project; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) The Government of Orissa has not submitted the project

report on Bijal irrigation project to the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Atrocities on SC/STs

4884. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3745 on 16.8.2000 and state :

(a) whether the information has been collected from the Government of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that cases pertaining to the file No. 8/99/APCR of National Commission for SC/ST, New Delhi are pending for a long time; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed by the Union Government for early disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Information is still awaited from the State Government of Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has informed that the complaint from Shri Kishan Lal S/o Shri Narayan Balai r/o village Dhingpur, District Sikar, Rajasthan was sent to District Collector & District Supdt. of Police of District Sikar for investigation and report. According to the report received from Supdt. of Police & District Collector, Sikar the disputed land does not belong to complainant. This has been communicated to him by The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Data of Nuclear Tests

4885. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have collected some data of nuclear tests at Pokhran in 1998; and

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of protection of India's security interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING,

DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The five tests conducted in May 1998 have provided Government with an adequate scientific data base for designing the types of weapons needed for a credible minimum nuclear deterrent. The Indian credible minimum nuclear deterrent is currently based on a range of possible weapon systems from low yields to 200 kilotons involving fission, boosted fission and two-stage thermonuclear designs.

WHO Assistance for implementation of Rabies Control Programme

4886. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the average number of deaths reported due to rabies in the country, State-wise during last three calendar years;

(b) whether W.H.O. has offered technical and financial help and know-how for implementation of rabies control programmes in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps taken to utilize the assistance of W.H.O.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) A statement indicating the reported number of cases and deaths due to rabies/dog bites for the year 1996, 1997 and 1998 as maintained by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, is annexed. Rabies is primarily a disease of animals. Human beings are accidental deadends. Government provides rabies immunization for animal bite cases as a post exposure treatment free of cost. WHO assistance is taken as and when required. Presently there is no National Programme to Control Rabies.

Statement

Reported cases and deaths due to Principal Communicable Diseases in India, 1996.

Sl. No.	State/UT	Rabies / Dog Bites	
		Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	05	05
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	161	0
4.	Bihar		
5.	Goa	12	6
6.	Gujarat	4	2
7.	Haryana	8	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	985	0
10.	Karnataka	4663	61
11.	Kerala	130	16
12.	Madhya Pradesh	869	5
13.	Maharashtra	71	71
14.	Manipur	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	279	0
16.	Mizoram	10	0
17.	Nagaland	56	0
18.	Orissa	101	14
19.	Punjab	25	0
20.	Rajasthan	308	2
21.	Sikkim	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	20	9
23.	Tripura	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	105	0
25.	West Bengal	324	324
26.	A & N Islands	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	1	0
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0
30.	Delhi	346	27
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	7	0
Total (All India)		8564	622

— Not Received.

Data is Provisional and not comparable due to ill-defined coverage.

Source: Monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs (DIR. of H⁺ Services).

Reported cases and deaths due to Principal Communicable Diseases in India, 1997.

Sl. No.	State/UT	Rabies / Dog Bites	
		Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	375	78
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3.	Assam	108	6
4.	Bihar		
5.	Goa	1	2
6.	Gujarat	31	2
7.	Haryana	3	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	479	@
10.	Karnataka	7125	34
11.	Kerala	62	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	596	4
13.	Maharashtra	130	130
14.	Manipur	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	264	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0
17.	Nagaland	66	0
18.	Orissa	160	8
19.	Punjab		
20.	Rajasthan	1953	5
21.	Sikkim	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	111	6
23.	Tripura	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	95	98
25.	West Bengal	262	262
26.	A & N Islands	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	1	0
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0

1	2	3	4
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0
30.	Delhi	198	18
31.	Lakshadweep	0	
32.	Pondicherry	11	5
Total (All India)		12071	655

@ Data not reported

– Not Received.

Data is Provisional and not comparable due to ill-defined coverage.

Source : Monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs (DIR. of Health Services).

Reported cases and deaths due to Principal Communicable Diseases in India, 1998.

Sl. No.	State/UT	Rabies / Dog Bites	
		Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	377	104
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		
3.	Assam	36	0
4.	Bihar		
5.	Goa	0	7
6.	Gujarat	5	1
7.	Haryana	1	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir*	142	@
10.	Karnataka	905	36
11.	Kerala	106	16
12.	Madhya Pradesh\$	423	0
13.	Maharashtra	69	69
14.	Manipur	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	398	0
16.	Mizoram	1	0
17.	Nagaland**	210	2
18.	Orissa	159	9
19.	Punjab	0	0
20.	Rajasthan	722	3
21.	Sikkim	50	0

1	2	3	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	70	13
23.	Tripura	21	2
24.	Uttar Pradesh	245	91
25.	West Bengal	88	88
26.	A & N Islands	0	0
27.	Chandigarh		
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli\$\$	1	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0
30.	Delhi	138	18
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	6	6
Total (All India)		12575	566

@ Data not reported

– Not Received.

Data is Provisional and not comparable due to ill-defined coverage.

* : Only Kashmir Division

** : Data for August 1998 not received.

\$: Data for October 1998 not received.

\$\$: Data for July & August 1998 not received.

Source : Monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs (DIR. of Health Services).

Money Under PMRY

4887. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the needy and deserving people do not get the money under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana while undeserving persons are getting benefits of the scheme;

(b) If so, the number of deserving persons have been deprived of the grants under the said programme during each of the last three years; and

(c) The action taken/proposed to be taken to make the scheme successful and to punish the guilty people coming in the way of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) As per the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India, 15.66 lakh educated unemployed youth were sanctioned loans against the target of 13.60 lakh between 1993-94 to 1999-2000 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana. Some complaints have been received regarding the implementation of the scheme. These complaints are redressed through the States/UTs Governments and the concerned banks. Besides, the Committees at the Central, State and District levels regularly monitor the implementation of the Scheme.

India-Thailand to Fight Terrorism

4888. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Thailand have decided to join hands to fight terrorism;

(b) if so, whether this issue was recently taken up by him with his Thai counter-part; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Government of Thailand has been extending cooperation to the Government of India in dealing with militant groups and criminals on a case to case basis on the assurance of reciprocity.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Thailand's continued cooperation in the matter was assured.

Ishwari Prasad Committee

4889. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the inter-departmental high-powered committee constituted on the recommendations of Ishwari Prasad Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the recommendations; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) After the submission of the report by Bachawat Wage Boards for working journalists and non-journalists newspaper and news-agency employees on 30.5.89 and acceptance thereof on 31.8.89, an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ishwari Prasad was constituted on 7.11.89 for the purpose of looking into the issues of safety, health and hygiene including medical allowance, leave travel concession and overtime allowance in respect of newspaper and news-agency employees and make suitable recommendations to the Government. The Expert Committee submitted its report in January 1991. Thereafter, an Inter-Departmental Empowered Committee was constituted in the Ministry of Labour in February 1991 to process the recommendations of the Expert Committee. The Empowered Committee completed its work by 20.7.1992 and took decisions regarding (i) Overtime Allowance (ii) Leave Travel Concession (iii) Medical Care and (iv) Safety, Health and Hygiene.

The Empowered Committee noted that the working journalists were not entitled to any overtime allowance and they were to be compensated for this only in the form of rest equal to the hours they had worked overtime. The Empowered Committee decided not to make any recommendation since weekly off facility was already available to the working journalists. In respect of Leave Travel Concession, the Empowered Committee noted that the Bachawat Wage Board did not recommend any Leave Travel Concession and that the Expert Committee for newspaper employees did not have the statutory powers under the Act to recommend payment of any perquisites such as Leave Travel Concession. On Medical Care, the Empowered Committee decided that employers' and employees' organizations might mutually negotiate and adopt such of the features of CGHS, PTI and UNI Insurance Schemes as may be beneficial. The decision on Medical Care was sent to Employers' and Employees' Federation to settle through mutual negotiations.

With reference to points on safety, health and hygiene, the Expert Committee stated that it was desirable to suitably amend sub-clause (iv) of clause (k) of Section 2 of the Factories Act, 1948 so that the employees engaged in factory side of newspaper establishments could get covered under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The Empowered Committee felt that the Director General, Factory Advice Service and Labour Institute (DGFASLI) might examine various recommendations of the Expert Committee for newspaper employees concerning amendments to the Factories Act. DGFASLI may also prepare model rules under the Factories Act for newspaper

establishments to cover various recommendations of the Expert Committee concerning safety, health and hygiene. The Empowered Committee accepted the recommendations of safety of the journalists on out-door duties. Accordingly, Ministry of Home Affairs issued instructions to all the State Governments stating that safety of the journalists on out-door duties may be ensured. Ministry of Labour also addressed all the State Governments giving directions that the occupation of the newspaper employees on out-door duties may be included in Schedule II of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 to make them eligible for compensation under the Act. The Bureau of Indian Standards formulated standards for Video Display Terminals. The Ministry of Labour also issued instructions to the Labour Secretaries of all State Governments requesting them to advise the Chief Inspectors of Factories that they should ensure a thorough inspection of printing processes especially those with traditional process from the angle of safety and health of the newspaper employees.

The Manisana Wage Boards for Journalists and Non-Journalist Newspaper and News Agency Employees set up on 2.9.1994 submitted their final recommendations on 25.7.2000. The Wage Boards, inter-alia, recommended leave travel allowance and medical allowance for the newspaper employees including journalists and these have been accepted by the Government with small modifications.

MPLADS

4890. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have streamlined the lacuna in implementation of MPLADS Scheme by Local Collectors;

(b) whether the Local Administration takes months together to implement the allocation, schemes passed by Local MP;

(c) whether the Collectors in Mumbai have not yet implemented the suggestions made by Local MPs in connection with providing computers and equipment to gymnasium;

(d) whether the passbook for the MPLADS are not implemented and maintained regularly; and

(e) if so, the action the Government proposed to solve this problem and expedite the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Issuing of instructions by the Government of India to all concerned for streamlining the implementation of the scheme is a continuous process. In the recent past, instructions have been issued to all Districts to sanction all the works recommended by the MPs to the extent of their entitlement without waiting for the receipt of funds from the Government of India. All the state Governments have been requested to take necessary steps for streamlining the implementation of the Scheme. Periodical review meeting are also being organised under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Speaker, and also Minister of State (Statistics and Programme Implementation) to review the progress of MPLADS work and sort out the problems.

(b) The Guidelines on MPLADS stipulate that the District Collector, as far as possible, should issue sanctions for works within 45 days from the date of receipt of the recommendations from the concerned MP.

(c) Under the extant Guidelines on MPLADS, computers can be provided to Government schools/ Colleges and also to Government aided educational institutions for educational purposes only. Equipment to Gymnasiums, being inventory item, is not permissible under the extant MPLADS Guidelines.

(d) and (e) The Guidelines have been amended and all the District Collectors have been advised to issue photocopies of the updated passbooks by 10th of every alternate month to the concerned MPs.

[Translation]

Setting up of Medical College in Gujarat and Bihar

4891. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received by the Union Government from Gujarat and Bihar to open the medical colleges at Madvi and Lohardaga;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Computer Institutions

4892. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are many Government run computer institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such institutions running presently and the total capital invested in each of them upto March, 2000 alongwith the amount of profit earned by each of the institutions during the last year;

(c) whether these institutions have achieved profit targets during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof including remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) There are about 235 Government aided engineering colleges, most of which are offering IT related courses. Government has recently set up two IIITs at Gwalior and Allahabad, which focus primarily on IT related training. The capital expenditure on these institutions has not been substantial so far as the construction of the campus has started only during the current year. These institutions have not been set up for profit.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Foreign Policy

4893. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the changes made in our foreign policy during the last three years; and

(b) the impact thereof especially with regard to our neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b)

Conduct of foreign policy is a dynamic and continuous exercise based on a realistic and pragmatic assessment of politico-strategic and socio-economic milieu around us. While basic principles and objectives of our foreign policy provide the element of continuity, our priorities and focus undergo changes in response to new challenges and developments around the world and in the neighbourhood. Of late, effects of such changes during the last three years have contributed to greater understanding and appreciation of our policies by our neighbours, and our forging a qualitatively new relationship with major powers of the world.

Complaints against Chairman of CMC

4894. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaints have been received against the Chairman cum Managing Director of the Computer Maintenance Corporation from the Members of Parliament during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaints allege violation of recruitment rules in the matter of appointment of a senior officer, appointment of Merchant Bankers for Company's proposed Equity Issue without proper Government approval, opening of CMC's London Office despite CBI's ongoing investigation in BRI (Europe)'s financial misappropriation etc.

(c) After preliminary investigations, the matter has been referred to CVC for their advice in accordance with prescribed procedure.

Amendments in Labour Laws

4895. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the amendments made by the Government in labour laws for the safety of the lives of labourers working in mines and hazardous industries in the country;

(b) the number of labourers lost their lives during 1998-99 and 2000 due to non-compliance of the safety rules as mentioned in the labour laws; and

(c) the details of the action taken by the Government against the mines/factory owners where such accidents took place during the said period?

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

[English]

Incentives for Backward States

4896. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide special incentives for setting up of industries in backward districts of Orissa like Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government provides special incentives for setting up of industries in backward districts of the country including those in Orissa under various schemes like Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme, Growth Centre Scheme, National Programme for Rural Industrialisation, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Rural Employment Generation Programme, etc. Simultaneously, Government has a strategy for the development industries in backward districts of the country by strengthening and continuation of the existing schemes and on-going programmes and preparing need based new scheme. These relate to enhanced supply of credit, technology upgradation, infrastructural development, market development, entrepreneur development etc. Based on the proposal from State Government of Orissa three IID Centres have been sanctioned in the districts of Khurda, Rayagarha and Jagatsingpur and four Growth centres have been sanctioned in Chhatrapur (Ganjam), Kalinganagar-Duburi (Cuttack), Jharsuguda (Jharsuguda), and Kesinga (Kalahandi). Besides these fiscal incentives in the form of five years' Tax Holiday and 25% deduction from profits and gains for another five years (30% in case of companies) is available for new

undertakings set up in the industrially backward districts of Orissa viz. Phulbani, Kalahandi (Category-A) and Bolangir, Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Ganjam (Category-B).

[Translation]

Guidelines for Aid to NGOs

4897. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether guidelines have been issued by the Union Government for providing assistance to the Non-Governmental Organisations and Voluntary Organisations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the functioning of these Organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The salient features of the guidelines are as under :

- To support projects run by good NGOs working in unserved areas, and to widen intervention with a view to bring about healthy sectoral growth in areas where little or no attention has been focused so far.
- To ensure that the spread of assistance is equitably meted out and keeping in view the scarce resources available, encourage the voluntary organizations to mobilize their own financial support system to sustain their activities, the basic intent being that voluntary organizations should not solely rely on aid from the Government.
- The desired object for the voluntary organizations is therefore not only to sustain their activities financially but also to involve all resources available to them including community support and their involvement.
- The voluntary organizations shall attempt to recover user charges from beneficiaries on a graded scale which shall be income related.
- The guidelines make it clear that the funding pattern will be on a reducing basis. Voluntary organizations that have been assisted in respect of projects for a period in excess of five years will be funded on a tapering scale such that over a period of ten years the grant assistance from the Ministry will stand terminated.

- The guidelines also envisages improvement on the mechanism of monitoring and evaluation. Intensive monitoring has been suggested rather than merely depending on the reports from the State Government.
- In acknowledgement of the need to build up a data base on voluntary activity, the guidelines spell out the Ministry's intent to maintain an exclusive data base on voluntary organizations that would serve as valuable information on the voluntary organizations regarding their capacity, reach, area of expertise and involvement as well as their strengths and capacity.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the NGOs receiving grant-in-aid is carried out through inspections by the representatives of the State Governments, nodal agencies and Ministry's own officials. In order to further improve this process, formats for reporting of work done by the NGOs themselves and the proforma for inspections has been revised to get improved quality of data, which reduce the chances of defalcation of funds. Other measures being adopted are inter alia improving publicity of releases made so that the work of the NGOs comes under public scrutiny resulting in improved accountability, increase in frequency of inspections for effective monitoring etc.

[English]

Indo-China Agreement on Life Saving Drugs

4898. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether China has agreed to make available life saving drugs to India;
- (b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard with China in New Delhi recently; and
- (c) if so, the main features of the agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No such agreement has been signed.

- (c) Does not arise.

Working Capital

4899. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a result of reduction of Working Capital of Units under KVIC in 1998-99, the production has reduced drastically;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the limit regarding the existing quantum of capital investment in Khadi and Village Industries;

(d) if so, the details of the proposal and the reasons which made the Government consider the need for increasing the capital investment limit for the units in this sector;

(e) whether efforts have been made to increase the credit limit to the priority sector by the financial institutions to supplement the capital requirement of the existing units; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Government of India vide a notification dated 27.10.94 had enhanced the fixed capital investment limit per head artisan/worker, under the Khadi and Village Industries programme from Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-.

(e) Availability of adequate credit is ensured through continuous monitoring of the Margin Money Scheme with banks.

(f) Does not arise.

Computer Hard Disk

4900. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that computer hard disks containing vital research material have been stolen from the premises of the Indian Council of Medical Research as published in the Statesman dated November 22, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

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

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ICMR has reported that it was noticed on the forenoon of 11th November, 2000 that seven rooms of Council's main building office on 2nd floor were broken open and the Central Processing Units of nine computers were dismantled and hard disks and other hardware stolen. However, the data which has been stolen is not of a sensitive nature and does not contain unpublished reports; hence, it should not have any impact on IPR or related issues.

(c) and (d) ICMR have lodged a complaint with Defence Colony Police Station, New Delhi on 11.11.2000 based on which a F.I.R. has been registered and the investigation is in progress. Besides, a departmental enquiry has also been ordered and the security of the Council has been revamped.

Wakf Board

4901. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States and Union Territories which are yet to constitute (i) State Wakf Boards and (ii) Wakf Tribunals under the Wakf Act, 1995;

(b) whether Wakf surveys have been undertaken by the States and Union Territories;

(c) if so, the details of their progress;

(d) the number of Wakf tribunals set up by each State/Union Territory and the number of cases pending before each of them; and

(e) whether the Government have taken up with the States/Union Territories the questions of adequate number of Tribunals and the spread up of their locations in different regions of the States as per the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) Following the enactment of the Wakf Act, 1995, the Union Government has requested the States/Union Territories to take appropriate action for implementation of various provisions of the Wakf Act, 1995 including constitution of State Wakf Board, appointment of Survey Commissioners, survey of Wakf properties and setting up of Tribunals. The matter is pursued with the States/Union Territories from time to time.

The States/Union Territories of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, NCT of Delhi, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have reported constitution of State wakf Boards.

Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have reported setting up of 4, 3 and 23 Tribunals respectively. Uttar Pradesh has set up Tribunals in all districts. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Delhi and Lakshadweep have also reported setting up Tribunals.

The States/Union Territories of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Delhi have reported survey of Wakf properties in various stages.

The details of number of cases pending before each Tribunal are maintained by the State Government/Union Territory Administration.

Indo-US Consultation

4902. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the USA has pledged full support of G-8 nations to an Indian proposal for a UN Convention on terrorism;

(b) if so, whether the State Department of US also shared India's concerns about the growth of narcotics traffic in our neighbourhood especially Afghanistan;

(c) if so, whether the US has agreed to have a third round of Indo-US consultations at Foreign Secretary level; and

(d) if so, the time by which these consultations are likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) During the first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism in February 2000, the two sides had agreed to convene a meeting of each side's legal experts to discuss the Indian proposed UN Terrorism Convention. Following discussions between the two sides, the US had extended support to the Indian proposal in G-8. During the second meeting of the Joint Working Group in September, the Joint Working Group also expressed support for India's proposal for a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, and agreed to work towards this end.

(b) The two sides fully shared concerns about the growth of narcotics trafficking in India's neighbourhood. In addition to their ongoing cooperation in narcotics control, the two sides have also decided to include narcotics trafficking and its links with terrorism in the mandate of the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism. Further, during the visit of Prime Minister to the United States, the two sides agreed to establish a framework of bilateral dialogue to discuss mutual concerns on Afghanistan.

(c) and (d) As part of the architecture of institutional dialogue agreed upon by Prime Minister and President Clinton in March 2000 to implement the vision of the new relationship that they had outlined, the two sides have agreed to hold regular Foreign Office Consultations and Asian Security Dialogue at the level of Foreign Secretary and the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. Two rounds of these consultations have taken place, on 24-25 May and 31 August - 1 September 2000.

The next meeting will take place at a mutually convenient date after the new US Administration assumes office in January 2001.

Hepatitis - C

4903. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisations is considering to make testing of bloods for Hepatitis-C mandatory in blood banks to ensure safe blood transfusion for thalassaemic children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch any programme to prevent thalassaemic birth in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken a number of steps for making Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) screening mandatory in all the blood banks of the country to ensure safe blood transfusion for all including thalassaemic children. Nation wide training for Medical Officers and Laboratory Technicians of Government and Charitable sector blood banks in HCV testing has been completed. Drugs and Cosmetics Rules are being amended to make HCV testing mandatory for blood banks and procurement of HCV Test Kits are underway.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Renovation of Jahanabad Canal Project

4904. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jahanabad Canal project, financed by the World Bank has outfit its utility due to long and continuous neglect;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) There is no project named as Jahanabad Canal Project. However, Government of Bihar has proposed Sone Canal Modernisation Project Phase-I which will also benefit Jahanabad district. The modernization work in respect of distributaries, minors and field channels in the pilot project would cover the following canal systems :

- (i) Patna Canal
- (ii) Arrah Canal
- (iii) Buxer Canal
- (iv) Gara Choubey Branch Canal

The project has been accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission during July 1998.

Closure in SSI

4905. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the maximum number of Small Scale Industries are closing down due to higher tariff rate in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Indo-Iran Ties

4906. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to exchange foodgrains against Iranian crude oil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Coconut Development Board

4907. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of industries suggested by Coconut Development Board for using coconut and parts of coconut trees;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to provide financial and technical aid to entrepreneurs in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of units which are functioning at present as per the above schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Coconut based industries identified by the Board are as under :

i) Kernel based industries;

ii) Coconut Water based industries;

iii) Coconut shell based industries;

iv) Husk based industries;

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The schemes being implemented by the Board for assisting the entrepreneurs are :

I. Financial assistance to coconut based industries @ 25% of the cost of building/ plant/machinery or Rs. 2.5 lakhs whichever is less.

II. Financial assistance for introduction of agmark/ ISO Standards in coconut processing units @ 25% of the cost of laboratory equipments or Rs. 1 lakh which ever is less.

The Board has a consultancy service cell in its Headquarter at Kochi, which provides assistance to entrepreneurs/industries in identification of suitable projects, preparation of project feasibility reports and providing technical consultancy in setting up coconut based projects.

17 units have been set up in different parts of the country with the technical aid of the Board.

Immunisation Programme

4908. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to launch an immunization programme for prevention of Hepatitis which spreads like AIDS and has been recognized as a global health problem with significant mortality and morbidity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of Indians carrying Hepatitis virus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) A proposal for inclusion of Hepatitis B vaccine on Pilot basis in selected cities and districts with financial assistance from external agencies is presently under consideration of the Govt.

Various studies show a prevalence rate of 2 to 8.5% in the country.

Paragodu Irrigation Project

4909. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any dispute between the State Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh over Paragodu Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, whether the CWC has directed the Government of Karnataka to send detailed project report of the project to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent the report to Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the CWC against Karnataka Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh requested Union Government to advise the Government of Karnataka to refrain from undertaking construction of the proposed Paragodu Irrigation Project and to immediately furnish a copy of the project report to Andhra Pradesh and not to take up construction of any work on the river without obtaining prior concurrence of Andhra Pradesh in terms of the 1892 agreement. The State Government of Karnataka has been requested by the Central Water Commission on 03.04.2000, 11.08.2000 and 10.10.2000 to furnish details of the project to Andhra Pradesh in terms of the 1892 Agreement.

Task Force on Working Women

4910. SHRIMATI JAYABEN.B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a task force to study the working and living conditions of women workers in Fish Processing Industry in various States;

(b) if so, details of its composition, functioning and tenure; and

(c) the achievements made by the Task-Force so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The composition of the Task Force is as under :

- (i) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour (Chairperson)
- (ii) Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) (Member)
- (iii) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Animal Husbandry (Member)
- (iv) Joint Secretary, Department of Food Processing Industry (Member)
- (v) Joint Director, MPEDA, Ministry of Commerce, Cochin (Member)
- (vi) Director General, Labour Welfare, Ministry of Labour (Member-Convenor)

The Task Force has constituted Field Study Teams which have so far investigated the living and working conditions of women workers in fish processing industries in the coastal States.

The term of the Task Force has been extended upto 31.01.2001.

Health Centres/Hospitals/Dispensaries

4911. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of Primary Health Centres/Hospitals/Dispensaries proposed to be set up in the areas of Tamil Nadu during the next three years;

(b) the places identified so far for establishment of those Health Centres and Hospitals during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in above mentioned area, indicating budgetary allocations made therefor, year-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Health is a state subject. Hospitals, Dispensaries and Primary Health Centres are established and maintained by the State Governments. The requirement for Primary Health Centres as per Population norms is estimated to be 1318. At present, 1410 Primary Health Centres are functioning in the State. There is no proposal to set up more Primary Health Centres, Dispensaries and Hospitals during the years 2000-2002 in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

Medical Facilities

4912. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have implemented any scheme, under which free medical facility can be provided to rural people in far flung villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Government has set up a three-tier system of Sub-Centres, primary health Centres and Community Health Centres in the rural and far flung areas, under which free health care/medical facilities are provided to the people. To ensure the outreach of free medical facilities to remote corners of the country, Government has relaxed the norms for setting up of the primary health care infra-structure, as below :

Infra-structure	Population norms	
	Plain Areas	Tribal/Hilly Areas
Sub-Centres	5000	3000
Primary Health Centres	30000	20000
Community Health Centres	120000	80000

While Health is primarily a state subject, the centre provides free supply of some contraceptives, some basic maternal and child health care medication, as well as some products from the indigenous system of medicines.

Hindustan Latex Limited

4913. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Latex Limited (HLL) is planning to diversify of its products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present financial profile of the Hindustan Latex Limited alongwith profit and loss;

(c) whether the Hindustan Latex Limited has diversified into various medical core products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the expansion plans of Hindustan Latex Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hindustan Latex Limited (HLL) is planning to diversify into Health Care products such as Syringes, Sutures, Sanitary Napkins, Tissue Expander etc. The financial profile of HLL for the last three years is as follows :

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
Year	Turn over	Net Profit
1997-98	6606.43	78.40
1998-99	8724.20	257.74
1999-2000	10255.04	739.03

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. HLL has already diversified into Blood Bags and hydrocephalus Shunt. These products are being manufactured at Akkulam factory, Thiruvananthapuram Since 1995.

(e) As stated in (b) above.

Upper Krishna Irrigation Project

4914. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of work completed relating to the Upper Krishna Irrigation Project (UKP) in Karnataka, till date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The present status of Upper Krishna Project as on September, 2000 is as under :

Narayanpur Dam	-	100%
Narayanapur Left Bank Canal	-	100%
Shahapur Branch Canal	-	100%
Indi Branch Canal (0-64 KM)	-	100%
Indi Branch Canal (64-172KM)	-	37%
Mudbal Brach Canal	-	100%
Jewargi Branch Canal	-	70 %
Almatti Left Bank Canal (upto 77.647KM)	-	50%
Almatti dam	-	100%

(b) The project is targeted for completion during the IXth Plan.

[Translation]

Workload of Indian Missions in Gulf Countries

4915. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work load of the Indian-Missions in Gulf countries has increased manifold;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to strengthen these Missions by providing sufficient staff and other facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to open an additional consulate in Damam in view of heavy work load in Indian Consulates in Riyadh and Jeddah; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes Sir, work load on our missions in the Gulf countries has increased over the years commensurate with increase in strength of the community working there, enhancement of bilateral trade, services and a greater measure of political contacts.

(b) and (c) Staff strength in all our Missions abroad remains under constant review; it is evaluated professionally.

(d) and (e) The Government of Saudi Arabia has not yet consented to the opening of our Consulate in Damam. However, our Mission in Riyadh sends consular teams, every week, to Damam to provide passport and other consular services to the Indian community in that area.

[English]

Shift in Foreign Policy

4916. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has made a significant shift in its foreign policy in regard to its relations with Israel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has put us into disadvantage in terms of our relationship with Islamic countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether OIC had extended an invitation to Taliban for its summit held in Doha recently;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Islamic countries are appreciative of India's stand on West Asian problem;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) Policy towards Israel continues to be dictated by our national interests. The main thrust of our policy is to enhance cooperation with Israel in diverse areas like agriculture, tourism, culture, science and technology, trade, investment and communications. At the same time, India continues to pursue its multi-faceted relationship with the Islamic countries and to consolidate and diversify mutually beneficial cooperation.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) to (i) The countries in the Arab and Islamic world recognise and appreciate India's consistent and unwavering support to the Palestinian cause.

Hostels For SC/ST

4917. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are providing 50 percent of the cost of the buildings constructed for SC/ST boys and girls under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Construction of Hostel" to State Governments;

(b) If so, whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted proposals to this effect on September 8, 1999 and September 14, 1999 in regard to buildings constructed during 1995-96, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for not releasing the Central share to the State Government; and

(e) the time by which required amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. State Government of Karnataka had sent a proposal for construction of 16 SC Girls Hostel at a cost of Rs. 320.00 lakhs *vide* their letter dated September 8, 1999. Rs. 160.00 lakhs has been sanctioned towards 50% Central share against which Rs. 70,88,500/- has been released, after adjusting unutilized amount.

In their letter dated September 14, 1999, State Government of Karnataka had referred to proposals for construction of Boys Hostels sent in 1995-96 for Rs. 29.641 lakhs, in 1997-98 for Rs. 693.899 lakhs, in 1998-99 for Rs. 313.822 lakhs and in 1999-2000 for Rs. 340.00 Lakhs.

Proposal for construction of hostel during 1995-96 and 1997-98 were considered but could not be sanctioned due to non-utilisation of funds released in previous years. Construction of 35 SC Boys Hostel at a cost of Rs. 700.00 lakh was approved during 1998-99 and Rs.350.00 lakhs was released towards Central share. During 1999-2000, construction of 34 SC Boys Hostel at a cost of Rs. 680 lakh have been approved and Rs. 340.00 lakhs was released as Central share on 24.2.2000 and 23.6.2000.

Atrocities on SCs/STs

4918. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases pertaining to atrocities registered with National Commission for SC/ST from the State of Orissa;

(b) whether the people belonging to high castes have usurped the agriculture land occupied by the people belonging to ST community in Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri district;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Commission in this regard so far;

(d) whether there is a general restriction on sale/purchase of land in names of SC/ST in the declared Scheduled areas of Orissa; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Commission for dispensing justice in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has informed that

they do not register cases pertaining to atrocities on SC/ST people. The function of the Commission is to investigate and monitor all the matters relating to Constitutional safeguards provided to SCs and STs and submit a report to the President. However, State Office of the Commission at Bhubaneswar has received 120 complaints since 1998 till date from SC and ST people of the State of Orissa.

(b) and (c) No such complaints from ST Community of Koraput, Rayagada and Malkangiri Districts of Orissa have been received in the Commission.

(d) and (e) The Commission has reported that the sale and purchase of tribal land in Scheduled Areas is being regulated by the Orissa Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by Scheduled Tribes) Regulation 1956 (Regulation 2 of 1956). State Government of Orissa has been requested for sending further details on this.

[Translation]

Morhar-Dargha-Punpun Irrigation Project

4919. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received Morhar-Dargha-Punpun and Titaiya-Thathar irrigation projects from Bihar Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The proposals for Punpun- Morhar- Dargha project have been received by the Central Water Commission from Government of Bihar in May, 2000. Clearance of the project is linked with compliance of observations of various Central appraising agencies by the State Government. Tilaiya-Dhadhar Project was considered by the Technical Advisory Committee and accepted subject to certain observations.

[English]

New Technique to Remove Stone

4920. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce new technique to remove stones from kidney in Government Hospitals;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) 'Health' being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of the respective States/Union Territories to introduce new techniques of treatment in their hospitals keeping in view their priorities and availability of resources.

In respect of Central Government Hospitals, the new technique of ESWL (Lithotripsy) is proposed to be introduced in Safdarjung Hospital. This technique is available in the Lok Nayak Hospital of Government of NCT of Delhi.

Agro and Rural Industries

4921. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the policy of the Government for setting up of Agro and Rural Industries particularly in Bihar; and

(b) the details of amount provided and spent during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) gives support to Khadi and Village Industries in the form of financial, technical and managerial assistance.

The Margin Money Scheme of the KVIC, is applicable throughout the country including Bihar. Under this scheme 25% of the project cost is provided as margin money. For Project cost above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs the rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% of the balance cost of the project. For weaker section margin money is given at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the balance amount (upto Rs. 25 lakhs) it is 10%. Moreover, the benefits under this scheme are admissible to all village industries except those which are mentioned in a small negative list.

(b) The disbursement made by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to Bihar State for Khadi and Village Industries during last three years is as under :

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Grants	Loans
1997-98	752.45	30.31
1998-99	1230.49	60.85
1999-2000	349.84	26.37

Agro And Rural Industries in Tamil Nadu

4922. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Tamil Nadu for additional support to their existing Agro and rural Industries in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide basic infrastructure facilities and loan schemes for the development of Agro/Rural Industries, particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated for the same in the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) gives support to Khadi and Village Industries in the form of financial, technical and managerial assistance.

The Margin Money Scheme of the KVIC, is applicable throughout the country including Tamil Nadu. Under this scheme 25% of the project cost is provided as margin money. For Project cost above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs the rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus

10% of the balance cost of the project. For weaker Sections, margin money is given at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the balance amount (upto Rs. 25 lakhs) it is 10%. Moreover, the benefits under this scheme are admissible to all village industries except those which are mentioned in a small negative list.

(d) The details of total funds released to the KVIC under the Head Plan and Non-Plan during the last five years is as under :

(Rs. in Lakhs)	
Year	Fund released to KVIC
1995-96	66000
1996-97	61730
1997-98	75894
1998-99	66629
1999-2000	28063

Fiscal Incentives

4923. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced a host of fiscal incentives for the small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the excise exemption limit has also been raised; and

(d) the main objectives behind granting these incentives to the SSI sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have announced on 30th August, 2000 some fiscal incentives for the small scale industries as part of its Comprehensive Policy Package for the SSI. These

incentives include raising the SSI excise exemption limit from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore, reducing the basic customs duty to 15% on pile fabric for the manufacture of toys and on parts of electronic security systems for the manufacture of electronic security system and reducing the basic customs duty to 5% on parts of electronic calculator for the manufacture of calculators and on parts of electronic toys for manufacture of toys and on parts of video games for manufacture of video games.

(d) These incentives will strengthen the SSI Sector by improving its competitiveness domestically and globally.

KVIC

4924. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of paper products, towels, file boards, file cover manufactured and marketed by Delhi Khadi and Village Industries Board with specifications thereof;

(b) the annual turnover of these products, item-wise during each of the last three years;

(c) the rate at which these products are available and marketed; and

(d) the reasons for Khadi and Village Industries Commission not appointing dealers to market their products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Such information is not maintained centrally.

(d) Since the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has its own departmentally managed sales outlets, no need has so far been felt to appoint dealers to market these products.

Investment by ESIC

4925. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) was making investments in Special

Deposit Account (SDA) with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at an interest rate of 12 percent payable yearly as on March 31, of every year;

(b) whether the rate of interest in the nationalised bank was 13 percent for period exceeding three years but the ESIC continued to make investments in the SDA only even after RBI permission to keep investment in PSBs thereby making a net loss of Rs.3.05 crore per annum; and

(c) if so, the reasons for ESIC not keeping the investments with PSBs and the action the Government propose to take in the matter or has taken to cause loss to ESIC by its authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The surplus ES: Funds were being invested in Special Deposit Account with the Reserve Bank of India till 7th April 1995. In June 1992, it was decided to invest surplus ESI Funds in the nationalised banks also. Rates of interest offered by the banks fluctuate from time to time depending on quantum and period of deposit. However the ESI Corporation has again started investing its surplus fund in the nationalised banks after 1992. Keeping mainly the safety and security of the ESI Fund in view, investment is made in accordance with the provisions of Rule 27 of the ESI (Central) rules, 1950 and subject to the approval of the Standing Committee of the ESI Corporation. Therefore, the question of loss being caused to the ESI Corporation in this regard does not arise.

[Translation]

Unemployment Problem

4926. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any proposal to make fresh appointments to resolve the problem of unemployment from the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and time by which these appointments are proposed to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Labour is not aware of any proposal to make fresh appointments to resolve the problem of unemployment from the year 2000 to 2001. The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating

adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

[English]

Increase in Insured Amount

4927. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation has announced to increase the benefit of the insured sums of the employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the premium of the policy has also been increased; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, ceiling on maximum amount of Deposit-Linked Insurance benefit has since been increased from Rs.35,000/- to Rs.60,000/- with effect from 24.6.2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Reservation for Handicap

4928. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the provisions of the Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Participation) Act, 1995 are being implemented in letter and spirit by the Union and State Government ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that large number of vacancies unfulfilled reserved for handicapped persons as lying unfulfilled;

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

(e) the number of special employment exchanges for disabled and special cells at present operating in the country, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government propose to lower the percentage of disability to fulfil 3% reserved vacancies for the disabled; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The implementation of Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach of all the Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments/ UT Administrations and other appropriate authorities. They have all been requested to take necessary action to implement the provisions of the Act concerning them. The action taken in this regard includes constitution of State Coordination Committee and State Executive Committee; appointment of Commissioner for persons with disabilities; 3% reservation in jobs; and appointment of competent authority for registration of NGOs.

(c) and (d) The Government is aware that there is a backlog in the appointment of persons with disabilities. Various steps have been initiated. These include identification of posts, launching of special recruitment drives and lifting of the ban on filling up vacancies in so far as recruitment of the persons with disabilities is concerned.

(e) The number of Special Employment Exchanges and Special Cells in the normal Employment Exchanges, State-wise, for persons with disabilities, which are functioning and reporting the performance of the activity done to the Directorate General, Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour are given in Statement - I and II.

(f) and (g) No. Sir.

Statement -I

List of special Employment Exchanges for PH applicant as at the end of June, 2000.

Andhra Pradesh

1. Hyderabad

Assam

1. Guwahati

Bihar

1. Patna

Gujarat

1. Ahmedabad
2. Baroda
3. Rajkot
4. Surat

Haryana

1. Chandigarh

Himachal Pradesh

1. Shimla

Karnataka

1. Bangalore
2. Mysore
3. Hubli
4. Gulberga

Kerala

1. Trivandrum
2. Kozhikode
3. Kollam
4. Ernakulam

Madhya Pradesh

1. Jabalpur

Maharashtra

1. Bombay

Manipur

1. Imphal

Orissa

1. Bhubneshwar

Rajasthan

1. Jaipur

2. Ajmer

3. Alwar

Tamil Nadu

1. Madras

Tripura

1. Agarthala

Punjab

1. Ludhiana

Uttar Pradesh

1. Kanpur

2. Gorakhpur

3. Aligarh

4. Allahabad

5. Agra

6. Varanasi

7. Bareilly

8. Lucknow

9. Mathura

10. Ghaziabad

West Bengal

1. Calcutta

Delhi

1. Curzen Road

2. Shahdhara (Jhilmil)

Statement -II

*List of Special Cells functioning in the Country
as at the end of June, 2000.*

Andhra Pradesh

1. Vishakhapatnam

2. Vijayawada

Bihar

1. Maraphari (Bokaro Thermal)

Haryana

1. Mohendergarh

2. Sonapat

Himachal Pradesh

1. Dharamsala

Karnataka

1. Tumkur

Kerala

1. Palakkad

2. Nayyattinkara

3. Nedumanad

4. Kayamkulam

5. Aluva

6. Irrinalkuda

Madhya Pradesh

1. Bilaspur

2. Durg

3. Dewas

4. Rewa

Maharashtra

1. Nasik

2. Sholapur

3. Kolhapur

Meghalaya

1. Shillong

Nagaland

1. Kohima

Orissa

1. Cuttack

Punjab

1. Amritsar

Rajasthan

1. Kota
2. Jhunjhunu
3. Sikar
4. Sriganganagar

Tamil Nadu

1. Coimbatore
2. Chinglepat
3. Cuddalore
4. Salem
5. Tirunelveli
6. Vellore
7. Chidambaram (Thanjore)
8. Peviyar (Erode)
9. Uthagamandlam

West Bengal

1. Barrackpore
2. Howrah
3. Purulia
4. Kharagpur

Border Talks

4929. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister has held India responsible for tardy progress in Indo-Sino border talks;

(b) if so, the factual position thereof;

(c) the Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether any meeting/dialogue on border dispute issue has been held with other neighbouring countries excluding China during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) As part of the composite dialogue process, India and Pakistan held talks on Sir Creek in New Delhi on 9th November, 1998. During these discussions Government pointed out that the boundary in the Sir Creek area had already been settled by the Resolution of 1914. Maps published in 1925, when demarcation on the basis of the 1914 Resolution was completed, showed the boundary in the middle of the Sir Creek. Government proposed that as the boundary had already been accepted as settled by both India and Pakistan, this already settled and demarcated boundary should be formalized. Government further proposed that pending formalization of the boundary in the Sir Creek, delimitation of the India Pakistan maritime boundary from seawards, commencing at the exclusive Economic Zone limit and proceeding landwards could be considered.

At the India-Bangladesh Foreign Secretary-level talks held in New Delhi on December 13-14, 2000, detailed discussions were held on pending matters relating to the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. Both sides agreed to co-operate with a view to achieving early resolution of all boundary related matters. For this purpose, the Foreign Secretaries decided to set up Working Groups to deal with the completion of demarcation, and the exchange of enclaves and territories in adverse possession. The Working Groups would systematically address these matters and report to the Foreign Secretaries on a regular basis.

Matters concerning boundary demarcation and maintenance of boundary pillars etc. have also been discussed by survey officials of the two countries who hold regular meetings.

The "Boundary agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Union of Myanmar" concerning the demarcation of land boundary of the two countries and related matters was signed on March 10, 1967. Matters relating to joint inspection, repairs, maintenance and restoration of boundary pillars were discussed at a meeting of the Surveyors General of two countries in November 1999. A meeting of concerned officials was held at Moreh (Manipur) on November 15, 2000, to discuss the implementation of the joint work plan for 2000-2001.

The India-Nepal Joint Technical Committee on Boundary has been assigned the task of scientifically delineating the India-Nepal boundary. The Committee has had three Meetings in the last three years; 21st Meeting in November, 1998, 22nd Meeting in November, 1999 and the 23rd Meeting in December, 2000.

*[English]***Cross Border Terrorism**

4930. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have apprised the UN General Assembly President that Pakistan is aiding and abetting cross-border terrorism in J&K and other parts of the country;

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

(c) the extent to which the UNGA President has agreed to help India in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) The Foreign Minister of Namibia in his capacity as the President of the UN General Assembly visited India in August, 2000 and held discussions with Indian leaders, including the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister. In the discussions, External Affairs Minister gave a detailed explanation of India's position on Indo-Pak relations and the activities of Pakistan in aiding and abetting cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India. The President of UNGA expressed his appreciation for the detailed explanation given by External Affairs Minister.

New Visa Regime

4931. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the British Home Secretary, Mr. Jack Straw, during his recent visit to New Delhi discussed the new visa regime; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the visit of Mr. Jack Straw, British Home Secretary to New Delhi on 4-9 September 2000, the UK's new visa regime was discussed. Mr. Straw informed the Indian side that a new visa regime "Innovators - New Pilot

Scheme for Entrepreneurs" had been put into place by the UK with effect from 4 September 2000. This Pilot Scheme, which is valid until 4 September 2002 is a new category designed to attract and select entrepreneurs to set up business in UK. Another recent change in British visa practice is the introduction of the right of appeal for those refused visas for family visits and a streamlined procedure for students.

Decline in State Own Funds

4932. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has expressed concern over gradual decline in the contribution of States Own Funds (SOF) to their respective annual plans;

(b) if so, the details of contribution of State Own Funds during each of the last three annual plans, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the decline of States Own Funds and steps being taken to arrest the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The detailed information on this subject is indicated in the enclosed statement titled "State-wise Financing Pattern of the Achievements during 1997-2000."

(c) The relatively high growth in non-plan revenue expenditure as compared to the revenue receipts and the declining and even negative contribution of State Level Public Sector undertakings (particularly power and transport) are the major factors that have contributed to the decline in States Own Funds. The States have been urged to improve their resources through Additional Resource Mobilisation from tax and non-tax revenues, improvements in expenditure management and reforms of public sector units including power, transport and irrigation sectors. In addition, the financially weaker States have also been required to carry out time bound fiscal reforms which are being monitored by the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission.

Statement

State-wise Financing Pattern of the Achievements during 1997-98 (Actuals) to 1999-2000 (LE)

Sl. No.	State	Total IX Plan projections (Rs. in crore)	Realisation from 1997-98 (Actuals) to 1999-2000 (LE) - Sources of Financing											Percentage to corresponding Ninth Plan Projections		
			(Rs. Crore at 1996-97 Prices)					Percentage to Total Aggregate Resources from 1997-98 (Actuals) to 1999-2000(LE)								
			Total Central Assistance	Own Funds of the States	Borrowings of States	Aggregate Resources 1997-2000	Total Central Assistance	Own Funds of the States	Borrowings of States	Aggregate Plan Resources 1997-2000	Total Central Assistance	Own Funds of the States	Borrowings of States	Aggregate Plan Resources 1997-2000	Total Central Assistance	Own Funds of the States
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11=(8+9+10)	12	13	14	15		
Special Category States :																
1	Arunachal Pradesh	3569.89	1348.10	-243.05	134.39	1239.44	108.77%	-19.61%	10.84%	100.00%	49.04%	-143.51%	51.20%	34.72%		
2	Assam	8983.93	3633.19	-2926.61	2215.56	2922.15	124.33%	-100.15%	75.82%	100.00%	48.46%	-63.73%	67.66%	32.53%		
3	Himachal Pradesh	5700.00	1827.69	-2538.54	3267.70	2556.85	71.48%	-99.28%	127.80%	100.00%	48.87%	-29.74%	83.43%	44.86%		
4	Jammu and Kashmir	9500.00	6593.65	-6542.08	1697.50	1749.07	376.98%	-374.03%	97.05%	100.00%	92.41%	-1995.01%	63.42%	18.41%		
5	Manipur	2426.69	1220.64	-874.94	443.33	789.03	154.70%	-110.89%	56.19%	100.00%	55.09%	-353.38%	109.72%	32.51%		
6	Meghalaya	2500.62	888.60	-521.49	363.58	730.69	121.61%	-71.37%	48.76%	100.00%	44.58%	-124.39%	49.16%	29.22%		
7	Mizoram	1618.51	875.78	-500.49	271.87	647.17	135.33%	-77.33%	42.01%	100.00%	47.46%	-12.97%	125.77%	39.99%		
8	Nagaland	2006.43	916.06	-719.32	343.35	540.10	169.61%	-133.18%	63.57%	100.00%	44.72%	-26.31%	65.11%	26.92%		
9	Sikkim	1600.00	701.34	-451.94	230.51	479.91	146.14%	-94.17%	48.03%	100.00%	45.39%	-80.69%	75.59%	29.99%		
10	Tripura	2577.39	1406.43	-788.39	544.30	1162.34	121.00%	-67.83%	46.83%	100.00%	60.33%	-78.55%	79.14%	45.10%		
	Total (10 Special Category States)	40483.46	19411.49	-16108.84	9512.09	12816.73	151.45%	-125.67%	74.22%	100.00%	58.64%	-286.23%	73.11%	31.66%		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11=(8+9 +10)	12	13	14	15
Non Special Category States														
11	Andhra Pradesh	25150.00	6238.96	-7665.73	13050.61	11623.83	53.67%	-65.95%	112.27%	100.00%	48.83%	-2031.89%	108.98%	46.22%
12	Bihar	16680.00	4989.39	-4676.69	6587.86	6900.56	72.30%	-67.77%	95.47%	100.00%	49.07%	-216.32%	82.44%	41.37%
13	Goa	1500.00	237.22	-225.88	601.27	612.60	38.72%	-36.87%	98.15%	100.00%	49.21%	-160.08%	93.65%	40.84%
14	Gujarat	28000.00	3533.07	1712.98	9978.91	15224.97	23.21%	11.25%	65.54%	100.00%	41.37%	22.31%	84.68%	54.37%
15	Haryana	9310.00	1348.70	-1454.71	3944.65	3838.84	35.13%	-37.90%	102.76%	100.00%	34.37%	-331.87%	68.92%	41.23%
16	Karnataka	23400.00	2847.45	2321.24	8758.05	13926.73	20.45%	16.67%	62.89%	100.00%	46.31%	31.46%	88.71%	59.52%
17	Kerala	16100.00	1830.88	1111.99	5746.32	8689.19	21.07%	12.80%	66.13%	100.00%	39.01%	50.43%	62.45%	53.97%
18	Madhya Pradesh	20075.00	4108.27	-3089.61	6917.70	7936.36	51.77%	-38.93%	87.16%	100.00%	48.95%	-1018.57%	60.97%	39.53%
19	Maharashtra	36700.00	4365.25	-4540.39	23987.67	23812.53	18.33%	-19.07%	100.74%	100.00%	29.86%	-459.29%	115.22%	64.88%
20	Orissa	15000.00	3579.34	-2975.00	4937.50	5541.84	64.59%	-53.68%	89.09%	100.00%	44.62%	-213.20%	62.28%	36.95%
21	Punjab	11500.00	1580.72	-6608.60	9264.85	4236.98	37.31%	-155.97%	218.67%	100.00%	38.50%	-259.87%	100.38%	36.84%
22	Rajasthan	22525.83	3154.54	-7753.52	12272.27	7673.30	41.11%	-101.05%	159.93%	100.00%	32.31%	-703.88%	106.91%	34.06%
23	Tamil Nadu	25000.00	3596.23	-3263.57	11861.14	12193.80	29.49%	-26.78%	97.27%	100.00%	36.01%	-210.40%	98.38%	48.78%
24	Uttar Pradesh	46340.00	9791.73	-14444.46	17816.36	13163.63	74.38%	-109.73%	135.35%	100.00%	45.21%	-29064.23%	72.33%	28.41%
25	West Bengal	16900.00	5574.61	-11938.80	15807.36	9443.17	59.03%	-126.43%	167.39%	100.00%	44.97%	-20.83%	109.68%	55.88%
	Total (15 Non-Special Category States)	314180.83	56776.36	-63490.75	151532.52	144818.14	39.21%	-43.84%	104.64%	100.00%	41.85%	-672.46%	89.63%	46.09%
	Total (25 States)	354664.29	76187.85	-79597.59	161044.62	157634.87	48.33%	-50.49%	102.16%	100.00%	45.14%	-2086.88%	88.45%	44.45%

HIV/AIDS

4933. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :

SHRI B.V.N. REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of men, women and children detected with HIV positive or full blown AIDS during each of the last three years; State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether AIDS victims have increased in India;

(c) if so, the reasons of the increase in incidence of HIV/AIDS; and

(d) the corrective steps taken to meet the growing challenge of this scourge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The State-wise/Union Territory-wise estimated number of HIV infected persons as on mid 1998 is given in statement. The reported number of full blown AIDS cases during the last three years is as follows :

Year	Males	Females	Children
1998	1066	342	140
1999	2487	574	211
2000 (up to November, 2000)	4514	1524	189

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main reasons for the increase in incidence of HIV/AIDS are :-

- Poverty and lack of education leading to low awareness level.
- Large scale migration of population to different parts of the country.
- No vaccine or cure for elimination of the virus from the body of infected persons.

(d) Government of India has launched comprehensive National AIDS Control programme in all States and UTs including the following keys :

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections etc.
- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sector.

Statement

Estimated number of male – female of HIV Infection, India 1998 (figures in thousands)

Serial Number	State/UT	Number of HIV infected Males	Total number of HIV infected females	Total number of HIV infected persons
1	2	3	4	5
1	Maharashtra	430.481	316.568	747.049
2	Karnataka	179.134	130.638	309.772
3	Andhra Pradesh	329.220	237.858	567.078
4	Tamil Nadu	177.883	130.111	307.994

1	2	3	4	5
5	Manipur	2.347	1.732	4.079
6	Goa	5.406	4.034	9.440
7	Delhi	13.735	5.677	19.412
8	Himachal	2.247	1.071	3.318
9	Gujarat	56.507	25.366	81.873
10	West Bengal	80.698	36.382	117.081
11	Nagaland	2.372	0.892	3.264
12	Mizoram	1.131	0.513	1.644
13	Pondicherry	2.319	1.112	3.431
14	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.468	0.126	0.594
15	Arunachal	0.805	0.215	1.020
16	Assam	22.666	6.487	29.153
17	Chandigarh	3.394	0.891	4.285
18	Daman & Diu	0.061	0.018	0.079
19	Haryana	26.836	7.451	34.287
20	Kerala	126.583	42.757	169.340
21	Madhya Pradesh	106.837	30.976	137.814
22	Meghalaya	0.612	0.169	0.781
23	Orissa	34.489	10.286	44.775
24	Punjab	33.961	9.773	43.734
25	Rajasthan	40.018	10.452	50.470
26	Sikkim	0.110	0.027	0.137
27	Tripura	3.244	0.970	4.214
28	Uttar Pradesh	85.419	23.212	108.631
29	Bihar	88.436	25.575	114.012
30	Jammu & Kashmir	11.255	3.334	14.589
31	Dadra & NH	0.121	0.036	0.157
32	Lakshadweep	0.178	0.052	0.230
Total		1868.974	1064.762	2933.736

[[*Translation*]]**Foreign Aided Atomic Power Plants**

4934. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL :

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of atomic power plants in the country, working to their full capacity;

(b) the number of foreign aided atomic power plants set up in the country during the last five years, alongwith the terms and conditions of financial assistance and the total funds spent thereon during the period, till date; and

(c) the total atomic power generation capacity of the country as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Presently, fourteen units at seven atomic power stations are operating in the country with a total capacity of 2720 MWe. The details of capacity of each unit are given below :

Units	Total Capacity	Location
1	2	3
1. Tarapur Atomic Power Station 1 & 2 (2x160 MWe)	320 MWe	Tarapur Maharashtra
2. Rajasthan Atomic Power Station		
Unit-1 (1x100 MWe)	100 MWe	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan
Unit-2 (1x200 MWe)	200 MWe	-do-
3. Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-3 & 4 (2x220 MWe)	440 MWe	- do -

1	2	3
4. Madras Atomic Power Station-1 & 2 (2x170 MWe)	340 MWe	Kalpakam, Tamil Nadu.
5. Narora Atomic Power Station-1 & 2 (2x220 MWe)	440 MWe	Narora, Uttar Pradesh
6. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station-1 & 2 (2x220 MWe)	440 MWe	Kakrapar, Gujarat
7. Kaiga Atomic Power Station-1 & 2 (2x220 MWe)	440 MWe	Kaiga, Karnataka
Total	2720 MWe	

(b) No foreign aided Atomic Power Plants has been set up in the country during the last 5 years.

(c) The total power generation capacity as on date is 2720 MWe.

[*English*]**Welfare of Mentally Disabled Children**

4935. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

SHRI A. NARENDRA :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

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

(a) the names of the schemes formulated by the Union Government for the welfare of the mentally disabled children in the country;

(b) the names of institution's set up or likely to be set up for making proper arrangements for the development of these children State/Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated for this purpose during 1999-2000 and the amount earmarked for the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) A number of schemes/ programmes are being implemented for the welfare of persons with disabilities, including mental disabilities. These are :

- (i) Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities under which voluntary organizations are given grant-in-aid for, inter alia, special schools-cum-vocational training centres for children with disabilities, including mental disabilities;
- (ii) The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. This has a provision for appointment of guardians, making arrangements for persons with mental disabilities to live in the community, providing residential facilities and supporting those who do not have parents and guardians;
- (iii) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) has provision for persons with disabilities, including mental disabilities in the age range of 18-55 years who are eligible to utilize the micro financing scheme of which loan facility is made available for self-employment;
- (iv) Scheme of Assistance to Disabled persons for Purchase/Fitting of aids and appliances (ADIP), suitable learning materials, educational kits and aids and appliances are made available to persons to disabilities, including those with mental disabilities through voluntary organisations;
- (v) Over 100 districts have been identified for providing rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities, including mental disabilities at their doorsteps; and
- (vi) National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad (Andhra Pradesh). This Institute is working in the area of mental disability.
- (vii) In addition a number of benefits and concessions are available to persons to disabilities which include train travel concession along with an escort, income tax deduction for parents of persons with mental retardation, choice of posting to Govt. employees having children with mental disabilities etc.

(b) The number of special schools working in the country for persons with mental disabilities, as on 5/10/99, is given in the statement.

(c) During 1999-2000, a provision of Rs. 204.49 crores was provided for the Disability sector, including mental disabilities, in the budget of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. The provision during the Current financial year, 2000-2001 is Rs. 292.85 crore. This does not include provision for Miscellaneous Scheme.

Statement
No. of Special Schools working in the Country for the persons with mental retardation

Sl.No.	State/UT	Schools
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	134
3.	Assam	4
4.	Bihar	21
5.	Chandigarh	4
6.	Goa	7
7.	Gujarat	39
8.	Haryana	18
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4
10.	Karnataka	85
11.	Kerala	126
12.	Madhya Pradesh	27
13.	Maharashtra	98
14.	Manipur	2
15.	Meghalaya	2
16.	Mizoram	3
17.	New Delhi	42
18.	Orissa	36
19.	Pondicherry	1
20.	Punjab	2
21.	Rajasthan	19
22.	Tamil Nadu	69
23.	Tripura	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	24
25.	West Bengal	61
Total		832

Note : Includes Special schools run by Parents Association and Integrated Schools.

Launching of Satellites

4936. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has decided to launch 3 satellites, GSLV, INSAT-3C and Technology Experiment Satellite (TES);

(b) if so, time frame worked out therefor;

(c) whether space department is getting commercial orders and have also secured service contract from Europe

and offers for space imaging data access and on-orbit support; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the launching of these 3 satellites will be helpful to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) G-SAT-1 satellite has been planned for launch in early 2001, INSAT-3C and Technology Experiment Satellite (TES) have been scheduled for launch during mid 2001.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Department of Space has secured contract from Europe for IRS data access and on-orbit support. IRS data is being provided to the German ground station in Neustrelitz. On-orbit support for Eutelsat satellites is being provided to the German Space Agency-DLR, during its launch and early orbit phase.

The launch of G-SAT-1 satellite by GSLV would provide new technologies, experimental service and digital audio broadcasting. INSAT-3C will support and enhance the communication capabilities in C-band, Extended C-band and S-band for telecommunication, VSAT networks and radio networking. TES is planned for developing appropriate advanced technologies for future IRS satellites, such as Cartosat.

Denial of Consular Access to Diplomats

4937. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan denied consular access to Indian diplomats to ascertain the welfare of 11 crew members of Indian Cargo Vessel 'Jan Kalyan' who were rescued by Pakistan on June 30, 2000;

(b) if so, the fate of the crew members as on date; and

(c) the measures taken for their repatriation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Eleven members of the crew of Indian cargo vessel 'Jan Kalyan' were rescued in the Arabian Sea by a Pakistani fishing vessel on June 30, 2000. After our repeated demarches, Pakistan belatedly provided consular access on

September 12, 2000 to these crew members, who were thereafter repatriated to India on September 13, 2000.

Agro-Based Industries

4938. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Agro based industries in backward and drought prone areas of various States, particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of industries to be set up during the next three years, year-wise; and

(d) the allocation of funds for setting up Agro based industries during the next three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) (a) and (b) Rural Entrepreneurs from any part of the country including backward drought prone areas are free to prepare project proposals under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission's Margin Money Scheme and approach the branch of any Nationalised Bank in their localities or offices of State KVI Board for assistance. The KVIC does not set up units of its own.

(c) and (d) In view of the reply above the details cannot be ascertained in advance.

NACO on Aids

4939. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of funds spent by NACO on AIDS control in 1999-2000 and in the first half of this financial year;

(b) the assessment done of the work of NACO during this period;

(c) whether NACO has not been able to give effective thrust to controlling spread of AIDS in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The amount of funds spent by NACO on AIDS control in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as follows :

(Rs in Crores)	
Year	Expenditure
1999-2000	132.04
2000-2001 (up to 30th November, 2000)	97.15

(b) During this period four meetings were held with Project Directors of State AIDS Control Societies to review the programme implementation in the States/Union Territories. The Phase-II of the programme is being implemented as scheduled.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. For the effective control of HIV/AIDS in the country a comprehensive National AIDS Control programme is implementation all over the country which have the following key components :

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors.

Liberalisation of Visa Conditions by Switzerland

4940. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been made to Switzerland to liberalise its visa conditions for Indians temporarily engaged in various jobs in that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to enhance economic co-operation with Switzerland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The issue of difficulties being faced by Indian businessmen and professionals in obtaining visas to Switzerland has been raised with the Switzerland through official channels. The response of the Swiss side has been encouraging. A review of the visa regime is underway.

(c) India and Switzerland have been working towards enhancing bilateral economic co-operation. The discussions during the visit of Mr. Pascal Couchepin, Swiss Minister of Economy to India on 15-29 February 2000, during the visit of EAM to Berne in September 2000 and during the 7th meeting of the Indo-Swiss Joint Commission in November 2000 have helped the two sides to focus on this aspect of the relationship. The exchange of the Instruments of Ratification of the Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement and the signature of the Protocol Amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement in February 2000 have provided a positive framework for the enhancement of economic co-operation between India and Switzerland.

Committee on Drug Abuse Prevention

4941. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have constituted a Committee on drug abuse prevention programme; and

(b) if so, the details regarding membership, tenure, functions, powers, etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Digging of Wells

4942. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Governments particularly from Tamil Nadu for release of financial assistance for digging wells in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) to (c) As per the information furnished by the concerned organizations of the State Government of Tamil Nadu, they have not submitted any proposal to the Union Government for release of financial assistance for digging wells in the State.

The Central Ground Water Board, however, undertakes drilling of exploratory wells with the purpose of collecting scientific data. The successful exploratory wells, instead of being discarded are handed over to the States at a nominal cost for their utilization for irrigation, drinking and other purposes. As on September, 2000 the Central Ground Water Board has handed over/offered 4939 exploratory wells to the States.

The Union Ministry of Rural Development is also allocating funds to the State Governments for rural development programmes which, inter-alia, include installation of tube-wells.

Advantage of Globalisation

4943. PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "SSIs would take advantage of globalisation" appearing in the Observer on November 14, 2000;

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

(c) whether the Government have come out with any formula for the small scale industries to take advantage of globalisation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the manner in which small scale sector propose to compete with large multinational companies having advantage of the economies; and

(f) the funds likely to be provided to SSIs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item is based on the inaugural speech of the Minister of State for Small Scale Industries and Agro and

Rural Industries for the International Conference on Micro Enterprises on 11th November, 2000 in New Delhi.

(c) to (e) The Government has recently announced a comprehensive policy package to strengthen the small scale and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally. The policy package includes fiscal incentives, easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and support for improved infrastructure.

(f) The Central Government has been running various plan schemes namely, Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation, ISO9000 Certification Scheme etc. under which funds are made available for SSI development as per the prescribed parameters of the schemes.

Coaching Centres

4944. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise details of Pre-Examination Training Centres for SCs/STs and other backward students running in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government are providing any financial assistance for these PETCs;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount of financial assistance provided to these PETCs during each of the last three years;

(d) the achievements of these PETCs during the above period;

(e) whether requests for establishment of such more centres have been received from any State Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) (a) to (c) Central Assistance is provided for coaching SCs, STs and other Backward students to States, Universities and Non Government Organisations. Details of financial assistance provided during last 3 years is given in attached statements-I, II, III and IV.

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

(e) and (f) No request for establishing new centers for Backward Classes has been received. Details of requests for establishing such centre for SC/ST are attached as statement-V.

Statement-I

Details of Central Assistance Released to States under Coaching and Allied Scheme for SCs/STs during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	28.70	34.56	11.44
2	Assam	NIL	NIL	NIL
3	Bihar	NIL	NIL	NIL
4	Gujarat	0.31	NIL	NIL
5	Goa	NIL	NIL	NIL
6	Himachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL
7	Haryana	0.35	3.12	1.54
8	Jammu and Kashmir	NIL	NIL	0.25
9	Karnataka	11.17	13.75	1.19
10	Kerala	NIL	5.21	10.15
11	Maharashtra	NIL	NIL	NIL
12	Manipur	NIL	NIL	NIL
13	Madhya Pradesh	43.12	82.94	66.09
14	Meghalaya	NIL	NIL	1.79
15	Nagaland	NIL	NIL	NIL
16	Orissa	NIL	NIL	4.99
17	Punjab	2.45	3.39	1.89
18	Rajasthan	17.76	43.18	NIL
19	Tamil Nadu	1.98	NIL	NIL
20	Tripura	7.16	NIL	0.67
21	Uttar Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL
22	West Bengal	NIL	NIL	NIL
23	Delhi	3.57	2.83	6.79
24	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	NIL	0.98	NIL
Total		116.57	189.96	106.79

Statement-II

Detail of Central Assistance Released to Universities under Coaching and Allied for SCs/STs during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in Lakhs)					
S.No.	Name of State	Name of University	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjuna University	NIL	14.54	2.70
2	Andhra Pradesh	Sh. Venkateshwara Univ.	NIL	NIL	4.07
3	Andhra Pradesh	Osmania University	NIL	NIL	6.38
4	Andhra Pradesh	J.N. Technical Univ.	NIL	NIL	1.55
5	Gujarat	Gujarat University	NIL	NIL	NIL
6	Karnataka	Mysore University	1.15	NIL	NIL
7	Karnataka	Karnataka University	NIL	NIL	NIL
8	Madhya Pradesh	Awadh Pratap Singh University	3.19	13.63	NIL
9	Madhya Pradesh	Vikram University	4.68	4.03	7.90
10	Madhya Pradesh	Devi Ahilya Vishwavid.	3.14	NIL	NIL
11	Maharashtra	B.R. Ambedkar Univer	3.40	NIL	NIL
12	Maharashtra	Nagpur University	NIL	9.54	NIL
13	Maharashtra	Pune University	NIL	NIL	3.56
14	Punjab	Guru Nanak Dev University	9.20	1.81	5.42
15	Punjab	Punjabi University	10.88	12.32	NIL
16	Uttar Pradesh	Moti Lal Nehru Eng. Coll.	2.27	1.87	4.59
17	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad University	11.22	4.34	7.75
18	Uttar Pradesh	H.N. Bahuguna University	3.18	5.43	5.49
19	Uttar Pradesh	B.R. Amb. Univ., Agra.	0.74	2.05	3.15
20	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow University	3.53	4.78	4.89
21	Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal University	NIL	NIL	NIL
22	Haryana	Kurukshetra University	NIL	3.23	3.23
23	Sikkim	Sikkim Govt. College	NIL	NIL	2.06
Total			56.58	77.57	62.74

Statement-III

Detail of Central Assistance Released to NGO's under Coaching and Allied Scheme for SCs/STs during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	Name of NGO	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	Rao's Study Circle, Hyd.	NIL	NIL	1.69
2	Andhra Pradesh	Veneela Society, Khammam	NIL	NIL	NIL
3	Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjuna Study Circle	NIL	NIL	NIL
4	Andhra Pradesh	Jagruti Edu. Society, Hyd.	NIL	NIL	NIL
5	Delhi	S.N. Das Gupta College	NIL	NIL	8.25
6	Delhi	Rau's IAS Study Circle	1.42	NIL	NIL
7	Delhi	Sachdeva New P.T. Col.	NIL	NIL	NIL
8	Delhi	S.S.C	NIL	NIL	NIL
9	Delhi	Employment Today	NIL	NIL	NIL
10	Delhi	Delhi Edu. Centre	NIL	3.39	17.52
11	Maharashtra	T.I.S.S.	NIL	NIL	NIL
12	Maharashtra	Chaitanya Bahu. Samiti	NIL	NIL	1.02
13	Maharashtra	National Instt. of Com. Ex.	NIL	NIL	6.90
14	Madhya Pradesh	Richa Samaj Seva	NIL	NIL	0.93
15	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Lav Shiksha Pra Samiti	NIL	NIL	0.93
16	Madhya Pradesh	Jagnath Shiksha Pra. Sam	NIL	NIL	0.93
17	Madhya Pradesh	Ashok Coach. Centre	NIL	NIL	1.66
18	Madhya Pradesh	Krishna Coach. Cen, Bhop.	NIL	8.44	NIL
19	Madhya Pradesh	Ashok Mahila Man, Bhind.	NIL	4.81	11.22
20	Madhya Pradesh	Lal Bahadur Shik. Sansth.	NIL	NIL	0.48
21	Madhya Pradesh	B.R. Amb Instt., MHOW	NIL	NIL	1.87
22	Madhya Pradesh	Mahakaushal Academy, Raip	NIL	NIL	NIL
23	Madhya Pradesh	Gyan Vikas Samiti, Bhopal	NIL	NIL	NIL
24	Orissa	L.C. Instt., Bhubaneshwar.	NIL	0.88	3.43
25	Orissa	Orissa Study Circle	NIL	NIL	1.25
26	Jammu and Kashmir	Instt. of MPA, Srinagar	NIL	NIL	2.39
		Total	1.42	17.52	60.47

Statement-IV

Detail of Central Assistance Released under the Scheme of Pre-Examination Coaching for OBCs during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in Lakhs)					
S.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Institute	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Assam	Administrative Staff College, Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati.	The Scheme was introduced in 1998-99.	4.24	NIL
2	Assam	North Eastern Regional Institute of Management, Parukutty Bhawan, Navin Nagar, Guwahati		2.54	NIL
3	Kerala	Institute of Management in Government, Vikas Bhawan, P.O. Trivandrum.		3.33	NIL
4	Madhya Pradesh	Pre-Examination Training Center, Opposite to Police Road, H.Q. Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal.		1.71	NIL
5	Madhya Pradesh	Ashok Mahila Mandal, Mihona, Bhind District.		1.53	NIL
6	Madhya Pradesh	Krishna Coaching Instt., Opp. D.N. Jain Degree College, Gole Bazar, Jabalpur.		2.13	2.13
7	Madhya Pradesh	Nehru Nagar Adarsh Seva Parishad, C-31, Nehru Nagar, Bhopal.		1.95	NIL
8	Orissa	L.C. Institute of Social and Applied Sciences, 2, Budhanagar, Bhubaneswar.		2.12	0.85
Total				19.55	2.98

Statement-V

1. Suruchi Vyavsaik Prashiksha Sansthan, Gwalior(M.P.).	6. Navodaya Shiksha Evam Sanskriti Prasara Samiti, Amayan(Bhind), Gwalior(M.P.)
2. Krishna Coaching Institute, Jabalpur(M.P.).	7. ICE, Career Guidance, Thiruthuraiipoondi, Thiruvannamalai Distt., Tamil Nadu.
3. Social Integration and Rural Development Society, Panagal, Nalgonda Distt., Andhra Pradesh.	8. Udaipur Study Circle, Fatehpur, Udaipur(Rajasthan).
4. Vishwa-Rupa Shikshan Evam Prashikshan Sansthan, Ratlam(M.P.).	9. Shri Sahu Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
5. Sahara Academy, Kanpur(U.P.)	10. Chanakya Mandal, Pune.
	11. Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha, Latur.

Export of Coir Products

4945. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make efforts to step up exports of Coir products to various countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the important steps undertaken by the Coir Board to step up exports of Coir Products to various countries, are :

1. Participation in International fairs along with the exporters;
2. Participation in the Conferences convened by International Agencies like FAO, International Erosion Control Association etc. to promote the cause of Indian Coir and Coir Products;
3. Participation in the catalogue shows abroad organised by the ITPO;
4. Participation in the product promotion programmes abroad being organised by the ITPO;
5. Production of brochures and catalogues of coir products and making them available to the trade;
6. Quality improvement programmes; and
7. Design development programmes.

IT Park in Bihar

4946. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Information Technology Park and Centres in the country;

(b) if so, locations identified therefor State-wise and the criteria fixed therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up an Information Technology Centre in Bihar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures being taken to promote information technology in the State?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has set-up Software Technology Parks in the following States :

State	Location
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Vizag
2. Assam	Guwahati
3. Gujarat	Gandhinagar
4. Karnataka	Bangalore, Manipal and Mysore
5. Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
6. Maharashtra	Pune and Mumbai
7. Madhya Pradesh	Indore
8. Orissa	Bhubaneswar
9. Punjab	Mohali
10. Rajasthan	Jaipur
11. Tamil Nadu	Chennai and Coimbatore
12. Uttar Pradesh	Noida

The Governments of West Bengal and Goa have also set up STPs in their states. In the case of STP at Goa the Central Government has provided part financial support. It is proposed to extend Software Technology Park (STP) facility to all the states in the country subject to technical, administrative and financial constraints. The site for STP is selected generally taking into account potential for Software export, support by the State Government in terms of fiscal measures, friendly policy environment, provision of land and building and availability of funds.

(e) There are no major software exporting units in Bihar as of date. STPI would be in a position to provide the data communication facility to the software industry at Bihar from STP-Bhubaneswar gateway through DOT leased line. Further, National Informatics Centre (NIC) of Ministry of Information Technology as a part of its objective is providing computer based support for Government Management

Information System (MIS) to the Bihar State Government and has set up NIC State Centre at Patna and NIC district centres in the 40 districts of Bihar.

Death Penalty

4947. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian in Saudi Arabia met a public beheading in a region near Riyadh in September 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Indians awarded death penalty in different countries during the last three years, country-wise;

(d) the number of cases in which the Government intervened in the matter; and

(e) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri Tambi Raj Kesavan Mani Mandiram, convicted of smuggling heroin into Saudi Arabia was executed in Riyadh on 19 September, 2000.

(c) As per information available with the Government a total of 52 Indians were awarded death penalty in different countries during the last three years as per details below :

1. Iran	-	2
2. Kuwait	-	1
3. Qatar	-	3
4. Saudi Arabia	-	36
5. Singapore	-	2
6. Uganda	-	1
7. United Arab Emirates	-	7

(d) Indian missions in these countries intervened in 15 cases.

(e) In two cases, the UAE authorities commuted the death sentence.

Establishment of Counsel

4948. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European Union has made any suggestions to establish a Counsel in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other points of bilateral interests pending for settlement; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) India and the European Union have recently taken several steps to strengthen their relationship. The India-EU Summit held in Lisbon on June 28, 2000 enabled both sides to review bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual concern. The two sides have agreed to forge a new strategic partnership in the 21st century founded on shared values and aspirations and characterised by enhanced and multi-faceted co-operation. The India-EU Summit Declaration provides a blueprint for upgrading the relationship to a qualitatively higher level. An Agenda for Action which encompasses joint initiatives in the political, commercial and economic fields was also agreed upon. The Declaration commits India and the European Union to cooperate to prevent and combat terrorism and to meet the challenges arising from it in the regional and international context. India and the EU will also strive together for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. An India-EC Agreement on Co-operation in Science and Technology is also being finalised. The second India-EU Summit will be held in New Delhi in the second half of the year 2001.

Cure for Epilepsy

4949. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'poor drugs lend to epilepsy problem' appearing in the Indian Express on November 14, 2000;

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

(c) whether epilepsy is a wrongly understood disease and more awareness has to create in this regard;

(d) the awareness campaign launched by the Government to educate the public in this disease; and

(e) the steps taken to make drugs available for the disease in CGHS Dispensaries in adequate quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (e) Epilepsy is a brain disorder occurring due to excess electrical discharge emanating from the neurons of the brain.

The control of epilepsy depends upon correct diagnosis, adequate dosage of anti-epileptic drugs, and compliance by the patients. Epilepsy is also associated with misconception and myths about its nature, and, therefore, some people with epilepsy do not seek medical treatment, which is not only affordable but can also be very effective in the control of epilepsy.

The Indian Epilepsy Association, the Indian Academy of Neurology and Neurological Society of India disseminate information about epilepsy amongst doctors, other professionals and the public. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore has developed a district-model of epilepsy care to provide training to district medical officers to diagnose and treat people with epilepsy. They are also trained to provide counseling to the patients and their families to remove the stigma attached to epilepsy.

As far as the quality of drugs under CGHS is concerned, the CGHS procures all the listed formulary drugs from the MSO, which tests each lot of medicine batch-wise, and supplies are effected only after the receipt of satisfactory test-report from the Government laboratory. The medicines are supplied to CGHS beneficiaries on advice of the attending physician.

[Translation]

Eradication of Poverty through Infotech

4950. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to use new technologies like 'infotech' for the eradication of poverty in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to face the challenges posed by the ever increasing number of internet users particularly in the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Harnessing of Information Technology(IT) is a continuous process. Some of the on-going efforts include :

- Computerisation of a variety of applications right upto the district level supported by a nationwide computer network called NICNET.

- Encouragement to all Central Ministries/ Departments to spend upto 3% of their budget on IT.
- Progressive emphasis by State and Central Governments to introduce e-governance, thus leading to increased efficiency and transparency.
- In North Eastern Region, community information centres are being set up at all of the 486 blocks.
- In education, use of computers have been promoted :
 - ❖ in schools
 - ❖ skills are being imparted to meet growing IT industry needs and
 - ❖ on-line learning is being introduced to increase number of skilled manpower without degradation in quality.
- A project to generate entrepreneurship through 'Low cost multi-media content creation' launched.
- A pilot village information centre (SAMADHAN CENTRE) project initiated at Tamil Nadu to provide information centres to 30-40 panchayats. This will provide information on public health, village level resource map, crop planning, soil conservation and fertility management and water resources planning in addition to imparting computer literacy to the community.
- A unique 'wired villages' pilot project has been implemented at the Warana Nagar cooperative complex in Kolhapur district in Maharashtra.
- Employment generation schemes in North East.
- Encourage widespread use of Indian language interface to computers.
- Increasing the reach of computers and internet at various levels as also making it increasingly affordable.

All these and other measures taken will lead to employment generation, skills upgradation, resource optimization, instant and ready access to information without locational barrier.

(c) Government has implemented Internet Service Providers (ISPs) Policy. No licence fee is payable for first five years and nominal fee of one rupee is to be paid after five years. The policy provides for inter-connection of networks

and setting up of international gateways and hiring of bandwidth from foreign satellites by the internet service providers independent of VSNL. Further, the infrastructure for Internet is proposed to be upgraded as below :

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is setting up national internet backbone in the country.
- Internet Service Providers are allowed to set up last mile linkages freely by fibre optic or by radio communication.
- The Internet access is also allowed through authorised cable TV.

[English]

Ban on Asylum Seekers

4951. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Britain has imposed a blanket ban on Indian asylum seekers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.

Amnesty Schemes

4952. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether many Gulf countries have announced Amnesty schemes for those wishing to come back to their respective mother lands;
- (b) if so, the number of Indians who returned India under the said schemes during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government have since created Manpower Export Promotion Council and Overseas Workers Welfare Fund for the persons who came back under the said schemes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the further steps being taken by the Government for the betterment of those who have come back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information available, our Missions in five Gulf countries issued a total of 68573 Emergency Certificates to facilitate the return of Indian nationals when the Amnesty Schemes were announced by the respective countries.

(c) to (e) The proposal for setting up of the Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and Overseas Workers Welfare Fund is still under consideration of the Government. However, the Welfare Fund will not be utilized for such of the workers who come back to India under any Amnesty Scheme. There is also no proposal under consideration of the Central Government for extending any benefit, financial or otherwise, to such workers.

Exemption of Khadi from Sales Tax

4953. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the high power committee which went into the functioning of the Khadi Gramodyog Commission had recommended for exemption of Khadi products from Sales Tax;
- (b) whether the Union Government have directed the State Governments to exempt these products from Sales Tax;
- (c) the reaction of the State Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Committee has also drawn the attention of Government towards the unemployment and joblessness of Khadi producers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has written letters to all the Chief Ministers to exempt KVI products from Sales Tax.

(d) and (e) The Committee which had submitted its recommendations in July, 1994 recommended creation of 20 lakhs additional jobs. Out of this 17.53 lakhs jobs were recommended under the Village Industries Sector and remaining 2.47 lakhs jobs under the Khadi Sector.

[Translation]

Non-Utilisation of Foreign Aid

4954. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'videshi karz ka poora istemal nahin kar pane per Kendra see jawab talab' appearing in the Hindi daily 'Jansatta' dated September 29, 2000;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that a very heavy amount in the form of commitment charges at the rate of one per cent had to be paid;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action being taken or likely to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) A PIL has been filed in Delhi High Court regarding payment of commitment charges on foreign aid but the admissibility of the same is yet to be decided.

(c) The commitment charges may go up to 0.75% on undisbursed aid and vary from case to case.

(d) Since projects are implemented over a period of time, there is at any given point of time, an inevitable stock of undisbursed funds. The details of commitment charges paid to the various donors is annexed in the statement.

(e) Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilization are ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediation on flow of external aid to Central Public Sector Undertakings, setting up of a Project Management Unit in the department of Economic Affairs, strengthening Project management Units/Project Monitoring Cells in nine states and five central ministries, regular review of projects with respect of quality at entry.

Statement

Non-utilisation of foreign Aid

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Name of Institution	Commitment charges		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	ADB	25.74	22.83	15.72
2.	I.B.R.D.	22.06	23.89	25.33
3.	I.D.A.	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	France	0.25	0.21	0.36
5.	Germany	1.60	0.66	0.37
6.	Netherland	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Spain	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Swedeen	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		49.65	47.59	41.78

Promotion of Khadi Sector

4955. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the investment limit of the Khadi Gramodyog units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir. The Government of India vide a notification dated 27.10.94 had enhanced the fixed capital investment limit per head artisan/worker, under the Khadi and Village Industries programme from Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-.

(b) Does not arise.

Coaching for SC/ST Candidates competing for IAS/IPS Exams

4956. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

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

(a) the total number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes given training prior to the examination for the Indian Administrative Service/Indian Police Service Examinations during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the percentage of such successful candidates out of the candidates that appeared in these examinations during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Pakistan Sheltering Terrorists

4957. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is sheltering terrorists as mentioned in a US report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report;

(c) whether both India and USA have urged Pakistan to desist from terrorist activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Annual Report of the US State Department for 1999 on Patterns of Global Terrorism, which was released in April 2000, states that "credible reports continued to indicate official Pakistani support for Kashmiri militant groups that engage in terrorism, such as Harkat ul-Mujahidin (HUM)...Kashmiri extremist groups continued to operate in Pakistan, raising funds and recruiting new cadre. The groups were responsible for numerous terrorist attacks in 1999 against civilian targets in India-held Kashmir and elsewhere in India".

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has consistently maintained that Pakistan must end its sponsorship of and support to cross-border terrorism against India.

The US has on number of occasions stated that it has asked Pakistan to take steps to crack down on terrorist groups operating from Pakistan. On the eve of his visit to Islamabad in March 2000, the US President had stated that the objective of his visit was to discuss with the regime in Pakistan, among other issues, a crackdown on terrorists groups. At a Hearing of the House International Relations Committee of the US Congress on 12th July 2000, the US State Department Coordinator for Counter-terrorism stated that "Pakistan has tolerated terrorist living and moving freely within its territory. Numerous Kashmiri separatist groups and sectarian groups involved in terrorism use Pakistan as a base...President Clinton and, most recently, Under Secretary Pickering both travelled to Pakistan to reinforce tough messages on terrorism and other key concerns."

India and the United States have also institutionalised their cooperation to combat international terrorism through a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism.

Harassment of Sikh Pilgrims in Pakistan

4958. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 1500 strong Sikh Jatha which went to Nankana Sahib (Pakistan) on the eve of Gurupurab in November, 2000 has on its return alleged that Khalistan Militants roughed up members of the Jatha and Pakistan Police did not intervene;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it was alleged that Gurudwara at Nankana Sahib is being used by Militants under the ISI's patronage; and

(d) if so, the Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) It has come to Government's notice that on November 12, 2000 at Gurudwara Nankana Sahib, some activists of the so-called Khalistan terrorist organisations picked up a fight with the pilgrims visiting Nankana Sahib on the occasion of the Gurpurab celebrations. Six pilgrims, including one from the Indian Jatha, were injured in the fracas.

(c) and (d) Pakistan encourages so-called Khalistan terrorists and through them seeks to spread anti-India sentiment in members of the Sikh Jathas visiting Sikh

shrines in Pakistan. They also seek to intimidate those who take exception to such propaganda.

According to information available with Government, during the main celebrations held at the Nankana Sahib (Pakistan) on November 11, 2000, leaders of several Pakistan-based terrorist groups such as the Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF), Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) were present. Government are also aware that Pakistan Present, Rafiq Tarar, also participated in the function, and reportedly presented 'Siropas' to some of them.

Government are fully cognizant of Pakistan's state sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in India, and support to groups that subscribe to obscurantist, violent and secessionist ideologies. Government remain firm in their resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Budgetary Support to Haemophilia

4959. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to extend budgetary support to patients suffering from haemophilia;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is considering to set up a separate fund for providing financial support to haemophiliacs;

(c) if so, the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Ministry has also taken up the issue with the Ministry of Social Justice for including the disease in the list of disabled; and

(e) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above does not arise.

(d) and (e) There is a proposal with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

International Exchange Programme of Medicine and Homoeopathy

4960. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have an international exchange programme for development of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy;

(b) if so, whether any delegations were sent abroad to study such alternate system of medicine;

(c) the details of such conferences attended by Indian delegations in 1999-2000;

(d) the issues discussed and outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the statement. The visits help the delegations to propagate the Indian Systems of Medicine, take stock of the regulatory requirements of the host countries relating to use of ISM Medicines and consumers preferences for such products.

Statement

S. No.	No. of days	Country visited	Purpose
1	2	3	4
1.	26-30 April, 1999	Russia	To discuss the Plan and modalities for assessing further cooperation and collaboration on Indian Systems of Medicine between the two countries.
2.	3-7th June, 1999	Russia	Seminar on Role and Place of Ayurveda in Contemporary Medicine
3.	30-31st October 1999	New York	To attend 2-days' conference on Ayurveda and visit to Centre for Alternative Medicine under the National Institute of Health, Washington, DC. Both occasions served to propagate Ayurveda to the registered participants and to sensitize the experts in the national institute of Health about the strengths of the Indian Systems of Medicine and research work conducted so far.
4.	14-17th October, 1999	Brazil.	To attend International Fair for Alternative Therapies and Natural Products

Multinational Companies

4961. SHRI E.M.SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :

SHRI PUSP JAIN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the multinational companies i.e. Pepsi, Coke, Hindustan Lever Limited are forcing the workers to sign individual letter of undertaking after closing down the unit;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same management has been refusing to attend the conciliation proceeding initiated by the State Labour Department; and

(c) whether Government ensure compliance of Industrial Legislation by Multinational National Companies operating in India?

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

Indo-Iraq Oil Gas Pipeline

4962. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Iraq have decided to study the feasibility of a deep sea pipeline for carrying oil/gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Alternative System of Medicines

4963. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to encourage alternate system of medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether standardization and safe production of medicines from the alternate medicine sector been mooted;

(d) if so, the time frame for improvement of medicines of the alternate system;

(e) whether adequate funding is available for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the funds spent in 1999-2000 on alternate system of medicine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (f) The term 'Alternative System of Medicine' denotes a heterogeneous group of systems of medicine other than Modern/Western Medicine. This term includes traditional system of medicines in India viz. Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Yoga & Naturopathy and Homeopathy which are recognised in India under the Indian Medicine Act, 1970. In order to develop, propagate and encourage these Indian Systems of Medicine, the Government in 1995, established an independent Department of Indian System of Medicines & Homeopathy. This Department has formulated schemes for cultivation of medicinal plants, preparation of agro-techniques, upgradation of undergraduate/postgraduate teaching, standardisation of drugs, encouraging extra-mural research and dissemination of information. In order to ensure manufacture of quality Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) Drugs, the Department has notified Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) on 23.6.2000 under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945. Pharmacopoeias for Drugs of each of the systems are being published in a phased manner. State Pharmacies & Drugs Testing Laboratories are proposed to be assisted financially and Private Drug Testing Laboratories are proposed to be recognised to broaden the facilities for testing Drugs.

Indian Council of Medical Research is presently carrying out a multi-centric trial on Vijaysar for uncontrolled Diabetes. It also proposes to initiate National Task Force Multi-centric studies in the field of cardiovascular diseases, filariasis, benign hyopertrophy for prostate cancer.

Actual expenditure incurred during 1999-2000 on the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy is as under :

Plan	-	Rs. 4904.19 lakhs

Non-Plan	-	Rs. 4079.06 lakhs.

Illegal Strikes

4964. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received suggestion to declare strikes illegal unless mandated by 66% of the work force through secret ballots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Bipartite Committee on New Industrial Relations Law formed under the chairmanship of Shri G. Ramanujam, had recommended that every strike must be preceded by a strike ballot in which atleast 2/3rd of workers employed in the establishment should vote in favour of the strike. Representatives of some trade unions opposed the strike ballot. There was, therefore, no unanimity of opinion in regard to this matter amongst the Central Trade Union Organisations.

[Translation]

Indo-Bangladesh Border Talks

4965. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Bangladesh held meetings recently to resolve the border disputes;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) At the India-Bangladesh Foreign Secretary-level talks held in New Delhi on December 13 -14, 2000, detailed discussions were held on pending matters relating to the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. Both sides agreed to cooperate with a view to achieving early resolution of all boundary related matters. For this purpose, the Foreign Secretaries decided to set up Working Groups to deal with the completion of demarcation, and the exchange of enclaves and territories in adverse possession. The Working Groups would systematically address these matters and report to the Foreign Secretaries on a regular basis.

[English]

Implementation of Judgement Delivered by CAT

4966. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is mandatory to implement the judgement delivered by the Central Administrative Tribunal(CAT);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have rejected most of the awards given by the CAT;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of such cases;

(e) whether non-acceptance of award of the CAT has put a question on its existence and credibility; and

(f) if so, the views of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; unless such orders are modified or set aside by a higher court.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

International Summit on Ayurveda in USA

4967. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble Minister and other officials of his Ministry had participated in International Summit on Ayurveda during their trip to America in September, 2000;

(b) the details of suggestions/recommendations made during the summit; and

(c) the decision of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) A seminar on Ayurveda - Paradigm shift in the Health Care in the new Millennium on 9-10 September, 2000 was organised

at New York in Collaboration with Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan, New York. The Honorable Prime Minister of India inaugurated it. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare and other officers of the department participated in the seminar.

(b) The main recommendation of seminar including action to be taken by this department are the following :

- Proposal to set up Ayurveda in United States Development Board.
- The Board will disseminate information on policies, programmes and research etc., undertaken by Government of India.
- To identify what Indian drugs manufacturers need to do for improving credibility of Ayurvedic drugs.
- To set up group of academic experts for developing teaching module.
- Department of ISM and H would sponsor teachers for imparting Training in U.S.A.

(c) The NGO has been asked to convey their acceptance to fulfilling certain obligations. Response is awaited.

[English]

Visit of British Secretary for Home Affairs

4968. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the British Secretary of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Jack Straw, visited India in August-September this year;

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

(c) whether the issue of India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council was taken up;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the issue of withdrawal of sanctions was also taken up; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mr. Jack Straw, British Foreign Secretary visited India from 4-9 September 2000 at the invitation of Home Minister. During this visit, he had discussions with Home Minister on several issues of mutual concern, including joint action against international terrorism, issues pertaining to consular and immigration matters as well as extradition. This visit was part of an on-going dialogue with the British Government.

(c) No, Sir, the issue of India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council was not taken up during this visit.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Implementation of I.T. Act

4969. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared any rules for implementation of Information Technology Act, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have removed the restrictions on the number of players applying for a licence; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Rules have been notified through Gazette Notification dated October 17, 2000.

(c) and (d) There is no restriction on the number of players applying for a licence under the IT Act, 2000.

Representations from Associations and MP

4970. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ministry has received representations from Associations and MP's to strengthen SSI units;

(b) whether a large number of SSI units have been closed down;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the last three years; and

(d) what are the problems of SSI and the step taken to support these SSI units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information on closed SSI units is not maintained centrally. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) however compiles data on sick small scale industries financed by the banks. The State-wise information on sick Small Scale Industries as provided by the RBI for the last three years is given in the Statement.

(d) Major problems faced by the Small Scale Sector are inadequacy of working capital, delay in sanction of working capital and time gap in its disbursement, obsolete technology, infrastructure constraints, etc.

To address these problems and support SSI units, a comprehensive policy package for the development of Small Scale Industries has been announced on 30th August 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Statement

State-wise data on Sick Small Scale Industries

No.	State/Union Territory	at the end of March		
		1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4	5
01.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13	45	25
02.	Andhra Pradesh	15460	12074	6260
03.	Arunachal Pradesh	26	456	116
04.	Assam	10133	15774	10586
05.	Bihar	22702	24935	26293
06.	Chandigarh	170	163	187

1	2	3	4	5
07.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	2	24
08.	Daman and Diu	4	5	13
09.	Delhi	3943	3580	3789
10.	Goa	604	670	216
11.	Gujarat	6510	6808	4170
12.	Haryana	2574	2149	3180
13.	Himachal Pradesh	2206	735	1103
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	761	1627	630
15.	Karnataka	6937	6680	4342
16.	Kerala	8908	8969	10074
17.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	12070	8348	6808
19.	Maharashtra	19360	17925	13373
20.	Manipur	2707	1919	5237
21.	Meghalaya	5531	4076	447
22.	Mizoram	1199	615	40
23.	Nagaland	2738	1386	166
24.	Orissa	3408	1889	10134
25.	Pondicherry	293	431	770
26.	Punjab	2466	2376	3551
27.	Rajasthan	14561	15655	12835
28.	Sikkim	30	33	28
29.	Tamil Nadu	9809	12289	11408
30.	Tripura	3171	2011	6914
31.	Uttar Pradesh	23286	14294	17320
32.	West Bengal	53451	53617	146182
Total		235032	221536	306221

Loan to Beedi Workers

4971. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the beedi industry, earlier interest free loan and subsidy were sanctioned to the workers;

(b) whether the scheme has been amended to non-refundable subsidy at a rate of 50 percent of the total cost of construction or Rs.20,000/- whichever is less;

(c) whether the Government propose to waive the outstanding loan treating the said amount as subsidy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to start dispensaries at places like Peralassery, Hosdurg and Karivellur in Kerala;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Action has been initiated for giving effect to such a proposal.

(e) to (g) The Government have already sanctioned dispensaries at Peralassery, Hosdurg and Karivellur. Efforts are being made to operationalize them.

Hospital For Beedi Workers

4972. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to start a well equipped Hospital for the beedi workers in Kannur, Kerala instead of the present dispensaries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

CCRU New Delhi

4973 KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working of Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi has been reviewed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the suggestions made by the reviewing committee; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the suggestions/recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Committee have made a number of suggestions for strengthening and streamlining of the Council. The main recommendations are :

(i) Consolidations of research activities by merging some smaller Units into bigger ones and closure of such Units which have completed their research studies.

(ii) Upgradation of its Units at Lucknow and Hyderabad.

(iii) Strengthening of monitoring and follow up mechanism at the headquarters and the field level.

(iv) Collaboration with PG Colleges and other research Institutions.

(v) Patentization of drugs finalised as a result of research studies.

The Governing Body has accepted the recommendations of the Committee and some of the recommendations have already been implemented.

[English]

MPLADS

4974. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether construction of Hospital Building at village Baghraj district Jabalpur, M.P. was proposed under MPLADS Fund during 1995-96;

(b) if so, whether the proposed construction work was not executed as per allotted funds and sanctioned estimate;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the construction work of the Hospital Building is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The Collector, Jabalpur has reported that the construction of hospital building at village Baghraj, district Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh was sanctioned for Rs. 9 lakhs in March 1995.

(b) and (c) It has also been reported by him that the work was executed as per sanctioned estimates but could not be completed within the allotted funds due to higher tender percentage for which there was no provision in the sanctioned estimates.

(d) The Collector has informed that the balance work can be completed within two months after the additional required funds are made available.

Inquiry into Netaji's Disappearance

4975. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Enquiry Commission has been constituted to go into the details of circumstances leading to his disappearance;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has demanded a few files in this regard from his Ministry;

(c) if so, the number of files demanded;

(d) whether these files have not been provided;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the files are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Commission asked the Ministry of External Affairs for nine files, which have since been provided.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Performance of Small Scale Industries

4976. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Experts Committee have reviewed the performance of Small Scale Industries, Sector-wise and State-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular over the past five years in terms of standard norms year-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of targets set and achieved;

(c) the details of major policy initiatives taken recently/proposed to improve the performance of small scale sector in the light of recommendations made memorandum received and implementation thereof; and

(d) the details of action plan formulated to deal the major problems faced by small scale sector during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Expert Committee on Small Enterprises reviewed the performance of Small Scale Industries on a country wide and sector wise basis. A state wise review was not done nor any targets laid down.

(c) and (d) A comprehensive policy package for the development of small scale industries has been announced on 30th August 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of small-scale industries through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan up to Rs. 25.00 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Non-implementation of I.D. Act

4977. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Supreme Court has expressed serious concern over the inaction of the Government for the non-implementation of the

amendments to the definition of 'Industry' as mentioned in the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947;

(b) if so, the details of the observations made by the court alongwith the reasons for not implementing the I.D. Act so far; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implementation of the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) It has come to the notice of the Government through the Press that the Hon'ble Supreme Court Bench in a case where the question to be decided was whether the Agricultural Produce Market Committee established under the Karnataka Agricultural Produce Market (Regulation) Act, 1966 was an industry under the I.D. Act, 1947, has made certain observations about non-enforcement of the definition of 'Industry' as amended under Section 2(c) of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982. It has not been considered possible to bring into force the provisions of Section 2 (c) (Definition of 'Industry') of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982 in view of the fact that an alternative grievance redressal machinery covering institutions/establishments etc. which are to be excluded from the purview of the I.D. Act, 1947, is not yet available. The amended definition of 'Industry' could be enforced when the alternative grievance redressal machinery is made available to the excluded categories of industries.

Ban on Smoking

4978. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for bringing in a Central legislation banning smoking in public places all over the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) A legislation to discourage consumption of tobacco is under consideration of the Government and no specific time frame for its introduction can be given at this juncture. However, the Hon'ble Members of Parliament will also get an opportunity to discuss the issue in entirety when the Bill is introduced in the House.

Less Investment in Agro Sector

4979. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has shown their concern about less investment by Government in Agro Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agro sector is in very bad condition as a result of less investment; and

(d) If so, the reasons thereof and steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has expressed concern in the Mid-term Appraisal of the IXth Five Year Plan about the decline in Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture (GCFA) as a percentage of total Domestic Gross Capital Formation (DGCF) which has come down sharply to 9.4% in 1996-97 from 19.1% in 1979-80, at 1980-81 prices.

At 1993-94 prices, GCFA has come down from 6.3% in 1996-97 to 5.5% in 1998-99. The GCFA in public sector has registered a decline from 15.3% in 1980-81 to 4.9% in 1998-99.

The strategy adopted by the Government for increasing Capital Formation in Agricultural Sector is to increase investment in the development of infrastructure through launching schemes like Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, National Watershed Development Project and other similar programmes.

Dave Committee on Unorganised Labourers

4980. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether S.A. Dave Committee has submitted its report regarding unorganised labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken on the matter; and

(c) whether the Government propose to bring any legislation to improve the lot of unorganised labourers in the country?

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

Per Capita Income in Bihar

4981. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the per capita income in Bihar is lowest in the country upon bifurcation;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to increase per capita income in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The estimates of per capita income are compiled by the state Directorates of Economics & Statistics (DESS) of the respective State Governments. After bifurcation of erstwhile Bihar, the newly created state of Bihar is required to send information on per capita income of the State. But the same has not been furnished by the State so far. However, information on per capita income (per capita NSDP) at current prices (position as on 15.1.2000 of the undivided State of Bihar as per the quick estimates (as worked out by the Central Statistical Organisation) during 1998-99 was lowest in the country.

(b) and (c) Increase in per capita income will come about by implementing such schemes which are economically productive and lowering the rate of growth of population. State Government of Bihar itself is responsible for taking up such schemes as would meet these objectives.

Minimum Export Price

4982. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have any proposal to phase out the minimum export price fixed for coir and coir products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Government has decided that steps have to be initiated for progressive phasing out of the MEP in appropriate manner particularly for the purpose of making the trade policy measures compatible with World Trade Organisation Rules. Accordingly, the Coir Board has withdrawn MEP from embellishment, powerloom products and geotextiles with effect from 11.1.2000.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

C.G.H.S. Ayurvedic Dispensary

4983. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some irregularities in the functioning of Ayurvedic Dispensary, North Avenue, New Delhi have detected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether quantity and good quality of medicine are not supplied to the patients;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No such complaint in this regard has been received.

(c) No, Sir. Good quality medicines against the quantity prescribed by the doctor is supplied to the beneficiaries.

(d) to (f) In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Health and Family Welfare Programme

4984. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s EPOS health consultants, Germany, the contractors of the European Commission 'Health and Family Welfare Programme in India', have secured the approval of the sector investment programme document (SIP document) duly approved by the Government;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for such approval;

(c) whether it is a fact that the SIP document was approved just after ten days of its rejection on July 12, 1999; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. M/s EPOS Health Consultants (Germany) along with Options (UK) and Vimarsh (India) have positioned experts to provide technical assistance on behalf of the European Commission. The draft SIP document was the formulated by Programme Management Bureau, a body consisting of representatives of Government of India and the EC Delegation, headed by Joint Secretary in the Department of Family Welfare. The Sector Investment Programme has been formulated in accordance with the provisions of the Financing Agreement signed between Government of India and the European Commission on September 2, 1997. The deliberations of workshops of the states, donors and NGOs and other stakeholders in the months of April and June 1999 provided additional inputs for the SIP. In conformity with the guidelines of the Financing Agreement, the main objectives of the Sector Investment Programme are to strengthen the Reform Process in the Family Welfare Sector to operationalise the Reforms already agreed upon at the State and district levels and also to support identified major

activities launched under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme at the national and state levels.

(c) No, Sir. The SIP document was finally approved on 16th November, 1999 and not on 22.7.1999.

(d) Does not arise.

Voodoo Practitioners and Black Magic

4985. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of Voodoo Practitioners and 'Black Magic' incidents have been reported in several places in the country especially in Telangana Region; and

(b) if so, the action taken to curb such practices and rescue the villagers from Voodoo Practitioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The Government have no information. However, information from the Government of Andhra Pradesh is yet to be received.

Cervical Cancer

4986. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of cervical cancer among female has been found to be alarmingly increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases detected in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the details of tests being done in the country in regard to survival cancer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The time trend analysis data from Population Based Cancer Registries over the last decade shows a decrease in incidence of cervical cancer in Bangalore and Chennai. Exact reasons for this decrease are not known. However, increase in socio-economic status and better sexual hygiene are hypothesised to be associated with a decrease in incidence of cervical cancer.

The age specific incidence rate of cervical cancer among women in different population based cancer registries under National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian

Council of Medical Research vary between 19.5 to 41.9 per 1,00,000 women.

(d) The cervical cancer is diagnosed by History taking Clinical Examination Routine Bio-Chemical, Pathological and Radiological tests; the biopsy facilities are available wherever pathology departments are there. The Regional Cancer Centres are undertaking Pap Smear Test for which Kits have been supplied to them out of WHO funds in 1999.

AIDS Lies in Manipur

4987. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'AIDS lies in Manipur' in Asian Age on October 31, 2000; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the news item had quoted the number of HIV infections as 4079 in Manipur. The website of NACO under the Chapter 'India Scenario' provides details on the process of HIV estimation among adult population using 1998 data. The figure 4079 quoted in the table against Manipur is the number of HIV infection among STD patients and general population. The figures for HIV among injecting drug users (IVDUs) is provided at the end of the table, which the correspondent overlooked. The number of HIV infections among IVDUs in Manipur is 34,500. The total number of infections in Manipur would therefore be 38,579 and not 4079 as reported in the article. The clarification to this effect has already been sent to the Editor and the same was published in the newspaper in its issues dated 5th November, 2000.

Roster System

4988. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court in case of R.K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab as well as J.C. Mallick Vs. Ministry of Railways has held that 'the vacancy Based Rosters' can operate only till such time the representation of persons belonging of the reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation; and

(b) if so, the details of Class I, II, III and Class IV category/grade under the Union Government and Public Sector Undertakings / Autonomous / Attached / Sub-Ordinate Organizations under its control where the representation of persons belonging to the SC/ST categories has reached the

prescribed percentage of reservation and because of which 'Post Based Rosters' have been introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Roster'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) As per the Supreme Court Judgement in R.K. Sabharwal case, reservation has to be with reference to posts and not vacancies. A post based roster is a mechanism to ensure that the reserved categories get their due share of posts upto the prescribed percentages of reservation for the concerned categories in line with the principles enunciated in the aforesaid judgement of the Supreme Court. The Ld. Attorney General has also opined that the post based rosters are consistent with the judgement of the Supreme Court in the aforesaid case and the Government could not have continued the old vacancy based rosters. Post based rosters are required to be maintained by all Ministries/Departments etc.

Medical and Dental College (Ghaziabad)

4989. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of alleged irregularities and malpractices in Santosh Medical College, Ghaziabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Medical Council of India had permitted the Santosh Medical and Dental College Hospital in Ghaziabad (UP) to run without its fulfilling the requisite norms;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter; and

(f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) A PIL No.1885/2000 has been filed in the Delhi High Court alleging infrastructural deficiencies in the running of Santosh Medical College, Ghaziabad. The matter is subjudice.

(c) and (d) On the recommendations of the Medical Council of India, permission of the Central Government was granted on 15.1.1996 for a period of one year for the establishment of Santosh Medical College at Ghaziabad with intake of 50 students. Subsequently, permission for admission of 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th batch of students was also renewed on the recommendations of the Medical Council of India. The facilities for admission of 6th batch of students during 2000-2001 were, however, not found upto the mark by the Medical Council of India. Consequently, MCI has not recommended renewal of permission for admission of next batch of students in the college during 2000-2001; and therefore, permission for admission of students during 2000-2001 has not been granted.

Similarly, on the recommendations of the Dental Council of India (DCI), permission of the Central Government was granted on 5.2.1996 for establishment of Santosh Medical College at Ghaziabad with intake of 40 students. Subsequently, on the basis of the recommendations of the DCI, permission of Central Government has been renewed upto 4th year. The last permission for 4th year course was renewed on 8.9.2000. The recommendations of the DCI for recognition of the BDS degree of this college are awaited.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

MPLADS

4990. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed some agencies to take care and maintain the assets during construction under MPLADS programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof with terms of reference of such agencies and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the assets constructed from MPLADS funds are being handed over to some local bodies for permanent maintenance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (d) Under MPLADS, the District Collector before undertaking works, ascertains that the durable assets created under the Scheme would be maintained by the beneficiary organisations, or departments of Government responsible for assets of that kind.

Regularisation of Medical Officers

4991. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has directed Department of ISM&H Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to regularize the services of some Unani medical officers working in CGHS, New Delhi within two months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The Delhi High Court had given directions to pass appropriate orders on the basis of the recommendation of the Union Public Service Commission relating to regularisation of adhoc services of two Unani Physicians.

(c) Appropriate action has been initiated on the recommendation of the UPSC.

Treasures of Osho

4992. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD :

SHRI VINOD KHANNA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain foreign organisations in USA have managed to acquire full legal rights and control over intellectual heritage of spiritual master Osho;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to bring back his vast treasures available in the form of books, audio and video tapes, meditation techniques, signature paintings etc. to their rightful place in Pune?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to

(c) Intellectual Property rights are proprietary in nature and for their infringement/abuse, the owner of these rights has to take recourse to such civil or criminal remedies as are available under the relevant Acts. The Government of India has no role to play in the legal disputes relating to these private rights.

Industrial Dispute Act

4993. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Second Labour Commission has not yet submitted its recommendation on Industrial Dispute Act;

(b) whether it is a also fact that without the Commission's recommendation Government have taken a decision over an amendment to the Industrial Dispute Act; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are received by the Government from time to time. Various Amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are proposed based on the suggestions of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. This is an on-going exercise which depends on the economic environment of the country, and the changes that take place in the domestic industrial climate and labour market.

Delayed Projects

4994. SHRI JAI PRAKASH Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of projects costing more than twenty crore rupees in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) number of projects out of them lagging behind the schedule;

(c) the details of the cost escalation as a result of non-completion of these projects within the stipulated time; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for early completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) As on 1.10.2000, there are 45 Central Sector Projects costing more than Rs.20 crores, under implementation in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Of these 45 projects, 23 are running behind their approved original schedule and 16 projects do not have any date of commissioning.

(c) The cost of these 23 delayed projects, has increased from the original approved cost of Rs.8764.49 crores to the now anticipated cost of Rs.14589.70 crores, i.e., by 66.46%. Details of delayed projects is given in the Annexure.

(d) The steps taken for speedy implementation of these projects vary from project to project, depending upon the problems facing them. However, in general, the following remedial measures have been taken for timely completion of the projects :

- (i) review of projects on monthly as well as quarterly basis by the Government;
- (ii) indepth critical review of the progress by the Project Authorities and administrative Ministries and follow up with the State Governments (for acquisition of land and provision of infrastructure facilities like water and power, ensuring law and order at project sites, etc.), consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays;
- (iii) setting up of an Empowered Committee in each administrative Ministry for resolution of problems;
- (iv) bringing modifications in the Land Acquisition Act and Rehabilitation Packages;
- (v) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving problems of inter-ministerial nature;
- (vi) making available matching funds to complete the projects in the advanced stage of implementation as per revised schedule; and
- (vii) reviews by the Minister-in-charge, Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Secretariat.

Statement

List of Delayed Projects w.r.t. the Original Schedule in the State of Uttar Pradesh (as on 01.10.2000)

Unit : (Cost/Expenditure :Rs.in Crores)															
Sl No.	Project (District) (State)	Capacity	Date of Govt. Approv. Original (RVSD)	Date of commissioning Original (Revised)	Antici- pated (L. rep)	Time over Run (months)			Cost		% cost over run on original (revised)	Expendi- ture till 3/2000	2000-01 BE(RE)	Annual expendi- ture till quarter	Cumu- lative expendi- ture
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
SECTOR : CIVIL AVIATION															
AAI															
1	Varanasi STIC of MSSR Varanasi Uttar Pradesh		1999/03	2000/03	2000/10	7 58	0	7 58	21.54 21.54	21.54	0 0	4.07	12.50	1.88	5.95
SECTOR : I & B															
AIR															
2	Rep/Inst two nos. Trs Towers Aligarh Uttar Pradesh	2x250	1995/02	1998/03	2002/09	54 146	0	54 146	32.20 32.20	32.20	0 0	4.39	0.43	0.13	4.52
SECTOR : PETROLEUM															
IOC															
3	Mathura Ref. Sec. Process Mathura Uttar Pradesh	MMTP 1.2	1996/05	1999/12	2000/07	7 16	0	7 16	1041.00 1068.00	1068.00	3 3	903.00	163.98 120.00	22.83	925.83 (compl eted)
SECTOR : POWER															
NHPC															
4	Dhauliganga H.E.P.-I Pithoragarh Uttar Pradesh	MW 4*70	1991/04	1998/10	2005/03	77 86	0	77 86	601.98 1578.31	1578.31	162 162	255.31	253.00	71.20	326.51

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
THDCCL															
5	Tehri Dam H.P.P. Tehri Uttar Pradesh	MW 1000	1994/03	1999/03	2002/03	36 60	0	36 60	2963.66	5690.64	92 92	2392.07		202.41	2594.48
SECTOR HEALTH & FW H & FW															
6	Biologicals N Institute Noida Uttar Pradesh		1992/03	2001/03	2005/03	48 44	12	48 44	69.74	269.24	286 286	72.43	11.32	2.62	75.05
SECTOR : RAILWAYS DOUBL															
7	Chandanpur Gurup 3rd Line, ER Uttar Pradesh	KMS 17.24	1994/04	1998/12	2001/06	30 54	15	30 54	25.29	23.28	-8 -8	22.47	10.00	8.66	31.13
8	Muradnagar Meerut, NR Uttar Pradesh	KMS 29.50	1995/04	1998/09	2000/10	25 61	0	25 61	31.00 39.62	62.59	102 58	30.61	15.00	7.00	37.61
9	Gonda- Janwal RD NER Uttar Pradesh	KMS 45.45	1996/12	2000/02	2001/03	13 34	9	13 34	58.56	60.69	4 4	26.07	13.69	6.84	32.91
10	Ghaziabad- Moradabad INR Uttar Pradesh	KMS 36.97	1995/04	1998/06	2000/12	30 79	2	30 79	30.00 43.64	65.81	119 51	47.94	18.00 18.00	8.00	55.94
WS&PU															
11	DLW-4000 HP : Diesel Locos Varanasi Uttar Pradesh		1998/10	2001/03	2003/03	24 83	0	24 83	37.44	37.44	0 0	5.10	14.09	0.25	5.35

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
SECTOR : SURFACE TRANSPORT															
RD&BR															
12	NAINI Bridge NH2 and NH27 Allahabad		1995/03	2001/06 2001/06	2003/04	22 29	22	22 29	100.36 300.00	393.00	92 31	8.75	-	-	8.75
PROJECTS PASSING THROUGH UTTAR PRADESH															
SECTOR : COAL															
NCL															
13	Dudhichua OC Phase-I Sidhi M.P./U.P.	10.0 MTY	1992/08	1998/03 1998/03	2004/03	72 107	0	72 107	868.93 868.93	1271.31	46 46	950.03	153.56	2.48	952.51
SECTOR : PETROLEUM															
IOC															
14	Branch line to Meerut UP/HRY		1998/04	2000/06	2000/11	5 19	3	5 19	44.00	33.00	-25 -25	14.01	14.00	12.70	26.71
SECTOR : POWER															
P. GRID															
15	LDC.NR		1995/03	2000/03	2002/01	22 37	0	22 37	479.51	551.56	15 15	177.89	179.46 138.05	42.08	219.97
16	Tehri Tr. System Tehri Delhi/UP	KV 800 CKM 3000	1994/03 1994/03	1999/03	2001/10	31 52	0	31 52	421.00	548.54	30 30	225.33	154.39 135.36	24.60	249.93
17	North-East HVDC Link Allahabad UP/BI	KV 400CKM 560 MW 1X500	1998/09	2001/12	2002/10	10 26	0	10 26	671.56	671.56	0 0	97.98	175.30 122.56	69.74	167.72
SECTOR : RAILWAYS															
DOUBL															
18	Sonagar Mgs 3rd Line ER BH/UP	KMS 105	1990/04 1992/11	1994/03	2001/06	87 185	6	87 185	165.00 139.25	229.75	39 65	212.00		25.88	237.88

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
NL															
19	Guna-Etawah, C.M.P./U.P.	KMS 348.25	1985/04 1990/04	1994/03	2003/12	117 109	0	17 109	158.77 248.00	337.33	112 36	251.39	25.00	13.06	264.45
FOIS															
20	Freight- Operation. Inf.Sys CRIS All India		1984/03 1989/11	1995/03	2000/09	66 50	2	66 50	520.00 1098.00	1098.00	111 0	212.01	20.00	4.16	216.17
RE															
21	Sitarampur- Mugulsarai BI/UP	KMS 557	1992/03	1998/03	2001/07	40 56	0	40 56	240.40	363.36	51 51	314.08	20.30	10.80	324.88
22	Ambala- Moradabad PB/HR/UP	KMS 274	1993/03	1998/03	2003/03 1998/03	60 100	0	60 100	152.21	152.21	0 0	44.37	-	8.96	53.33
SECTOR: TELECOMMUNICATION															
VSNL															
23	N.Delhi- Dehradun MW Sys DE/UP -	CKTS 5670	1996/11	1998/03 1999/07	2001/01 213	34 213	0	18 56	30.34	30.34	0 0	18.90	-	-	18.90

Legends

AAJ	-	Airports Authority of India
AIR	-	All India Radio
DOUBL	-	Doubling of Lines
FOIS	-	Freight Operation and information systems
H & FW	-	Health and Family Welfare
IOC	-	Indian Oil Corporation Limited
NHPC	-	National Hydro Electric Power Corporation
NCL	-	Northern Coal Fields Limited
NL	-	New Lines
RD & BR	-	Roads and Bridges
RE	-	Railway Electrification
THDC	-	Tehri Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited
VSNL	-	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited
WS & PU	-	Workshops and production units

Number of Beedi Workers

4995. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any clear picture of the number of Beedi Workers in the country;

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

(c) the number of them provided with Identity cards, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) There are about 44.11 lakh beedi workers in the country.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement*Number of Beedi Workers*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of Beedi workers estimated	No. of identity cards issued
1.	Andhra Pradesh	625000	518954
2.	Assam	7725	5791
3.	Bihar	391500	244847
4.	Gujarat	50000	48396
5.	Karnataka	360876	298395
6.	Kerala	136416	112887
7.	Madhya Pradesh	750000	693239
8.	Maharashtra	256000	202435
9.	Orissa	160000	147274
10.	Rajasthan	100000	70930
11.	Tripura	5000	4814
12.	Tamil Nadu	621000	604949
13.	Uttar Pradesh	450000	239672
14.	West Bengal	497758	497758
Total		4411275	3690341

Cross Border Terrorism

4996. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether pressure is being mounted on Pakistan by US, Russia, UK, France and European Union to stop cross-border terrorism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Members of the international community openly acknowledge Pakistan's state sponsorship of cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India, and have also expressed concern at the impact this has on the security of our country and the region. This concern is reflected in the international media coverage on Pakistan, and in statements issued by official spokesmen of several Governments. The Government of Pakistan has also been called upon to crack down on terrorist groups located in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied territories.

The international community is fully aware of the dangerous fillip provided to global terrorism by Pakistan's policies and support for groups subscribing to violent and obscurantist ideologies. Pakistan, along with the Taliban controlled territories in Afghanistan are now identified as the new centres of global terrorism.

HIV/AIDS Programme

4997. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether current on-going programme of HIV/AIDS is being challenged on scientists forum;

(b) whether Government discussed above programme with scientists opposing current AIDS programme;

(c) whether any International Conference was held at Nagpur on validity of HIV/AIDS programme including methods of testing;

(d) if so, the outcome of the above conference; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. A conference was held at Academy of Nutrition Improvement, Nagpur on 30th - 31st January, 2000.

However, in the conference no recommendations were finalized and no formal documents signed.

Militants' Activities in Kashmir Valley

4998. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain reports on 'Pak convicts offered road to freedom through Kashmir' appeared in some newspaper on November 12, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the report which appeared in the Hindustan Times on 12th November 2000.

(b) and (c) Pakistan's intelligence agencies use, among others, the services of criminals involved in the illicit narcotics and arms trade, as well as other illegal activities to sponsor cross border terrorism and violence in India.

Government is firm in its resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Little cheer for CGHS Beneficiaries

4999. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Little Cheer for CGHS beneficiaries' appeared in the Times of India on June 19, 2000;

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

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to open 'polyclinic' in R.K. Puram to provide the facilities to the CGHS beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, the decision of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is given in the statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.

Statement

The patient-doctor-staff ratio is adequate in CGHS dispensaries. By and large, all the medicines for day to day requirement are available in the CGHS dispensaries. In case, any medicine prescribed by the Specialist is not available in the dispensary, the same is procured from authorised local chemist against individual prescription. In emergency, an authority slip is given to the patient for immediate procurement of the medicine from the authorised local chemist for which the beneficiary does not have to make any payment. The Medical reimbursement claims of CGHS beneficiaries are generally processed within 4 to 8 weeks time except in a few cases where clarifications/concurrence has to be obtained for taking decisions.

There is no curtailment of benefits for the CGHS beneficiaries either through restrictive measures or by way of withdrawal of facilities. Instead, the CGHS is constantly striving to improve and augment its services. Further, the CGHS is providing the required services and medicines to the beneficiaries through its dispensaries. Only such cases are referred to Specialists of Govt./Private hospitals recognised under CGHS where the expert opinion/consultation/medical procedures are needed by the beneficiaries.

Rates of CGHS contribution have been enhanced with effect from 1.5.98 in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Fifth Central Pay Commission and after obtaining concurrence of the Ministry of Finance. The benefits under the scheme are extended equally to all its beneficiaries irrespective of status or class and there is no question of giving an elitist approach to the Scheme.

[Translation]

CGHS Dispensaries in Karnataka and Maharashtra

5000. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Dispensaries under Central Government Health Scheme in Karnataka and Maharashtra;

(b) the number out of them are in Bangalore, Bellary and Hubli;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open more CGHS dispensaries in these States;

- (d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and
 (e) the decision of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The number of dispensaries under CGHS in Karnataka is 14 and all the dispensaries are located in Bangalore only. There are no CGHS dispensaries in Bellary and Hubli.

The number of dispensaries under the CGHS in Maharashtra is 57 as per details given below :

i) Mumbai	34
ii) Nagpur	13
iii) Pune	10

(c) to (e) Though there are proposals for opening of more CGHS dispensaries at Pune, Mumbai and Bangalore in the remaining part of the Ninth Five year Plan but pending implementation of the SIU Report of November, 1999, on CGHS (Allopathic) dispensaries, it will not be possible to open more CGHS dispensaries at these places at present.

[English]

Promotion of Traditional Professions

5001. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to promote various traditional professions such as feeding of Silkworm, Honey bees, Fulkari, Sheep Husbandary, Wool Industry, Weaving of Pashmina Shawls, Blankets, Carpets, Fishery, Pottery, Bamboo Nitting and other rural and economic professions in Jammu and Kashmir State and also make these professions commercially viable;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter;

(c) whether the Union Government have any plan to implement long-term programme in collaboration with the State Governments for such traditional professions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) The Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) under which the financial assistance is provided by the KVIC to set up Khadi or industrial units in rural areas is being implemented throughout the country including Jammu and Kashmir. Almost all the industries except fishery, animal husbandry etc., are covered under the scheme. Under the Scheme, 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs is provided as margin money and above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs, the rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% of the balance cost of the project. For weaker sections and hilly areas margin money is given at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the balance amount (upto Rs. 25 lakhs) it is 10%. Moreover, the benefits under this scheme are admissible to all the village industries except those which are mentioned in a small negative list.

An amount of Rs. 3.30 Cores has been allocated to J and K State KVI Board as margin money (under the REGP) by the KVIC and full amount has been released to them as on 31.3.1999. The Board has utilized the entire amount released to them. The KVIC has also sanctioned an amount of Rs. 3.00 Cores to the Board under REGP grant for the year 2000-2001 to implement the Margin Money Scheme through Cooperative Banks, State Finance Corporation, Private Banks etc.

Assistance for National Programmes

5002. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the central assistance provided under various National Health Programmes such as control of Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy, AIDS, Cancer and Family Welfare Programmes during last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have released its share for the current year for these programmes;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Statements showing the details of Central assistance provided to the States/UTs in respect of major Health and Family Welfare Programmes during 1997-98 to 2000-2001 are given in

statement. Barring Cancer, the various disease control programmes are being implemented as Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Under Cancer Control Programme, Central assistance is provided mainly to Regional Cancer Centres and identified medical colleges/institutions in various States.

Statement

State/UT wise distribution of Allocation and Expenditure during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 under NAMP.

(Rs.in lakhs)

States/UTs	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	779.03	617.00	464.91	482.93	322.86	663.50
2. Arunchal Pradesh	258.74	297.50	270.42	186.61	303.27	229.22
3. Assam	2207.29	2618.00	2435.18	2170.42	2267.01	2616.73
4. Bihar	588.52	348.98	508.90	403.05	481.35	578.66
5. Goa	10.26	5.18	21.72	7.72	10.93	4.54
6. Gujarat	684.25	726.17	998.62	611.11	489.01	349.95
7. Haryana	448.17	291.08	293.13	260.39	259.03	160.95
8. Himachal Pradesh	112.06	90.84	62.33	51.77	45.11	92.45
9. Jammu and Kashmir	92.78	78.62	48.55	72.57	52.73	103.40
10. Karnataka	542.97	568.62	494.50	264.47	602.66	229.29
11. Kerala	86.30	63.60	122.58	102.73	117.72	49.63
12. Madhya Pradesh	1115.47	1072.77	335.81	454.49	893.40	443.28
13. Maharashtra	913.05	1028.44	680.47	260.26	282.97	181.51
14. Manipur	324.52	273.91	435.75	377.34	403.05	219.53
15. Meghalaya	239.15	196.96	261.44	231.55	306.70	212.27
16. Mizoram	195.47	132.00	286.17	172.53	309.56	190.05
17. Nagaland	193.37	212.62	192.53	183.34	240.83	308.33
18. Orissa	421.84	233.43	392.47	385.14	329.67	436.17
19. Punjab	356.58	183.26	437.50	290.67	288.96	148.45
20. Rajasthan	1449.38	1799.74	2015.38	1994.15	1146.16	1075.71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21. Sikkim	0.94	1.77	10.06	8.47	11.65	7.90
22. Tamil Nadu	427.25	204.88	268.29	240.72	392.31	114.19
23. Tripura	322.71	414.05	413.64	356.97	375.89	379.31
24. Uttar Pradesh	881.62	505.73	825.01	1121.92	622.18	527.80
25. West Bengal	465.28	125.71	454.92	330.90	296.26	501.99
26. Delhi	49.16	93.93	69.56	37.21	75.40	20.10
27. Pondicherry	7.72	48.53	11.08	6.15	10.32	11.28
28. A and N Islands	126.19	24.75	99.44	155.68	116.46	111.28
29. Chandigarh	23.81	12.37	43.15	44.30	47.25	34.55
30. D and N Haveli	76.42	66.04	24.93	24.90	25.94	34.85
31. Daman and Diu	34.15	3.48	15.80	10.08	16.42	12.97
32. Lakshadweep	12.55	12.48	4.96	5.24	5.81	5.82
Total	13447.00	12352.34	12999.20	11305.48	11210.00	10055.84
Kala-azar	1000.00	970.73	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
Estt/Research/ Publicity	553.00	513.76	700.80	571.10	694.00	541.35
EAC	5000.00	414.00	15000.00	3517.39	12000.00	6064.95
NDCP	-	-	-	-	100.00	-
Grand Total :	20000.00	14250.83	29700.00	16393.97	25000.00	17662.14

State-wise distribution of Central Assistance Released so far during 2000-2001

(Rs.in lakhs)

States/UTs	NAMP including KALA-AZAR	EAC	Total
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	259.39	90.38	349.17
2. Arunchal Pradesh	185.31	-	185.31
3. Assam	1156.53	-	1156.53
4. Bihar	53.81	5.00	57.81
5. Goa	0.51	-	0.51

1	2	3	4
6. Gujarat	90.17	997.16	1087.33
7. Haryana	-	-	-
8. Himachal Pradesh	55.11	-	55.11
9. Jammu and Kashmir	76.65	-	76.65
10. Karnataka	141.63	-	141.63
11. Kerala	1.25	-	1.25
12. Madhya Pradesh	199.59	1055.53	1255.12
13. Maharashtra	131.86	963.86	1095.72
14. Manipur	131.43	-	131.43
15. Meghalaya	226.10	-	226.10
16. Mizoram	124.45	-	124.45
17. Nagaland	131.82	-	131.82
18. Orissa	86.68	491.43	578.11
19. Punjab	49.17	-	49.17
20. Rajasthan	34.45	25.00	59.46
21. Sikkim	-	-	-
22. Tamil Nadu	58.66	-	58.66
23. Tripura	225.12	-	225.12
24. Uttar Pradesh	213.83	-	213.83
25. West Bengal	370.80	-	370.80
26. Delhi	18.54	-	18.54
27. Pondicherry	3.79	-	3.79
28. A and N Islands	2.14	-	2.14
29. Chandigarh	2.23	-	2.23
30. D and N Haveli	0.01	-	0.01
31. Daman and Diu	0.50	-	0.50
32. Lakshadweep	-	-	-
Total	4030.54	3628.36	7658.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
15	Meghalaya	9.00	2.59	10.00	21.59	3.50	2.59	66.22	72.31	1.74	4.16	39.10	45.00	1.00	0.80
16	Mizoram	19.00	0.34	42.00	61.34	30.00	0.34	45.43	75.77	30.00	1.62	19.60	51.22	12.00	
17	Nagaland	8.00	1.20	120.49	129.69	7.50	1.20	41.00	49.70	8.00	0.00	98.09	106.09	4.00	4.05
18	Orissa	168.00	250.94	276.65	695.59	153.10	230.94	169.00	553.04	170.00	133.42	277.67	581.09	92.00	170.92
19	Punjab	30.00	3.96	7.00	40.96	30.00	3.96	101.00	134.96	34.94	6.87	63.52	105.33	11.50	4.07
20	Rajasthan	30.00	22.00	5.00	57.00	60.00	22.00	425.51	507.51	61.00	0.00	87.37	148.37	26.00	
21	Sikkim	21.00	1.00	27.40	49.40	22.00	1.00	42.00	65.00	22.00	0.00	49.36	71.36	9.40	1.29
22	Tamil Nadu	117.00	136.56	0.00	253.56	125.00	64.43	160.00	349.43	92.50	122.11	138.68	353.29	50.00	76.45
23	Tripura	20.00	1.50	-	21.50	24.00	1.50	50.35	75.85	23.80	0.00	24.18	47.98	10.00	
24	Uttar Pradesh	143.25	250.86	636.70	1030.81	182.00	303.36	426.00	911.36	164.40	290.46	1147.14	1602.00	94.90	255.03
25	West Bengal	98.00	242.85	299.81	640.66	113.80	207.85	139.00	460.65	109.11	215.31	335.22	659.64	76.40	14.01
26	A and N Islands	6.50		0.00	6.50	6.50		-	6.50	2.00	4.63	0.00	6.63	1.00	
27	Chandigarh	0.50		-	0.50	1.00		5.00	6.00	2.00	5.58	7.21	14.79	0.50	
28	D and N Haveli	0.50		5.96	6.46	1.00		-	1.00	1.00	0.17	0.00	1.17	10.50	1.48
29	Daman and Diu	4.50		0.00	4.50	9.50		0.00	9.50	0	0.00	0.00	0.50	1.00	
30	Delhi	0.50		-	0.50	1.50		51.15	52.65	1.00	2.38	10.00	13.38	1.00	33.25
31	Lakshadweep	2.00		-	2.00	2.00		9.53	11.53	1.00	0.36	0.00	1.36	1.00	
32	Pondicherry	3.50		12.95	16.45	1.85		0.00	1.85	9.50	0.00	0.00	9.50	1.00	
Total		1528.00	2130.72	3921.00	7579.72	1678.15	1950.00	4049.99	7678.14	1474.00	1794.63	4705.99	7974.62	743.80	1289.40

Funds release and expenditure

(Rs in lakh)

Sl. No	Name of the State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01
		Total Release	Total Expenditure	Total Release	Total Expenditure	Total Release	Total Expenditure	Total Releases
1	Andhra Pradesh	199.76	189.62	563.51	533.96	1106.92	381.34	405.61
2	Assam	61.72	47.09	101.48	95.01	356.57	196.15	88.73
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1.45	1.45	17.79	1.66	21.69	18.37	50.77
4	Bihar	289.40	261.26	640.74	369.15	1313.68	610.60	22.62
5	Goa	1.80	1.80	3.33	2.07	7.01	2.87	9.98
6	Gujarat	227.21	92.35	629.92	240.52	758.47	403.99	216.09
7	Haryana	44.86	44.86	64.95	63.69	320.47	124.07	63.92
8	Himachal Pradesh	50.74	21.36	123.07	66.23	180.93	113.84	99.61
9	Jammu & Kashmir	21.15	21.15	27.91	26.65	114.19	63.12	79.18
10	Karnataka	163.46	110.69	423.08	240.57	708.23	373.56	231.02
11	Kerala	160.39	58.16	456.91	191.17	478.95	247.28	84.06
12	Madhya Pradesh	211.17	177.49	264.53	234.91	1057.69	607.56	87.09
13	Maharashtra	222.03	183.14	572.19	395.65	1641.14	957.37	981.32
14	Manipur	11.79	9.62	34.24	18.20	47.98	30.56	74.14
15	Meghalaya	4.88	4.88	7.17	5.91	26.99	15.45	7.54
16	Mizoram	1.97	1.97	12.24	2.31	9.74	5.15	2.89
17	Nagaland	1.57	1.57	11.74	1.81	19.41	15.79	17.74
18	Orissa	73.69	73.69	226.45	215.52	630.13	262.24	189.67
19	Punjab	54.41	54.41	97.37	96.11	223.16	64.22	32.42
20	Rajasthan	148.92	120.96	250.18	183.93	1114.74	484.87	465.45
21	Sikkim	1.08	1.08	11.44	1.51	10.89	8.14	25.90
22	Tamil Nadu	197.45	142.38	476.68	271.90	1029.09	421.77	493.32
23	Tripura	7.57	7.57	10.01	8.75	38.69	21.19	11.56
24	Uttar Pradesh	411.98	369.02	792.70	694.56	2437.33	1201.44	116.26
25	West Bengal	382.85	163.40	713.07	461.73	1483.12	529.16	143.02
26	A & N Islands	14.27	14.27	10.75	0.82	2.81	1.17	0.99
27	Chandigarh	39.67	39.67	12.20	2.27	8.06	3.52	12.95
28	Pondicherry	3.31	3.31	11.75	1.82	6.75	2.61	3.35
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7.70	7.70	0.44	0.44	1.51	0.63	0.70
30	Daman & Diu	5.51	5.51	0.32	0.32	1.09	0.45	0.56
31	Lakshadweep	2.85	2.85	0.16	0.16	0.55	0.23	2.11
32	Delhi	228.96	65.29	71.16	84.86	381.66	155.78	17.97
Total		3255.57	2299.57	4897.06	4514.17	5055.16	7324.49	4038.54

Besides above commodity assistance of RNTCP drugs and sputum positive drugs for NTP area and binocular microscopes were also supplied to the States and U.P.

*National AIDS Control programme**Release of Funds*

Sl. No	Name of the State/UT	1997-98 Grants Released	1998-99 Grants Released	1999-2000 Grants Released	2000-01 Grants Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	425.00	650.00	1219.67	223.50
2	Arunachal Pradesh	25.00	30.00	159.00	19.00
3	Assam	100.00	100.00	322.00	194.00
4	Bihar	50.00	110.00	55.00	96.00
5	Goa	50.00	35.00	98.00	16.50
6	Gujarat	250.00	230.00	721.00	97.00
7	Haryana	75.00	160.00	270.00	124.50
8	Himachal Pradesh	225.00	115.00	318.00	108.50
9	Jammu & Kashmir	25.00	25.00	25.00	50.00
10	Karnataka	175.00	335.00	801.67	203.00
11	Kerala	100.00	65.00	280.00	193.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	150.00	315.00	352.38	310.00
13	Maharashtra	950.00	800.00	998.35	302.00
14	Manipur	150.00	245.00	352.38	205.00
15	Meghalaya	25.00	30.00	70.14	17.50
16	Mizoram	100.00	100.00	168.00	65.00
17	Nagaland	155.00	227.00	380.00	113.50
18	Orissa	75.00	100.00	200.00	118.50
19	Punjab	75.00	150.00	312.39	101.50
20	Rajasthan	225.00	100.00	150.00	210.00
21	Sikkim	50.00	50.00	25.00	23.00
22	Tamil Nadu	2000.00	800.00	883.09	367.00
23	Tripura	50.00	20.00	50.00	40.00
24	Uttar Pradesh	495.00	200.00	851.00	450.00
25	West Bengal	100.00	350.00	425.00	292.50
26	Delhi	25.00	110.00	283.00	150.00
27	Pondicherry	0.00	40.00	25.00	21.50
28	A & N Islands	31.09	20.00	50.00	42.50
29	Chandigarh	28.00	60.00	115.00	63.00
30	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	16.00		25.00	9.00
31	Daman & Diu	24.22	15.00	95.00	9.00
32	Lakshadweep	15.42		25.00	8.50
33	MDACS, Mumbai		350.00	670.00	297.00
34	Ahmedabad MC		5.00	75.00	28.50
35	Chennai MC			125.00	39.50
Total		6239.73	5942.00	10975.00	4609.50

Funds Released to States under National Programme for Control of Blindness

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000		
	Cash Grants	GIA to DBCS	Total Grants	Cash Grants	GIA to DBCS	Total Grants	Cash Grants	GIA to DBCS	Total Grants
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
World Bank Project States									
Andhra Pradesh	204.34	257.00	461.34	88.50	445.00	533.50	159.25	275.15	434.40
Madhya Pradesh	138.40	455.00	593.40	568.67	408.00	976.67	223.50	517.31	740.81
Maharashtra	99.27	313.00	412.27	87.00	362.25	449.25	352.75	312.13	664.88
Orissa	312.20	204.00	516.20	331.08	220.00	551.08	129.25	291.00	420.25
Rajasthan	46.60	243.00	289.60	35.50	289.00	324.50	122.50	191.68	314.18
Tamil Nadu	444.47	219.00	663.47	551.00	315.85	866.85	462.18	547.64	1,009.82
Uttar Pradesh	138.28	564.00	702.28	207.25	599.50	806.75	318.32	471.00	789.32
Sub-Total	1,383.56	2,255.00	3,638.56	1,869.00	2,639.60	4,508.60	1,767.75	2,605.91	4,373.66
Other States									
Arunachal Pradesh	4.04	5.00	9.04	4.50	5.00	9.50	6.00	12.00	18.00
Assam	4.54	85.50	90.04	49.65	57.50	107.15	24.75	62.00	86.75
Bihar	7.44	167.50	174.94	19.50	184.50	204.00	18.00	147.00	165.00
Delhi	1.25	11.50	12.75	11.20	13.50	24.70	12.52	30.00	42.52
Goa	5.25	3.50	8.75	63.00	0.15	63.15	11.50	3.00	14.50
Gujarat	4.01	125.50	129.51	39.99	114.15	154.14	268.52	128.00	396.52
Haryana	2.97	54.50	57.47	37.50	63.50	101.00	115.27	55.00	170.27
Himachal Pradesh	2.97	29.50	32.47	34.03	49.50	83.53	55.25	31.00	86.25
Jammu and Kashmir	20.66	19.00	39.66	52.50	39.50	92.00	22.75	18.00	40.75
Karnataka	11.78	159.00	170.78	62.01	196.00	258.01	175.25	176.95	352.20
Kerala	6.84	54.50	61.34	16.07	75.50	91.57	107.24	115.35	222.59
Manipur	1.77	8.50	10.27	16.76	9.15	25.91	7.00	0.00	7.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Meghalaya	4.56	17.50	22.06	11.60	15.23	26.83	9.00	15.00	24.00
Mizoram	1.54	5.00	6.54	16.60	9.15	25.75	9.50	20.00	29.50
Nagaland	3.85	2.50	6.35	56.95	7.15	64.10	11.00	3.00	14.00
Punjab	4.15	52.50	56.65	5.10	51.50	56.60	121.61	78.00	199.61
Sikkim	7.92	0.00	7.92	26.30	12.00	38.30	6.25	12.00	18.25
Tripura	7.77	12.50	20.27	37.74	13.15	50.89	17.39	18.00	35.39
West Bengal	3.25	54.00	57.25	6.20	135.50	141.70	77.10	127.00	204.10
A and N Islands	4.00	3.00	7.00	3.80	4.00	7.80	10.67	0.00	10.67
Chandigarh	4.00	3.00	7.00	3.60	7.00	10.60	10.24	1.00	11.24
DandN Haveli	4.00	3.00	7.00	3.70	3.00	6.70	2.50	0.00	2.50
Daman and Diu	4.00	0.00	4.00	3.70	4.00	7.70	9.40	0.00	9.40
Lakshadweep	7.04	0.00	7.04	17.70	0.00	17.70	2.72	3.00	5.72
Pondicherry	4.00	0.00	4.00	2.30	3.00	5.30	20.82	0.00	20.82
Sub Total	133.60	876.50	1,010.10	602.00	1,072.63	1,674.63	1,132.25	1,055.30	2,187.55
Grand Total	1,517.16	3,131.50	4,648.66	2,471.00	3,712.23	6,183.23	2,900.00	3,661.21	6,561.21

*National Programme for Control of Blindness
Allocation and Release of Cash Grants to the States/UTs during 2000-2001*

(Rs. in lakhs)

States/UTs	Total Allocation	Released till Dec., 2000
1	2	3
(A) World Bank Project States		
Andhra Pradesh	205.00	171.25
Madhya Pradesh	192.00	154.00
Maharashtra	363.00	331.00
Orissa	680.00	660.00
Rajasthan	673.00	651.00
Tamil Nadu	195.00	161.25
Uttar Pradesh	227.00	191.50
Sub total (A)	2535.00	2320.00

1	2	3
(B) Non Project States		
Arunachal Pradesh	28.50	26.89
Assam	107.50	98.14
Bihar	132.50	121.89
Delhi	11.50	9.64
Goa	38.20	35.65
Gujarat	199.00	185.22
Haryana	112.00	101.5
Himachal Pradesh	91.00	84.5
J and K	88.50	82.64
Karnataka	103.20	79.9
Kerala	131.50	114.8
Manipur	38.60	34.7
Meghalaya	39.10	35.09
Mizoram	33.60	30.95
Nagaland	38.60	34.7
Punjab	74.80	60.6
Sikkim	21.10	20.09
Tripura	52.30	46.47
West Bengal	135.00	122.25
A and N Island	3.75	3.75
Chandigarh	5.00	5
D and N Haveli	3.75	3.75
Daman and Diu	3.75	3.75
Lakshadweep	3.75	3.75
Pondicherry	8.50	7.09
Sub total (B)	1505.00	1352.71
Grand Total (A+B)	4040.00	3672.71

Grants in Aid (Cash and Kind) including Arrears under FW Programme

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	(Rs in lakh)									
		1997-98					1998-99				
		In cash	in kind	Total	in cash	in kind	in cash	in kind	Total	in cash	in kind
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Andhra Pradesh	6835.71	2357.25	11225.86	11652.79	2961.41	14814.20	18809.38	3023.31	18822.70	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	147.73	89.85	237.35	149.09	75.75	219.81	231.20	103.35	304.55	
3	Assam	3284.70	1185.81	4450.31	3280.45	1177.35	4437.80	7071.23	1421.03	8492.81	
4	Bihar	9394.51	2727.31	12821.82	8782.62	4025.25	12617.90	28435.90	4955.80	33304.23	
5	Goa	163.13	33.70	208.83	154.83	58.94	243.77	243.44	82.60	325.94	
6	Gujarat	9445.00	1877.12	11323.12	10503.25	2108.13	12311.95	14612.57	2800.21	17213.00	
7	Haryana	3521.84	722.45	4294.30	2745.01	906.66	2352.67	3388.18	1019.50	4407.75	
8	Himachal Pradesh	1123.72	307.30	1431.02	973.97	.57	2373.54	2009.01	338.33	2407.34	
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1873.62	284.18	2137.73	1800.73	455.77	2056.50	1803.84	458.21	2281.25	
10	Karnataka	5105.48	1275.84	8481.33	7651.43	2111.95	8782.97	18976.35	2107.10	19065.00	
11	Kerala	2951.48	973.70	3955.18	4100.93	1313.51	5502.94	5437.37	1370.24	6534.11	
12	Madhya Pradesh	8765.52	3227.75	8283.50	8528.08	4587.40	13153.54	11373.95	4958.02	15361.97	
13	Maharashtra	8298.84	2333.04	10677.65	1169.04	3572.20	10645.24	11971.24	3224.83	15096.07	
14	Manipur	452.85	132.80	585.85	605.23	108.50	731.00	907.32	147.99	1055.35	
15	Meghalaya	500.91	96.19	307.75	305.75	140.78	409.53	598.21	152.50	750.71	
16	Mizoram	221.30	74.68	228.04	239.93	68.77	307.88	368.47	25.00	444.27	
17	Nagaland	209.05	89.19	233.24	247.93	90.31	335.27	402.78	97.73	500.51	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
18	Orissa	4521.60	1337.48	5159.00	4710.89	1773.73	6454.02	9053.55	1765.53	7819.21
19	Punjab	2451.83	1117.79	3589.72	2556.65	1125.51	3884.18	2941.14	1296.95	4188.00
20	Rajasthan	7299.73	2175.85	9478.89	3442.03	2288.55	11100.84	14307.20	3283.37	17545.57
21	Sikkim	218.87	40.00	294.87	387.72	41.08	349.40	416.73	88.33	485.06
22	Tamil Nadu	10335.82	1924.00	12759.97	9197.30	2582.38	11773.68	21270.00	1833.15	23103.18
23	Tripura	411.50	151.28	572.98	1731.01	193.98	1975.58	823.48	177.00	1000.48
24	Uttar Pradesh	13275.48	5737.10	25073.58	42482.85	6773.58	51258.08	23295.83	10359.72	38852.15
25	West Bengal	5201.83	2505.16	7707.15	11122.85	3172.95	14285.80	9003.48	2344.78	11943.24
Total All States		113223.39	22373.35	142287.01	154852.79	44214.88	198237.78	203344.41	3417.24	252081.15
UTs with Legislature										
1	Pondicherry	138.53	35.49	174.02	137.85	54.55	182.40	148.13	38.19	188.32
2	Delhi	719.82	435.59	1155.41	1012.59	473.35	1435.84	2092.18	888.89	2781.07
Outlays for UTs without Legislature										
1	A & N Islands	100.34	22.08	122.40	104.60	18.00	123.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	86.25	17.08	113.33	131.33	57.72	189.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Chandigarh	34.41	5.55	39.96	93.31	9.98	29	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Lakshadweep	13.25	5.81	19.16	30.05	5.01	35.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Daman & Diu	32.25	12.15	44.40	43.50	8.55	52.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total - UTs		1134.85	533.83	1663.63	1519.23	628.15	2147.38	2243.32	737.02	2977.38
Grand Total		114353.21	33407.43	147285.68	150072.02	43443.15	201515.17	295904.73	49154.31	255058.24

Grants-in-Aid Released during 2000-2001 (Summary)

(Rs in Lakhs)														
Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Dir & Admn.	Training			Rural F.W. Services			Urban F.W. Services			CSSM Project	POL	
			Trg of ANM/ LHV	H&FW Trg Centres	Trg of MPWs (Male)	Rural FW Centres	Sub-Centres	FHG Scheme	PP Prog. At sub-div level	Urban FW Centres	Revamp. of Urban F.W. Services			PP at Distt level
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	457.50	165.00	49.92	93.38	2019.75	2250.00	39.00	273.75	192.00		187.50		76.66
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	75.68	7.50				63.75		10.50	26.25				1.41
3.	Assam	321.68	228.75	18.75		928.50	2265.00	14.25	273.75	32.25		123.75		37.19
4.	Bihar	731.25	260.25	49.92		2823.75	4500.00	11.74	225.00	81.00		210.00		102.07
5.	Goa	22.50	16.50		9.34	63.00	37.50					26.25		4.22
6.	Gujarat	427.50	135.00	24.98		1207.50	2175.00	3.38	270.00	225.00	77.25	198.75		52.92
7.	Haryana	232.50	82.50	12.42	18.68	448.50	735.00	0.31	97.50	30.75	33.75	67.50		23.37
8.	Himachal Pradesh	142.50	54.00	12.42	28.05	371.25	562.50	4.07	110.25	65.25		60.00		21.42
9.	Karnataka	525.00	176.25	24.98		1293.75	1931.25	19.39	315.00	177.00		255.75		57.34
10.	Kerala	266.25	183.75	24.98	18.68	784.50	1897.50		296.25			146.25		38.83
11.	Madhya Pradesh	671.25	330.00	49.92	130.73	2211.00	3225.00	34.64	384.00	130.50	232.50	273.75		92.73
12.	Maharashtra	472.50	258.75	49.92	65.40	2058.00	3018.75	42.08	341.25	130.50	813.75	345.00		83.72
13.	Manipur	244.50	22.50	18.75	12.00	197.25	138.75	1.91	10.50	11.25		45.00		8.51
14.	Meghalaya	70.50	22.50	18.75		147.00	146.25	1.47	10.50	6.75		33.00		7.71
15.	Mizoram	75.00	11.25		12.00	88.50	56.25	0.60	43.50	6.75		22.50		4.63
16.	Nagaland	125.25	22.50			44.25	105.00	0.62	10.50			10.50		5.93
17.	Orissa	161.25	136.50	24.98	28.05	1510.50	1912.50	25.96	307.50	21.75	26.25	112.50		58.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
18.	Punjab	150.00	93.75	12.42	28.05	619.50	525.00	10.81	176.25	46.50	175.50	126.00		30.52
19.	Rajasthan	536.25	301.50	24.98	18.68	1116.00	3375.00	10.49	513.75	99.75	108.00	208.50		58.11
20.	Tamil Nadu	427.50	127.50	37.50	28.05	1849.50	2700.00		431.25	77.25	303.00	235.50		73.29
21.	Tripura	67.58	30.00			223.50	232.50	2.07	32.25	22.50		17.25		6.69
22.	Uttar Pradesh	795.00	258.75	87.08		4368.75	6405.00	101.75	757.50	211.50	506.25	473.25		168.08
23.	West Bengal	311.25	105.00	37.50	46.69	1610.25	3225.00	47.59	272.25	240.75		232.50		62.29
	Total	7310.19	3030.00	580.17	537.78	25984.50	41482.50	372.13	5163.00	1835.25	2276.25	3411.00		1076.47
24.	Jammu & Kashmir	195.00	48.75	12.42		394.50	637.50		28.50	14.25		66.00		23.10
25.	Sikkim	69.75	22.50			96.00	67.50	0.27	21.00	6.75		10.50		4.22
	Total (J&K + Sikkim)	264.75	71.25	12.42		490.50	705.00	0.27	49.50	21.00		76.50		27.32
	Total All States	7574.94	3101.25	592.59	537.78	26475.00	42187.50	372.40	5212.50	1856.25	2276.25	3487.50		1103.79
UTs with Legislature														
1.	Delhi	228.75		18.75		51.00	15.75		37.50	225.00	112.50	84.00		5.15
2.	Pondicherry	146.25	15.00			76.50	21.75	0.19				21.00		3.43
UTs without Legislature														
1.	A & N Islands													
2.	Chandigarh													
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli													
4.	Lakshadweep													
5.	Daman & Diu													
	Total - UTs	375.00	15.00	18.75		127.50	37.50	0.19	37.50	225.00	112.50	105.00		8.58
	Grand Total	7949.94	3116.25	611.34	537.78	26602.50	42225.00	372.59	5250.00	2081.25	2388.75	3592.50		1112.37

Grants-in-Aid released during 2000-2001 (Summary)

(Rs in Lakhs)																
Sl No	Name of State/UT	Compensation	IEC		Area Projects	Sterilisation Beds	Arrears	RCH Sub-project	RCH National Component	Logistics Improvement	Total (Cash Grants)	Supplies (Kind Grants)	Grand Total (Cash + Kind)			
			MEM in States	Innovative Publicity												
1	2	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	928.36	77.12			11.14	7953.63				14774.71	839.20	15613.91			
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.18	7.73								194.00	60.29	254.29			
3.	Assam	131.16				0.38	591.01				4966.42	554.44	5520.66			
4.	Bihar	53.24	39.93			3.04	981.00				10072.39	2443.35	12515.74			
5.	Goa	12.90	9.46								201.67	15.34	217.01			
6.	Gujarat	432.04	56.46			12.93					5298.71	1170.60	6469.31			
7.	Haryana	186.46	50.40			2.57	1132.82				3155.03	398.54	3513.57			
8.	Himachal Pradesh	18.08	27.76				816.00				2293.55	116.66	2410.21			
9.	Karnataka	917.00	36.27		3500.00	8.34		883.00	209.00		10329.32	736.94	11066.26			
10.	Kerala	317.82	58.74			4.32					4037.87	251.61	4289.48			
11.	Madhya Pradesh	281.78				1.86					8049.66	1993.26	10042.92			
12.	Maharashtra	913.12	88.13			26.97	1641.00				10348.84	1086.16	11435.00			
13.	Manipur	13.24	10.31							.	734.47	29.53	764.00			
14.	Meghalaya	4.00	17.43			0.14					486.00	14.82	500.82			
15.	Mizoram	4.62	21.03			0.24					346.87	4.66	351.53			
16.	Nagaland	5.16	17.58								347.29	2.78	350.07			
17.	Orissa	114.24	53.56								4494.17	753.73	5247.90			
18.	Punjab	247.54	44.79			0.34					2286.97	250.34	2537.31			
19.	Rajasthan	298.20	57.30			1.02	4953.43				11680.96	1170.47	12851.43			

1	2	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
20.	Tamil Nadu	878.88	65.17		1300.00	19.75	5299.73		202.50		14056.37	485.49	14541.86
21.	Tripura	15.84	27.84				784.52				1462.54	24.59	1487.13
22.	Uttar Pradesh	613.06	85.04			3.28	494.98				15329.27	4474.59	19803.86
23.	West Bengal	400.10	73.12			8.88					6673.17	1158.35	7831.52
	Total	6788.02	925.17		4800.00	105.20	24648.12	883.00	411.50		131620.25	17995.74	149615.99
24.	Jammu & Kashmir	12.02	5.00			0.48					1437.52	89.47	1526.99
25.	Sikkim	5.76	4.67				242.04				550.96	9.56	560.52
	Total (J&K + Sikkim)	17.78	9.67			0.48	242.04				1988.48	99.03	2087.51
	Total All States	6805.80	934.84		4800.00	105.68	24890.16	883.00	411.50		133608.73	18094.77	151703.50
UTs with Legislature													
1.	Delhi	75.40	31.24			2.97					888.01	398.03	1286.04
2.	Pondicherry	55.58	9.83								349.53	10.30	359.83
UTs without Legislature													
1.	A & N Islands											16.21	16.21
2.	Chandigarh											0.06	0.06
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli											0.43	0.43
4.	Lakshadweep												
5.	Daman & Diu											428.09	428.09
	Total - UTs	130.98	41.07			2.97					1237.54	853.12	2090.66
	Grand Total	6936.78	975.91		4800.00	108.65	24890.16	883.00	411.50		134846.27	18947.89	153794.16

(Amount in Lakh)

State (Plan)	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
West Bengal	160.00	330.00	313.00	335.00
Maharashtra	--	75.00	175.00	175.00
Kerala	225.00	251.65	686.50	35.00
Gujarat	175.00	78.30	175.00	75.00
Haryana	105.00	--	--	35.00
Himachal Pradesh	--	--	73.00	35.00
Rajasthan	100.00	300.00	225.00	75.00
Andhra Pradesh	205.00	282.00	203.50	--
J & K	--	150.00	36.00	--
Punjab	--	149.00	51.00	--
Bihar	100.00	30.00	75.00	75.00
Uttar Pradesh	50.00	82.50	160.50	75.00
Madhya Pradesh	77.00	67.50	170.00	35.00
Orissa	212.50	82.50	75.00	35.00
Tamil Nadu	82.50	86.00	194.00	75.00
Karnataka	77.00	82.50	175.00	230.00
Manipur	--	--	--	30.00
Assam	47.00	--	3.00	--
Sikkim	--	--	--	30.00
UT of Chandigarh	--	--	--	200.00
IRCH (AIIMS)	320.00	770.00	470.00	1000.00
Delhi	--	--	--	3.50

Gas Based Industries

5003. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are many gas based industries in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more of such industries are likely to be set up in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Gas Authority of India Ltd. is currently supplying Natural Gas to 14 Industries in the Power and Fertilizer Sectors in Maharashtra, which include Rashtriya Chemical and Fertilizers - Thal and Trombay, Heavy Water Plant, Ispat Industries, Vikram Ispat, Deepak Fertilizers and Petrochemicals Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Ltd. - Maharashtra Gas Cracker Complex, Nagothane, MSEB - Uran, Tata Electric Company - Trombay, BPCL, HPCL, HCL, H&R Johnson-Mahanagar Gas Limited (Mumbai city) and LPG - Usar

(c) and (d) As indicated by the Government of Maharashtra, the proposed Gas based industries are Dabhol Power Plant Ratnagiri, Phase-II (Expansion), Power Plant of Ispat Limited at Raigad, Power Plant of Reliance at Raigad, Power Plant of Rama at Raigad and Power Plant of BSES at Dahanu.

Rehabilitation Centres

5004. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether over 100 districts have been selected and identified for setting up Primary Composite Rehabilitation Service Centres;

(b) if so, the role of these centres and districts identified therefor, state-wise;

(c) criteria adopted for selection of districts for setting up these centres; and

(d) the funds allocated and released for these 100 centres in 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objective in setting up of the District Centres is to provide primary rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities living in remote and rural areas. These includes, inter alia, assessment, fitment, maintenance and repair of assistive devices; vocational training, placement through convergence, coordination and referral to other programmes and schemes, help in creating better barrier free environment. The details of Districts identified, State-wise, are given in the Statement.

(c) The criteria in selection of the districts is to reach the unreached persons with disabilities and to serve the neighbouring/contiguous areas.

(d) It is an extension programme of the existing activities of the National Institutes, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India and the existing District Rehabilitation Centres.

Statement

Details of districts State-wise selected for setting up of 107 district centres.

Andhra Pradesh

1. Anantpur
2. Krishna
3. Vishakhapatnam

Assam

1. Dibrugarh
2. Guwahati
3. Kachhar
4. Tejpur

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Itanagar
2. Dibang Valley

Bihar

1. Sahibganj
2. Champaran
3. Bhagalpur
4. Muzzafarpur
5. Gaya
6. Hazaribagh
7. Ranchi
8. Darbhanga
9. Singhbhum
10. Dargah
11. Nawadah

Gujarat

1. Ahmedabad
2. Baroda
3. Surat
4. Rajkot
5. Jamnagar

Goa

1. Panaji

Haryana

1. Bhiwani
2. Rohtak
3. Kurukshetra

Himachal Pradesh

1. Shimla
2. Dharamshala

Jammu and Kashmir

1. Srinagar
2. Udhampur

Karnataka

1. Tumkur
2. Mangalore
3. Bellary
4. Belgaum
5. Gulbarga

Kerala

1. Kozhikode
2. Thiruvananthapuram

Mizoram

1. Aizwal

Meghalaya

1. Shillong

Manipur

1. Imphal

Maharashtra

1. Aurangabad
2. Buldana
3. Vardha
4. Kolhapur
5. Latur

Madhya Pradesh

1. Gwalior
2. Indore
3. Raigarh
4. Jabalpur
5. Balaghat
6. Durg
7. Raipur
8. Jhabua
9. Rewa
10. Rajgarh
11. Sagar

Nagaland

1. Kohima

Orissa

1. Sambhalpur
2. Mayurbhanj
3. Phulbani
4. Kalahandi
5. Koraput

Punjab

1. Patiala
2. Jullandhar
3. Ferozpur

Rajasthan

1. Udaipur
2. Ajmer
3. Jodhpur
4. Bikaner
5. Jhunjhunu

Sikkim

1. Gangtok

Tripura

1. Agartala

Tamil Nadu

1. Chengalpattu
2. Vellore
3. Madurai

4. Selam
5. Tutikorin
6. Virudhunagar

Uttar Pradesh

1. Gonda
2. Mau
3. Gorakhpur
4. Lucknow
5. Pilibhit
6. Almorah
7. Bareilly
8. Tehri Garwal
9. Agra
10. Meerut
11. Varanasi
12. Allahabad
13. Kanpur
14. Farrukhabad
15. Jhansi
16. Haridwar
17. Balia

West Bengal

1. Jalpaiguri
2. South Dinajpur
3. Murshidabad

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

1. Port Blair

Chandigarh

1. Chandigarh

Daman and Diu

1. Diu

Lakshadweep

1. Kavarati

Dadra and Nagar Haveli

1. Silvassa

Pondicherry

1. Pondicherry

Total : 107 Districts

[Translation]

Hospitals

5005. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of hospitals in the country are inadequate;

(b) if so, whether the Government have fixed any target to open more hospitals during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(d) the time by which new hospitals are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) 'Health' being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of the respective States/Union Territories to open hospitals in the State/Union Territory keeping in view their priorities and availability of resources. However, in Delhi, Government of NCT of Delhi has taken up establishment of 13 new hospitals during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Majority of these hospitals are likely to be commissioned either fully or partially by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan i.e. 2001-2002.

[English]

Special Component Plan

5006. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise financial allocation under the head 'Special Component Plan' during the financial year 1996-97 to 1999-2000 to the States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) whether the respective State Governments have given their share in the 'Special Component Plan' on due dates;

(c) whether the Central Government are aware that the fund sanctioned for 'Special Component Plan' is utilised for other purposes by certain state Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Amount provided under the head Special Component Plan by Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan during the years 1996-97 to 1999-2000 is given in the statement.

(b) to (e) The strategy for preparation and implementation of Special Component Plan for welfare of

Scheduled Castes was introduced during 1979-80. As per the strategy, the State Governments and Central Ministries/Depts. are to earmark a part of their plan fund in proportion to the percentage of the Scheduled Castes population the total population in the respective State/Country, which is to be utilized for welfare of Scheduled Castes. Funds earmarked as Special Component Plan is utilized by the concerned State Government and Central Ministries/Depts.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a scheme, under which 100% grant is provided as Special Central Assistance to the States as an additive to the States Special Component Plan. Available funds under Special Central Assistance is sub allocated among States/UTs based on factors which includes implementation of Special component Plan, 24 State Governments/UTs which have sizable SC population, have been formulating Special Component Plans. This is being monitored by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The State Governments/UTs have been requested to open a separate budget head and take specific steps for ensuring that the funds provided under Special Component Plan are utilized for SC Welfare.

Implementation of Special component Plan by the Central Ministries/Depts. is monitored by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Standing Tripartite Committee, set up by the Planning Commission, in which Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is associated.

Statement

Allocation made under the Special Component Plan during the financial years 1996-97 to 1999-2000.

(Rs. in Crore)					
Sl. No.	State/UT	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	300.57	339.72	573.46	544.27
2	Gujarat	101.42	171.52	199.55	260.82
3	Maharashtra	541.95	600.00	608.00	640.00
4	Rajasthan	487.12	660.01	688.74	797.41
5	Tamil Nadu	652.39	752.23	825.53	997.41
6	Uttar Pradesh	1420.00	1484.00	2159.81	2394.00
7	West Bengal	146.85	300.38	235.30	1414.14

External Aided Irrigation Projects

5007. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects relating to irrigation, water resources, modernization of canal and ground water conservation are being implemented in the country with the external assistance;

(b) whether several such projects are still incomplete;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :
(a) to (d) There are 21 externally aided projects relating to irrigation, water resources, modernization of canal and ground water conservation being implemented with the assistance from the World Bank, EEC, JBIC, Japan, Kfw, Germany, Netherlands and France. The details of these projects are given in the statement.

Statement

S. No.	State	Name of the Project	Donor Agency	Date of signing of agreement	Due date of completion	Amount of Assistance Million	Utilization as on 30.09.2000 Million	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	i) AP-III Irrigation Project	World Bank	03.06.1997	31.01.2003	US \$ 325.00	US \$ 87.665	Ongoing
		ii) Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project	World Bank	03.01.1999	31.3.2004	US \$ 543.00 (Irrigation component US \$ 142)	US\$ 133.217	Ongoing
		iii) Modernisation on KC canal project	JBIC Japan	25.01.1996	26.3.2003	Yen 16049.00	Yen 2033.735	Ongoing
		iv) APWELL Irrigation Project	Netherlands	14.11.1994	14.11.2002	NLG 26.847	NLG 10.013	Ongoing
2.	Gujarat	v) Hydroplus Fusegate System	France	10.12.1998	31.12.2001	FF 34.74	FF 28.878	Ongoing
3.	Haryana	vi) Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	06.04.1994	31.12.2000	US\$ 258.00	US\$ 156.082	Proposal to extend the project for one year i.e. up to 31.12.2001 approved.
4.	Kerala	vii) Community Irrigation Project	Netherlands	15.12.1993	30.6.2000	NLG 2.328	NLG 2.004	Proposal for extension up to 31.12.2000 forwarded to donor agency.
		viii) Kerala Minor Irrigation Project	EEC	21.05.1992	31.12.2000	ECU 11.80	ECU 2.770	Ongoing
5.	Maharashtra	ix) Maharashtra Minor Irrigation project	Kfw-Germany	21.12.1998	31.12.2006	DM 45.00	DM 0.00	Consultants yet to be appointed by the donor agency

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		x) Saline Land Reclamation project-II	EEC	11.7.1995	31.12.2005	ECU 15.5	ECU 0.00	Work Plan for Phase-II yet to be approved by EEC the donor agency. Ongoing
6.	Madhya Pradesh	xi) Rajghat Canal Project	JBIC Japan	25.02.1997	31.03.2002	Yen 13222.00	Yen 1879.818	Ongoing
7.	Manipur	xii) Ground Water Exploration Project	France	23.11.1998	31.12.2001	FF 4.53	FF 2.571	Ongoing
8.	Orissa	xiii) Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	05.01.1996	30.09.2002	US\$ 290.90	US\$ 139.079	Ongoing
		xiv) Rengali Irrigation Project	JBIC Japan	12.12.1997	05.02.2003	Yen 7760.00	Yen 1961.059	Ongoing
		xv) Lift Irrigation Project	KFW Germany	19.02.1993	31.12.2000	DM 50.00	DM 38.81	Ongoing
		xvi) Orissa Minor Irrigation Project	EEC	03.07.1995	31.12.2004	ECU 10.70	ECU 0.465	Ongoing
9.	Pondicherry	xvii) Modernisation of Tank Irrigation system	EEC	21.02.1997	31.12.2004	ECU 6.65	ECU 0.72	Ongoing
10.	Rajasthan	Xviii) Sidhmukh & Nahar Irrigation Project	EEC	07.06.1993	31.12.2000	ECU 45.00	ECU 32.740	Ongoing
11.	Tamil Nadu	xix) Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	22.09.1995	31.03.2002	US\$ 282.90	US\$ 104.630	Ongoing
12.	Uttar Pradesh	xx) Bundelkhand Water Resources Management Project	Netherlands	12.06.1996	31.05.2001	NLG 3.087	NLG 1.352	Ongoing
13.	Multi-State-Participating States – Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and Central Agencies.	xxi) Hydrology Project	World Bank	22.09.1995	31.3.2002	US\$ 142.00	US\$ 49.214	Ongoing

Indo-US Joint Working Group Meet

5008. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the topics discussed at the Indo-US Joint Working Group Meet in November, 2000;

(b) the outcome thereof; and

(c) the stand of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) During the visit of Prime Minister to the United States in September 2000, Prime Minister and the US President had agreed to broaden cooperation between India and the US in peacekeeping and other areas of UN activities. As part of this process, the two sides have established a Joint Working Group on UN Peacekeeping Operations, which held its first meeting in New Delhi on 1-2 November 2000.

(b) and (c) At the meeting, the two sides agreed that the purpose of the Joint Working Group is to deepen mutual understanding and co-operation, and create better appreciation of each other's perspectives, on UN peacekeeping issues. The Group's activities may also make a contribution to the ongoing process of improving UN Peacekeeping Operations and procedures. This Joint Working Group is a reflection of the growing cooperation between India and the United States on international issues of mutual concern, including those relating to the UN.

Industrial Growth Centres

5009. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Industrial Growth Centres functioning in the country particularly in Gujarat, State-wise;

(b) the functioning of these Industrial Growth Centres,

(c) whether the Government propose to set up more such Industrial Growth Centres in the country; and

(d) if so, the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Of the 68 Growth Centre sanctioned by the Government so far, 27 have become functional as allotment of industrial plots has commenced there. The remaining Growth Centres are at various stages of implementation by the State Governments. In Gujarat one Growth Centre at Vagra has become functional. The state-wise list of the Growth Centres is given in the Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State, Growth Centre/District
1.	Andhra Pradesh Hindupur (Anantpur)
2.	Goa Electronic City (Verna-Plateau)
3.	Gujarat Vagra (Bharuch)
4.	Haryana Bawal (Rewari)
5.	Himachal Pradesh Kangra (Kangra)
6.	Jammu and Kashmir Samba (Jammu)
7.	Karnataka Dharwad (Dharwad)
8.	Raichur (Raichur)
9.	Hassan (Hassan)
10.	Kerala Kannur-Kozhikode
11.	Madhya Pradesh Borai (Durg)
12.	Ghirongi (Bhind)
13.	Kheda (Dhar)
14.	Siltara (Raipur)
15.	Maharashtra Akola (Akola)
16.	Nanded (Nanded)
17.	Punjab Bathinda (Bathinda)
18.	Pathankot (Gurdaspur)
19.	Rajasthan Abu-Road (Sirohi)
20.	Khara (Bikaner)
21.	Dholpur (Dholpur)
22.	Jhalawar (Jhalawar)
23.	Tamil Nadu Erode (Periyar)
24.	Tripura Bodhjangnagar (West Tripura)
25.	Uttar Pradesh Bijauli (Jhansi)
26.	Satharia (Jaunpur)
27.	Shajanwa (Gorakhpur)

*[Translation]***Rules for Investigation by CBI**

5010. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the rules for investigating corruption and financial scams by the Central Bureau of Investigation;

(b) whether the investigation of important corruption cases could not be carried out by the CBI due to pending complaints with the CBI; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to improve the efficiency of CBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) CBI takes up cases for investigation in accordance with the provisions of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 and instructions/guidelines laid down in the CBI Crime Manual. The cases are investigated as per procedure laid down in the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and other relevant laws.

(b) No, Sir. Complaints received from various Government Departments/Organisations and other sources, are enquired into/verified and appropriate action taken in accordance with instructions/guidelines laid down in the CBI Crime Manual. Only such cases which merit CBI investigation in terms of the legal provisions and instruction/guidelines laid down in the CBI Crime Manual, are taken up for investigation by the Bureau. All the cases are investigated with due diligence and taken to their logical conclusion.

(c) The Government has taken necessary measures to improve the efficiency of CBI, which inter alia, includes sanction of 183 posts, including technical posts, for strengthening the CBI's in-house expertise.

*[English]***Recognition of MBBS Degree**

5011. SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the Government policy regarding recognition of MBBS degrees awarded by private medical colleges of India;

(b) whether the Government are following the recommendations of the Medical Council of India in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The Government policy regarding recognition of MBBS degree is given under Section 11 of the Indian Medical Council Act 1956.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The request for recognition of MBBS degree received from the Registrar of the various Universities are forwarded by the Central Government to the Medical Council of India who arranges for inspection of the infrastructure facilities of the College from where the request has been received at the time of the final MBBS examination. The Central Government issues necessary notification for recognition of the degrees under Section 11 (2) of the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 on receiving the recommendations from the Medical Council of India.

CGHS Beneficiaries

5012. SHRI C.N. SINGH Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CGHS beneficiaries permitted by their respective offices to take treatment in AIIMS are referred back by AIIMS to Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospitals on the ground of 'no bed' available with them;

(b) if so, the reasons for such beneficiaries are not being referred to other private hospitals which are recognized by the Government; and

(c) the corrective measures propose to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No Sir. So far as AIIMS is concerned, no patient who has been referred from CGHS for getting treatment at AIIMS is referred back to Safdarjung Hospital.

Sometimes, the patients who come to AIIMS Casualty are asked to get admission in Safdarjung Hospital when no beds are available for their admission in AIIMS hospital. However, in emergency, the patients may get admitted in

any nearby Hospital and the reimbursement is done as per CGHS approved rates.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Health Scheme

5013. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have comprehensive health care/health cover scheme for various Government employees, public undertaking employees and citizen including Legislatures and Parliamentarians;

(b) If so, the broad outlines of the scheme;

(c) whether the Government have received any memorandum for improving the scheme; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) There is no such comprehensive scheme.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Semiconductor Complex Limited, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Semiconductor Complex Limited, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2964/2000]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the C.M.C. Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the C.M.C. Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2965/2000]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology, Pune, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology, Pune, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2966/2000]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2967/2000]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Electronic Accreditation of Computer Courses Society, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Department of Electronic Accreditation of Computer Courses Society, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2968/2000]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics Research and Development Centre of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics Research and Development Centre of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000. . .

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2969/2000]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Software Technology, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Software Technology, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2970/2000]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2971/2000]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2972/2000]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Society for Applied Microwave Electronics

Engineering and Research, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2973/2000]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics Research and Network, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics Research and Network, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2974/2000]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Water and Power Consultancy Services India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Water and Power Consultancy Services India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2975/2000]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2976/2000]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Narmada Control Authority, Indore, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2977/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB BIKHE PATIL) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Yashwant Sinha, I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Eleventh Finance Commission on the Additional Terms of Reference (for 2000-2005) together with an explanatory memorandum showing action taken thereon, under article 281 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2978/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : Sir, on behalf of Dr. C.P. Thakur, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2979/2000]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Baroda, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Baroda, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2980/2000]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Bhubaneshwar, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Bhubaneshwar, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2981/2000]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre,

Punjab University Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Punjab University Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2982/2000]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2983/2000]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Dharwad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Dharwad, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2984/2000]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2985/2000]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Guwahati, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of

the Population Research Centre, Guwahati, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2986/2000]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Tamil Nadu, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Tamil Nadu, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2987/2000]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Lucknow, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Lucknow, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2988/2000]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Patna, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Patna, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2989/2000]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Pune, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Pune, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2990/2000]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre,

Hazratbal, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Hazratbal, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2991/2000]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Shimla, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Shimla, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2992/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table :

1. A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2993/2000]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2994/2000]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehra Dun, for the year 1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehra Dun, for the year 1998-1999.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2995/2000]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Commission for Backward Classes for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 under section 15 of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.
- (ii) A copy of the Action Taken Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Recommendation made by the National Commission for Backward Classes in the Annual Report for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2996/2000]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2997/2000]

- (8) A copy of the Corrigendum (Hindi and English versions) to the Annual Report of the Chief

Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for the period 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2998/2000]

The MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:-
- (i) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 809 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000.
- (ii) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fifth Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No G.S.R. 810 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000.
- (iii) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No G.S.R. 812 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000.
- (iv) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Sixth Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No G.S.R. 813 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000.
- (v) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No G.S.R. 818 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000.
- (vi) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Fifth Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No G.S.R. 819(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2000.
- (vii) The All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in

* The Annual Report of the Chief Commission for Disabilities was laid on the Table on 13.12.2000.

Notification No. GSR 702 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -2999/2000]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3000/2000]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3001/2000]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3002/2000]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3003/2000]

(e) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National

Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3004/2000]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3005/2000]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3006/2000]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3007/2000]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of

the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT –3008/2000]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT –3009/2000]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT –3010/2000]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhi Nagar, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhi Nagar, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT –3011/2000]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of

the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT –3012/2000]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT –3013/2000]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT –3014/2000]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT –3015/2000]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT –3016/2000]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Government Employees' Consumers Cooperative Society Limited (Kendriya Bhandar) for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Government Employees' Consumers Cooperative Society Limited (Kendriya Bhandar) for the year 1999-2000

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3017/2000]

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commissions, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Commissions, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commissions, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iv) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Khadi and Village Industries Commissions, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3018/2000]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1999-2000.

- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3019/2000]

- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National MST Radar Facility, Godanki, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National MST Radar Facility, Godanki, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3020/2000]

- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Physical Research Laboratory,

Ahmedabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3021/2000]

- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3022/2000]

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3023/2000]

- (22) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3024/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR), Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

A copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on assurances, promises and undertakings given by the

Ministers during the previous sessions of Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha:-

Eighth Lok Sabha.

1. Statement No. XXXII Twelfth Session, 1988.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3025/2000]

Ninth Lok Sabha

2. Statement No. XXXVI Third Session, 1990.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3026/2000]

Tenth Lok Sabha.

3. Statement No. XLVI First Session, 1991.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3027/2000]

4. Statement No. XXV Eighth Session, 1993

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3028/2000]

5. Statement No. XXX Eleventh Session, 1994.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3029/2000]

6. Statement No. XXVI Thirteenth Session, 1995.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3030/2000]

7. Statement No. XXIII Fourteenth Session, 1995.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3031/2000]

Eleventh Lok Sabha.

8. Statement No. XX Second Session, 1996.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3032/2000]

9. Statement No. XVIII Third Session, 1996.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3033/2000]

10. Statement No. XVIII Fourth Session, 1997.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3034/2000]

11. Statement No. XVI Fifth Session, 1997.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3035/2000]

Twelfth Lok Sabha

12. Statement No. XIV Second Session, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3036/2000]

13. Statement No. XI Third Session, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3037/2000]

14. Statement No. X Fourth Session, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3038/2000]

Thirteenth Lok Sabha

15. Statement No. VII Second Session, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3039/2000]

16. Statement No. VI Third Session, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3040/2000]

17. Statement No. II Fourth Session, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3041/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Udaipur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Udaipur, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3042/2000]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3043/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Sagar, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of

the Population Research Centre, Sagar, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3044/2000]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3045/2000]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3046/2000]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3047/2000]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3048/2000]

- (9) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. GSR 876 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2000 under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3049/2000]

- (10) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Mohan, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3050/2000]

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Mohan, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) of item No. (10) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3051/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audited Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT -3052/2000]

12.01½ hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA — LAID

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General Rajya Sabha:

1. (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th December, 2000 agreed without any amendment to the Central Road Fund Bill, 2000 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st December, 2000."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclosed a copy of Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2000, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th December, 2000."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Chit Funds (Amendments) Bill, 2000, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 19th December 2000.

11.02½ hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE
HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House, in their Fifth Report presented to the House on 19th December, 2000, have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following Members for the period mentioned against each:

1. Shri Bikash Chowdhury 14-8-2000 to 25-08-2000
2. Shrimati Nisha Choudhary 20-11-2000 to 22-12-2000
3. Shrimati Jayashree Banerjee 20-11-2000 to 22-12-2000

4. Prof. Kailasho Devi 20-11-2000 to 22-12-2000

5. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel 24-07-2000 to 25-08-2000

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes

MR. SPEAKER : Leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.03 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Sixteenth Report

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (NAINITAL) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Civil)-1996-97.

12.03¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Study Tour Reports

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Study Tour Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings relating — (i) North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited; and (ii) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and engineers Limited.

12.03½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Statement

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in

respect of recommendations contained in Chapter V of the Seventh Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on National Small Industries Corporation Limited.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS

Eleventh Report

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Sir, I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals on 'Demand availability and Import of Potash/Potassic Fertilizers'.

12.04½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

First Report

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA) : As usual, we, women are the last.

Sir, I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their First Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on 'Developmental Schemes for Rural Women'.

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Peace-initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the Winter Session of the Parliament concludes and the House rises for the festivals of *Id* and *Christmas*, I wish to take this opportunity and share with all the hon. Members, the Government's assessment of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, also along the Line of Control.

Following my announcement of 19 November that during the holy month of *Ramzan*, our security forces would not initiate operations against the militants, also expressing a hope that along the LoC too, infiltration would cease, there have been some encouraging developments. Certain other aspects, however, remain as our continuing concerns.

The Government is greatly heartened by the response of the citizens, political parties and other organisations in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Our peace initiative has been widely welcomed there. A distinctly different and a more optimistic mood now prevails in that State. The constituency for peace has expanded significantly.

There has also been a decline in incidents of terrorist violence in that State. Activities, however, of organisations like *Lashkar-e-Tayaaba* and *Harkat-ul-Mujahedin* continue, resulting in most unfortunate and regrettable loss of innocent civilian lives, also of the personnel of our security forces. The Government remains firm in its resolve to combating these and other challenges, also to defeating their inhuman and nefarious designs.

There has been a recognisable decline too in attempts at cross-LoC and cross-IB infiltration of terrorists. This must cease entirely. The Government is committed to achieving this end.

Along the LoC, we have witnessed a marked improvement in incidents of exchange of fire. Relative peace has prevailed all along the LoC ever since my announcement of 19 November, barring some incidents in the early stages.

After careful consideration of all aspects, the Government has, therefore, taken a decision to extend the period of 'no initiation of combat operations' by another month. After the Republic Day, 2001, the Government will review the position again.

As the initiator of the dialogue process with Pakistan, India remains committed to it. The existence of a suitable environment for such a process is self-evidently necessary. As part of our continued commitment to the Shimla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, the Government will initiate such exploratory steps as are considered necessary by it, so that the Composite Dialogue Process between the Governments of India and Pakistan could be resumed.

Let me inform the House that the Government's unwavering commitment to meeting the challenge of terrorism remains undiluted. Whereas we will continue to exercise maximum restraint in face of grave provocations, national interests will never be compromised.

I wish to assure the hon. Members that we remain steadfast in our commitment to restoring lasting peace and to enabling all our citizens from Jammu and Kashmir to join as equal partners in India's march to prosperity.

Thank you.

... (Interruptions)

Mr. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the Motion to be moved by Shri Kariya Munda.

... (Interruptions)*

12.08 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (KHUNTI) : Sir, I beg to move the motion :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Chaudhary Chunni Lal died and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Chaudhary Chunni Lal died and- do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record now.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have already started raising matters without my call for the 'Zero Hour'.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): I have given notices every day. I have given a notice each day, that is, the day before yesterday, yesterday and today, ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the 'Zero Hour' issues. Shri Sharad Pawar please.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Sharad Pawar.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, he rarely raises any issue in the House. That is why I have called Shri Sharad Pawar. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, I would like to raise an important issue under rule 377. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA) : Sir, I have given notices under rule 184. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, I have already called Shri Sharad Pawar.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, he is raising a matter Under rule 377.

MR. SPEAKER: No, he is raising a 'Zero Hour' issue.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, the process of census is about to begin. ... (Interruptions).

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Minister, you have maintained a guilty silence on the subject for the last three days. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, I am appealing to you. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : You have given a notice under rule 184 but have you got the consent of the hon. Speaker? If you have not been given the consent, how can you raise it here?
... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Your notice has already been disallowed. Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record because his notices have already been disallowed and it is not the correct practice to simply give notices and raise the matter in the House.

... (Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, is it not a serious matter? Serious allegations are made against a Constitutional authority and the Government is sitting quiet.
... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sharad Pawar, are you raising a matter under rule 377? Or, are you raising a 'Zero Hour' matter?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : It is a 'Zero Hour' issue. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Shri Jaipal Reddy, let the hon. Speaker admit your notice and then we shall hear you.
... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, how can you raise the matter without the matter being admitted?

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Being a senior Member, you are supposed to know that you have to address only the Chair.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the hon. Minister of Law and Justice cannot answer this because it is not on the

record. He has said that it is not on the record ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : It is on the file of the Minister of Law and Justice. He knows everything. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You have yourself said that there is nothing on the record ... (Interruptions)

Mr. SPEAKER : The Minister cannot say anything without the notice being admitted.

... (Interruptions)

12.14 hrs.

RE : NEED FOR COLLECTING SEPARATE INFORMATION ABOUT OBCs IN CENSUS

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI) : The Census, 2000 is scheduled to begin from the 9th February, 2001 and will be completed on the 20th February, 2001. The Government of India has printed some forms and is going to collect some information through Form A and Form B, as per the past practice.

MR. SPEAKER : The Government side may please take note of this. He is raising a serious issue.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : As per the past practice, they are going to collect information about the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and that is a correct decision. But the Government of India has partly accepted the report of the Mandal Commission under Article 340 (1) of the Constitution.

It has agreed to provide certain reservations in services, in education and in certain other areas to backward classes. Unless and until proper information about backward classes is collected in census forms, I do not think any Government will be able to take a proper decision and will be able to protect the interests of backward classes.

Recently, there is a judgement of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on this. The Andhra Pradesh High Court has directed the Government to collect detailed information about backward classes in processing census so that the backward classes will be able to get representation in various fields.

So, it is my earnest desire that the Government should change the forms so that along with Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they collect information about backward classes. I request the Government to give proper justice to the backward classes.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR) : Sir, I have given notice....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh ji, you, too would be called.

SHRI DEVANDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are going to conduct census from 9 February, 2001. 52 per cent of our total population belong to OBC for whom B.P. Mandal recommended reservations. B. P. Mandal made recommendation in 1978 and the report was presented to the Government in 1979. In 1992, the Supreme Court categorically up held the provision of 27 per cent reservation for other backward classes.(Interruptions)

Sir during 1993-94, a separate commission was constituted to carryout caste wise census of SCs and STs. It is a matter of sorrow that census form contains no provision, column or entry to collect information relating to economic, social and cultural status of OBCs. Therefore, I urge upon Hon'ble Home Minister to direct Registrar General of India cum Commissioner of census to add column for OBCs in the form meant for the census to be conducted from 9th February. A column should be added this form wherein economic, social and cultural and educational status of OBCs can be indicated, otherwise it would be against the spirit of Articles 337 and 338 of our constitution(Interruptions). Therefore, in the backdrop of these articles of Indian Constitution, subject column should definitely be added to the census form....(Interruptions).

Sir, census is conducted after every 10 years and if this time these entries are not made in the census from then it would not only be violation of Supreme Court directions but also 52 per cent population of this country would remain backward for another 10 years....(Interruptions).

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate my party fully with the views expressed just now. Unless complete datas are made available, how programmes meant for upliftment of OBCs in a planned manner can be formulated? Therefore, it is essential to add such column to census form. Comprehensive datas relating to economic condition of OBCs, their state-wise strength, and other related information should be collected and made public so that programmes can be formulated for their upliftment in a planned manner and we can support them.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the issue raised by Shri Sharad Pawar regarding separate column for OBCs in the form for ensuing census. The form meant for census which is going to

be conducted from 9th February, does not contain separate columns to collect state-wise, area wise OBC population figures. Therefore, it has become necessary to do so in view of the fact that recommendation of Mandal Commission have been implemented and there is no other way to find out the population of OBCs. On the other hand, efforts are being made to somehow include several castes under this 27 per cent umbrella. My submission is that enumeration of OBCs should be conducted on the lines of SCs and STs. 9th February is coming close and the Government have not made any provision so far in this regard. When several castes are being included in OBC category then reservation quota for them should be raised to 54 percent. Therefore, it is necessary to find out the state wise, area wise break up of OBCs and it should be collected immediately. In some of the states, Mandal's recommendations have not been fully implemented. Therefore, it is necessary for the backward classes to know area wise break up of their caste. Sir, through you, I would like Hon'ble Home Minister and Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs to give assurance that a column would be added to the form of census to be conducted from 9th February to show the OBCs population.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I also associate with what Shri Sharad Pawar has said. Census should be as comprehensive as possible. It is a data collection and it helps in formulating the policies. If the data is not available, it would create complications. Therefore, we support it in principle. Information should be as comprehensive as possible. There is no difficulty in collecting that information if the Government takes a decision.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : As one who supported Mandal Commission Report, I am of the considered view that it is high time, we as a House and as a nation, took a view on the need for organising the census of the backward classes. There is an imperative need for this. Last time when it was done was in 1931. So, for the last seventy years, they have no census in regard to backward classes. It is high time, at the turn of the 20th century, we have this information.

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (OUTER DELHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is right to say that census provides us feed back for formulating plans and this survey should cover OBCs separately since it relates to reservations also. Hence their state-wise population should be ascertained. I am sure that no Hon'ble Member would disagree with this suggestion.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a delegation under the leadership of Shivsena leader and ex-MP Divya Patel had come to Delhi and met

with several leaders with regard to the census to be conducted from 9th February. The form meant for this census contains column for SC/ST and General but there is no column for OBCs who constitute the 50 percent of the population in our country hence there is a need to incorporate this column in the form. It is the demand of the House. Therefore, we urge upon Hon'ble Home Minister to rectify this error and incorporate a column in the form meant for the census to be conducted from 9th Feb. to 28th Feb.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST) : Sir, the next census will begin in 2001. The last General Census took place in 1991.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand, we are not debating the issue.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : The last caste-based census took place in 1931, that was 70 long years back. So, we also associate with what has been mentioned by my predecessors. From 9th February, 2001 in the census form a column for the OBC has to be inserted along with the traditional Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe column so that the upliftment of OBCs in every respect, socially, educationally and economically, becomes distinctly visible.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (TENALI) : On behalf of the Telugu Desam Party, I associate myself with the views expressed by Shri Sharad Pawar and other Party Leaders. There is a necessity to have a comprehensive data on the backward classes also, since the data is not available for the past 70 years ... (Interruptions) In Andhra Pradesh, recently the High Court has directed that to hold elections for the local bodies, there is a need for having a data ... on BC population (Interruptions). In light of this judgement there is a need to have a comprehensive data on the backward classes also.... (Interruptions) It is better to have the item included in the census operation also and it should also be included along with the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe column in the ensuing census operations which are going to take place in 2001. Thank you.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, UP) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Home Minister should be called in the House to give clarification about it here.

MR. SPEAKER : What has happened to you, what are you talking? What do you think of this House.... (Interruptions).

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (FAIZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with what Hon'ble Sharad

Pawar ji and Hon'ble Mulayam Singh ji have said and would like to request you to enact a comprehensive law for OBCs as has been enacted for SCs and STs. Until and unless such law is enacted, the recommendations will not be implemented properly. Census form should contain a separate column for OBCs (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any response from the Government?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too, would like to say something in this regard.... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : There is separate notice on your name.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, we from the AIADMK Party firmly support this move to take the census of the backward classes. Way back in fifties, Champakam Dariaarajan Vs State of Tamil Nadu (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not go into details.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : This facilitated the first amendment of the Constitution to bring reservation for the backward classes. The Dravidian Party, especially the party led by late Dr. MGR and Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, has ensured 69 percent reservation for the backward classes. We are proud of it. In the whole of India, Tamil Nadu is the pioneer to protect the interests of the backward classes. So, we request the Government to take the census of the backward classes also.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, backward classes were enumerated separately during 1931 census conduct during British Rule.... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I am telling you not to shout in the House. It is not okay. You have no right to shout in the House.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I should be given an opportunity to speak. Members get up from here

and there. I too, belong to a political party. Others have been given an opportunity to speak, leaving me behind. Census proforma does not contain column for OBCs. It is anti-Mandal. It found no place in census proforma. Now it has become clear that they are anti-Mandal. Census is going to be conducted from 9th February. Shri Sharad Pawar and all other leaders have said that this Government is anti-Mandal. That's why they have not incorporated a column for OBCs in census form as per recommendations of Mandal Commission, whereas this column existed during 1931 census under British Rule....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE): Sir, on behalf of DMK Party I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Sharad Pawar regarding census of OBCs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice. Alongwith SCs and STs, census of OBCs should also be conducted separately. I want to associate myself with dalits and OBCs, therefore, I should be given an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : You can associate with these people.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : All right, I too, associate myself with them ... (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (COOCHBEHAR): Sir, I think, in this connection, the Government would consider enumeration of those two lakh Indian citizens also who are living in the Indian enclaves surrounded by Bangladesh.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHLIESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we expect that the hon'ble Minister will make announcement as per the will of the Houses.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : We are against it, before hearing the reply, you started speaking ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (BANDA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak on this issue, I would like to place my views separately.

MR. SPEAKER : You associate with him if you want to speak on the same issue.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN : All right, I associate myself with him and support it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House had unanimously approved the recommendations of Mandal Commission. All the members of the House were concurrent on the issue of providing reservation to backward classes. Shri Sharad Pawar and other members have raised the issue that census of backward classes should be done separately. All the members whether belonging to ruling party or opposition have shown their concurrence in this regard and it can be stated that the House has unanimously demanded that the census of backward classes should be done separately. It will facilitate us to understand their actual position and their number also.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that I do not want to politicise the issue and I had never done so. However, some members have levelled this allegation without knowing my reaction and labelled this Government as anti-mandal.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the reply of the Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of the reasons in this regard. Leave the case of this Government, but before our independence, the census on the basis of caste was stopped in 1931. Therefore, it is not the present Government who took the decision to stop the census on the basis of the caste rather it was stopped in 1931. Thereafter, during the tenure of other Governments, especially during the tenure of the Government which implemented the recommendations of Mandal Commission, and the Government which was running with our support, census was not done on the basis of caste. Therefore, I think it is better not to involve politics in it. On behalf of the Government, I could say that census will start from 9th February. Perhaps the forms have been printed. I am not aware of the position in this regard and about the administrative problems which may arise. As per the policy followed since the last 50 years, census is not done on the basis of caste. ... (Interruptions) Please let me speak. I know that it is regarding Scheduled Castes and the Tribes and I am aware of the reasons also. I can say this much only that it is against the present policy to hold census on the basis of Caste, but keeping in view the demand of the House, the Government will review the policy in this regard. ... (Interruptions)

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* Not Recorded

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khurana ji, you will be called later on.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (BARAMULLA) : Sir, I stand here to raise a very important issue regarding the financial health of Jammu and Kashmir State and the consequences which are expected to surface because of the unfortunate and inordinate delay in the Plan allocation to the State. Our financial year has almost come to a close now that winter has set in the areas of my constituency and the upper reaches of Jammu and Ladakh provinces. Unfortunately, so far the Plan allocation has not been finalised by the Central Government and the developmental activities in our area have come to a grinding halt.

I would like to urge the Government through you and demand to know from the Prime Minister as to how long this Plan allocation will be delayed. The Plan allocation should be finalised and funds which are expected to be spent in the upper reaches of the State where winter has set in should be placed in a non-lapseable pool, so that the money can be spent after March.

Unfortunately, we are being told that we are not performing better. Since the popular Government assumed power in 1996 we have rationalised the tax structure and we have augmented the collection of taxes and non-tax revenues also. It has risen from Rs. 412.88 crore to the extent of Rs. 838.40 crore.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call all the Members.

[English]

Don't raise your hands.

[Translation]

I have the list.

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : We have reluctantly raised revenue in a geometrical proportion and we have squeezed the people of the area in certain fields because of the unfortunate languishing of all economic developments as a result of the proxy war which we are facing. This delay has unfortunately many repercussions politically as well as in the area of development. So, I would request the Government to finalise the Plan allocation as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (DELHI SADAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the name of pollution control drive, approx. 45000 industries in Delhi are being sealed. Even small scale and cottage industries are being sealed due to which more than 10 lakh labourers have been rendered jobless. Every now and then this fact is being published in newspapers.

MR. SPEAKER : How many times you are going to raise this matter in the House?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I will take only three-four minutes ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : What do they want? Their Government is responsible for all this. They have brought back the situation of emergency in the country. Madam Sheela Dixit and not Shri Jagmohan is responsible for the plight of industry owners. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Department of Industry and the Department of Power of Delhi Government have taken money for registering the industries existing in Delhi. Industry owners are depositing this money in the instalments for the last two-three years. Some have deposited the first instalment and some have deposited the second. Now, the Delhi Government is closing these units, their industries are being sealed. Why is it happening? At least they should be told their mistake. The place where they are being shifted, lacks the basic amenities, even roads have not been constructed there. How will they set up their industries there? Therefore, my submission is that the drive to seal the industries should be stopped immediately. The Delhi Government of Madam Sheela Dixit is responsible for it. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please note that many children are watching the proceedings from the Gallery.

Please understand that the children are watching the proceedings.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Both Shri Sahib Singh and Shri Vijay Goel may associate with what Shri Khurana has said.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the same situation emerged when I was the Chief Minister of Delhi. In 1996 also the hon'ble Supreme Court had directed to close all the factories in Delhi. Our Government had requested to hon'ble Supreme Court to give us time to fully comply with the orders. We would relocate them. ... (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you that the Supreme Court had welcomed the action taken by our Government to relocate the industries in Delhi. It praised us by name and stated that the Delhi Government is doing a good job in this direction. However, the present Government of Delhi has not done anything for the last two years. The orders given by the Supreme Court are the result of failure and callousness of Delhi Government. Delhi Government is responsible for the present condition of industries in Delhi. Through you, I would like to request that Madam Sheela Dixit should resign. Sir, in this regard, I would like that the House should issue directions for the Delhi Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you that when I tried to talk to the S.D.M. of Delhi regarding the closure of industries, he clearly refused to talk to me. Then I tried to talk to the D.M. and he also refused. Today none of the officers of Delhi Government is ready to talk to the Members of Parliament in this regard. Through you, I demand from the Government to dismiss Delhi Government. That Government have no right to remain in power which is anti-people is harassing them, closing the industries, rendering people jobless and gutting them on road. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 18 to 20 thousand labourers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar who used to come Delhi to earn their livelihood would become jobless, they will come on roads. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari, I have not called you to speak. Shri Vijay Goel, you may also associate with what Shri Khurana has said just now.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Uttamrao Dhikale, I have got your notice. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the oppositipon and of Shri Chandrashekharji towards a totally different point. Whether the reaction of this House can be sent to Supreme Court if a particular direction issued by the Supreme Court is creating problems for the people. 13000 people who filled the forms and applied for registration when Shri Sahib Singh was the Chief Minister and who submitted money for it and to whom the Delhi Government had to re-locate, whichever party may be in power in Delhi be it congress or any other party, it is not the question of any party.... (Interruptions) You always bring in politics.... (Interruptions) I only want to submit that the direction of Supreme Court were only for Delhi Government. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (MEERUT) : Send all of them there... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I never intervened when you speak. My submission is that Supreme Court (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Shri Vijay Goel, you may talk to Shri Jag Mohan and settle the issue. Why are you wasting the time of the House? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the version of Shri Vijay Goel.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, please address the Chair. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Please listen to my argument. ... (Interruptions) I am talking of Supreme Court. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you are not interested in the 'Zero Hour', I can also adjourn the House. What is this?

... (Interruptions)

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* Not Recorded

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Supreme Court had given directive to the Delhi Government to relocate them but the Delhi Government has not been able to relocate them. That is why he has said ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not interrupt him.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : At that time the Central Government came in the picture. Otherwise the Central Government was not in the picture. It is not a matter of party politics. On this matter all the political parties should join hands and see that how at least those industries are relocated which had filled in the requisite forms and deposited money. Besides this we should make an appeal to the Supreme Court. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How many times you would raise the same problem?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : These industries which are being removed without any reason....(Interruptions). Because Delhi Government had given them land for relocation...(Interruptions) About the workers who are dying...(Interruptions) I want that Supreme Court should withdraw that order...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please call a meeting in case of Maruti Udhyog (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY) : Sir, the Bagdogra Airport has suddenly been closed since 16th of December. The reason, according to the pilots, is that there is no navigational aids available. But the DGCA says that navigational aids are available there. Fairly four months after the inauguration of the Bagdogra Airport, constructed at a cost of Rs. 30 crore, the decision of the Indian Airlines and the Jet Airways to indefinitely suspend the operation has come as a great shock to the people of this country

particularly at a time when the tourist season is there. The Teesta Tea Tourist Festival is scheduled to start from 24th of December. The foreign tourists have come. No one knows about the suspension of the operation. This Airport is maintained by the Air Force and the Air Force people refuse to explain why this Airport has been closed. It is seriously affecting the economy of North Bengal and the economy of Sikkim. So, I request that the Government should intervene in this matter and settle the issue. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR) : The Bagdogra Airport in the Eastern Region is a very important Airport. It must not be closed. It must be opened. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The North-Eastern States are seriously affected. Where is the Minister concerned? We want to hear from the hon. Minister (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Sir, I am also associating with Shri Rupchand Pal on this matter. They are destroying the economy and tourism in North Bengal and Sikkim. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call everyone.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are some problems regarding facility of roads and paths in Assam and Poorvanchal states. As such it is naturally very essential that the people of these states be provided with air services. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : You have discontinued the air service ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is the problem always. What is this? You are not allowing the Minister also to give the reply.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is not the question of today only. I have been studying this area. The air services have been declining for the last few years. The airports are being closed, air services are being discontinued. I agree with your sentiments and generally whatever is discussed here, I convey the same to the concerned Minister but now especially I would pass on this subject to the Minister of civil aviation...(Interruptions)

[English]

Bagdogra is a very special entry point. It is like a gateway...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This should not be a standard reply....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I never said it so. Every time, I take you seriously. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (MOTIHARI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am talking of politics. What I am talking is that recently Government of India have given a number of facilities to the farmers of Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, but the position in Bihar is different. Earlier the paddy grown in Bihar was also sold to Nepal and Bangladesh. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Uttamrao Dhikale, do not disturb the proceedings of the House. I will call your name also.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Farmers of Bihar are forced to sell their paddy at the rate of two hundred fifty to three hundred rupees per quintal due to better production of paddy in Nepal and Bangladesh during the last two years. Through you, I would like to request the Government of India and mainly the Minister of Food that Food Corporation of India has opened only 30 procurement centres which are quite inadequate and out of these thirty centres some are not functioning properly. I request that at least one centre should be set up in each district ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : What purpose one centre is going to serve.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : This is my submission, whatever you want to speak, please speak. At some places, a number of FCI centres have been opened and at some other places, even a single centre has not been opened. As such the norms for Bihar should be relaxed on the lines of Punjab so that the recovery percentage of rice can be allowed to be 64 kilogram instead of 67 kilogram per one quintal paddy. Whatever standard has been fixed in Punjab, the same should be fixed in Bihar by the Central Government. Simultaneously the Central Government should ensure that as much quantum of rice is offered by Bihar

Government to FCI, the FCI should accept it. ... *(Interruptions)*. The Government of India is procuring 30 per cent paddy in Punjab or Andhra Pradesh and 70 per cent is being procured by the State Government. I would request the Government of India to direct Bihar Government to go for paddy procurement in Bihar on the same lines. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now please conclude.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been procuring ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Radha Mohan ji, now please conclude.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : The whole world is aware of the position in Bihar. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister is telling the remedy.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPU YADAV (PURNIA) : The State Government is not able even to pay salaries to its employees in time. ... *(Interruptions)*. The hon'ble Minister gives reply to queries here in the House but no follow up action is taken by the State Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a detailed discussion has taken place here in the House about the problems of the farmers of Bihar. We have held talks with the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and other Members for two-three days on this issue. I would like to make the position clear that I have received the letter of hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar on 27th November in which he has stated that damage to crops has also been caused in the state as well. Therefore, similar relaxation should also be given to Bihar as has been given to Punjab. We received the said letter on 27th of November and dispatched our team to the state on 30th November which returned on 3rd December and gave its report on the basis of which we have decided to give relaxation of six per cent on paddy.

* Not recorded

Secondly, we fix levy price for each state after which the states place their orders and basis of which we make procurement of rice. We have fixed Rs. 861 for common grade and Rs. 908 for the 'A' grade rice in Bihar. It is the responsibility of the State Government to make available rice at this rate to us. We are ready to buy the entire quantity of rice which would be made available to us at these rates. I would like to clear one thing. ... (Interruptions) ... Please listen to me first. ... (Interruptions) The rate is fixed keeping in view the N.S.D.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Please listen. Let me complete. The rate is fixed keeping in view the NSD. The State Government place their order and accordingly the mill owners make procurement for us. ... (Interruptions) ... In the fixed rates of Rs. 861 and Rs. 908 NSD has been included. At this rate we are ready to procure the entire quantity of rice as levy offered by the Bihar Government. The issue of opening of procurement centres was raked here.... (Interruptions). You should also listen to others. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji please listen to me. 30 centres have already been opened. The hon'ble members have demanded that centres should be opened in those districts where there are no such centres at present.... (Interruptions). This Government have decided that there would be at least one centre in each district and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is ready to procure the quantity of rice which will be made available by the State Government at such centres. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, by what time this sort of arrangements would be made?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : The centres have already been opened and they are ready to procure the rice. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, what about to percentage. ... (Interruptions) ...

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. What are you doing? I have not called you to speak. Is there no rule for you?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : As I have told that after sample testing in laboratory we have decided to give

relaxation of six per cent for the benefit of the farmers of the state ... (Interruptions)... There was one more demand from their side that as relaxation has been given, so there should also be relaxation in the out turn ratio. ... (Interruptions)... On the basis of six percent relaxation it amounted to 65 per cent but keeping in the view the specific circumstances in Bihar, as there are no big mills in the State ... (Interruptions) we have also decided to do the said relaxation 64 per cent. The Government of Bihar brought one more point to our notice. ... (Interruptions). Please listen to me. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji, you should listen to others. It is not fair that you keep on saying but don't want to listen to others.... (Interruptions) ... The Government of Bihar has informed us that it has 550 primary agricultural societies and those societies want to give us rice after making procurement themselves.... (Interruptions)... We have informed them that we are ready to take from today the quantity of rice the societies want to give us. ... (Interruptions)... Thereafter, they informed that not only rice but they are interested in procuring paddy also. We have decided that if the 550 primary agricultural societies ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what the Minister says.

... (Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : If they want to give us paddy as well as rice then we are also ready to purchase paddy too on the ratio of 70-30. One thing more has been said in it. ... (Interruptions)... The Government of Bihar has made one more demand. They have said that the incidental charges which we are going to give to these 550 primary agricultural societies of Bihar as is given elsewhere in the country are not adequate in case of Bihar.... (Interruptions)... Because it will be a costly affair to procure entire paddy from the primary agricultural societies and milling it before transporting it to the godowns of the Food Corporation of India. Fifteen days have lapsed since then. The officers of the Bihar Government came to me and I asked them to come with a scheme... (Interruptions)... If incidental charges are required to be increased we are ready to increase it. (Interruptions)... Fifteen days have lapsed since then but no scheme has been submitted to me. I would like to say one thing more. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji has said that during his tenure 103 centres were opened. ... (Interruptions) But only 25 thousand tonnes of paddy was procured by those 103 procurement centres which has not been milled till date.

13.00 hrs.

Should we sell the said stock of paddy through auction because it was the responsibility of the State Government to mill the procured paddy. We are going to auction it. We have already suffered a loss of Rs. 1.5 crores. The Union Government have allotted 12 lakh tonnes of foodgrain to the Government of Bihar for the people living below the poverty line. The Government of Bihar have not lifted 9 lakh tonnes of foodgrains out of it till date. We propose to allot foodgrains worth Rs. 168 crore free of cost to the Government of Bihar under the mid day meal scheme. The State Government of Bihar have lifted only 30,000 tonnes out of the allotted 1,87,000 tonnes of foodgrain. Last year also only 12,000 tonnes were lifted out of the total 2,80,000 tonnes of foodgrain allotted for the purpose.

Last thing I would like to say is that we want to help the Government of Bihar. Within the ten months upto December 2000, 3,98,000 tonnes of sugar has been allotted to the Bihar Government. The State Government did not lift 1,49,000 tonnes of sugar out of it. We are ready to take as much quantity of rice as they can give to our centres.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Uttamrao Dhikale to speak.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : First of all you should know the procedure and behave accordingly.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (NASIK) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year permission was granted to export total four and half lakh metric tonnes of onion. But the export could not be made upto the desired extent. The application of NAFED is still lying with the Ministry of Commerce in which it has sought permission for export of 25,000 metric tonnes of onion. Its time was upto 15th December 2000 which has lapsed but no action has been taken on the said application. Onion is lying in the market in Nasik for the last three days and there is no buyer. Therefore, the farmers are not getting prices of their produce. I request that action should be taken promptly on the application of NAFED pending with the Ministry of Commerce and permission should be accorded immediately and export quota for the year 2001 should be fixed.

* Not Recorded

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : The price of crude oil in the international market has fallen.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Chair has not permitted you to speak. Why are you speaking without permission? I have not called you to speak.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue before this House. ... (Interruptions) There is a news item in the *Hindustan Times* today "Indians on death row 'get no help'". An alarmingly large number of Keralites are being put to the sword in Saudi Arabia on charges of drug trafficking in recent times and, in most cases, Indian Missions come to know about the executions only after the event.

Sir, the Indians, on the death row -- numbering 25, do not get any legal assistance from the Indian Government as the Embassies in Riyadh and Jeddah are kept in dark about the executions.

The issue assumes significance in view of the forthcoming visit of the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh, to Saudi Arabia. Seven Keralites were executed in Saudi Arabia last year and many Indians are facing capital punishment as they are victims of the drug and other mafia as they exploit the youth and spoil their career.

My request to the Government is, at least, our missions abroad should provide legal assistance to these people and proper information should be given to their relatives in Kerala and other parts of the country. Unfortunately, our missions fail in this and these people are not getting any kind of legal assistance. The officials or our Embassies rarely visit these people who are in the jails there.

This is a very serious issue. Twenty-five other Keralites, many of them are women, are still in Saudi jails and their relatives are not aware of these facts. So, I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to redress their grievances urgently.

Thank you... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling the names according to the list. Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Murthi's submission.

... (Interruptions)*

* Not recorded

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM): Sir, this issue concerns the importance of the Members and the House. Yesterday, I, along with some other hon. Members, went to Shastri Bhavan in the Lunch Hour. I was shocked as I was detained there for about two-and-a-half hours. All the doors were closed and nobody was allowed to go out till 3.45 p.m. I lost the most valuable time of the House being locked there. This is a very serious issue.

I came to know that the employees were agitating outside and they had formed a human chain out there. I do not know why the employees were agitating because nobody was allowed to go out. The employees had created a sort of terrorism yesterday. If there is any dispute between the Government and the employees, it should be sorted out immediately because then only peace will be restored there. Something has happened in other offices also. But nobody here knows what has happened.

The Government should answer this. It is a disgrace on the part of the government to allow the employees to form a human chain and in turn not allowing anybody to go out. Why is the Government sitting like this? What is wrong in this? Why were we detained like this? The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here, he should reply to this. We would like to know why this agitation was there.

I want him to say something. I was detained virtually for two-and-a-half hours. The hon. Minister should say something on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

13.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

MR. SPEAKER : Item no. 19A - Supplementary List of Business. Shri Yashwant Sinha.

Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide

for responsibility of the Central Government to ensure inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long-term macroeconomic stability by achieving sufficient revenue surplus, eliminating fiscal deficit and removing fiscal impediments in the effective conduct of monetary policy and prudential debt management consistent with fiscal sustainability through limits on the Central Government borrowings, debt and deficits, greater transparency in fiscal operations of the Central Government and conducting fiscal policy in a medium-term framework and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for responsibility of the Central Government to ensure inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long-term macro-economic stability by achieving sufficient revenue surplus, eliminating fiscal deficit and removing fiscal impediments in the effective conduct of monetary policy and prudential debt management consistent with fiscal sustainability through limits on the Central Government borrowings, debt and deficits, greater transparency in fiscal operations of the Central Government and conducting fiscal policy in a medium-term framework and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I introduce* the Bill.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I understand that it will be referred to the Standing Committee. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the Government has no objection if the Bill is referred to the Standing Committee. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I humbly submit to you that since the text of the Bill is very good, it should be referred to the Select Committee. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can talk to me about these matters in my Chamber.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, that I can always do. Whatever you say here is a law to us. ... (Interruptions)

* Published in the *Gazetted of India Extraordinary part-II- section 2* dated 20-12-2000

* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I think, matters under rule 377 be treated as laid on the Table of the House because today we have hectic business.

14.08½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- i) **Need to allot 10,000 houses per year to the people living below poverty line in Ahmednagar in Gujarat under Indira Awas Yojna**

[Translation]

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (AHMED-NAGAR) : The District Magistrate, Ahmednagar, Chief Executive Officer, District Council and District Rural Development Agency conducted a survey of people living below the poverty line in the entire Ahmednagar district. As per the survey 1,50,885 families are living below the poverty line in the entire district and out of them 80,000 families have their own houses and houses of 20,000 families are in dilapidated condition, if these families are given an assistance of Rs. 10-15 thousand, they can convert their houses in pucca house. There are 50,885 families which don't have their houses.

The target set for providing houses in the above district under the Indira Awas is 2200 houses annually. And if we provide houses at this pace it will take 22-23 years in providing houses to all and whereas our intention is that no family living below the poverty line is deprived of houses in the coming 5 years. Therefore, I request to set a target of providing 10,000 houses in Ahmednagar every year so that those living below the poverty line could have their own houses in the next five years and our Ahmednagar district becomes a trendsetter in the country in this regard.

[English]

- (ii) **Need to provide employment to the people whose land has been acquired for setting up industries in ST dominated areas of Bharuch Parliamentary constituency in Gujarat.**

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (BHARUCH) : I would like to draw the attention of the House towards my constituency where many big industries have been set up and land of many tribals and farmers has been acquired for the purpose as a result of which the tribals and farmers of

these areas have been rendered totally unemployed, and many displaced persons have not got employment in these industries. Many industries were set up in the Bharuch parliamentary constituency with a view to developing these backward areas and the development of these areas can only take place sincerely if the local people of such areas are provided employment.

I would like to request the Government the matter of providing employment to the displaced families should be looked into and the local people should be provided employment in the industries set up there.

[English]

- (iii) **Need to take steps for implementation of Yamuna water agreement to solve the drinking water problem in Churu district of Rajasthan.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (CHURU) : The people of my parliamentary constituency Churu (Rajasthan) have been demanding for the implementation of Yamuna Water Agreement since a long time. Churu district is a desert area and the people here depend on wells and rain for water for drinking and irrigation purposes. And this district has been facing the problems of severe drought and famine for the last many years. The water level of wells have fallen significantly thereby causing shortage of water for drinking and irrigation purposes.

In view of the above adverse conditions, it has become absolutely necessary to implement the Yamuna Water Agreement. As per the above agreement Rajasthan is supposed to get 2350 cusecs of water out of which the share of Churu district is 850 cusecs. And this water will reach Rajasthan via Suanpa Rajgarh tehsil from Hansi in Haryana.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to issue necessary directions to the Rajasthan Government in this regard after implementing the Yamuna Water Agreement in view of the peculiar conditions faced by Churu district.

[English]

- (iv) **Need for early construction of Masan Dam Project to check floods in North Bihar**

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (BETTI AH) : I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the Masan Dam Project in North Bihar. Since 1873 it has been considered to construct the said dam and this project was accorded sanction in 1982 and it was to be completed in five years.

* Treated as laid on the table of the House

Under the project a 85 feet high dam spreading over 5220 square kilometers was proposed to be constructed on the Masan river in the catchment area spanning 350 square kilometer so that rain water could be used for irrigation in North Bihar. Floods occur in North Bihar each year during the rainy season and crops worth crores of rupees is damaged. Lakhs of people are rendered homeless due to devastating floods and due to these floods caused by the Masan river, the development of Western and Eastern areas of Champaran is not taking place.

I request to the Government to immediately complete the Masan dam project so that North Bihar gets rid of floods permanently and the works to be undertaken on the above dam should be reviewed as to why the construction work of this dam could not commence even eighteen years have elapsed.

[English]

(v) Need to allocate adequate funds for early start of work on Indore-Dahod-Godhara railway line of Western Railways

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR) : The Maxi-Indore-Dahod-Godhara railway line of Western Railway was sanctioned in 1989-89 but for want of funds the work on this sanctioned line from Indore to Dahod Godhara could not be started. Therefore, there is a need to start work early on the above rail line and complete the same in the public interest as well as in the interest of the nation and railways.

Therefore, I urge upon the Railway Ministry to provide sufficient budgetary provision for the Indore-Dahod-Godhara rail line so that work could be started on this line.

[English]

(vi) Need to run Thiruvananthapuram Rajdhani Express train running between Nizamuddin and Thiruvananthapuram daily

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : There is urgent need to increase the service of the Thiruvananthapuram Rajdhani Express, which is now operating between Nizamuddin and Thiruvananthapuram twice a week. This train, which runs through different destinations including Goa and New Bombay (Punvell), taking the shortest route via Konkan region, is a blessing for a large section of people living in or visiting for picnic the intermediary places. Various business centres lie on the route of the above said train. Thus, for the common man, visitors and the business community, this train is most suitable. Due to this factor,

there is always overcrowding in this train. While some get accommodation in the train, majority of the people are left in lurch. Often they are forced to look out for alternative means to reach the destination or to reschedule their programme incurring time and pecuniary losses in the process. On a number of occasions they fall a prey to the hooligans and blackmarketeers of tickets. I, therefore, request the Union Government to increase service of this train.

(vii) Need to set up a modern science centre and planetarium at Kohima in Nagaland

SHRI K. A. SANGTAM (NAGALAND) : Nagaland is probably the second highest in literacy in the North-East of India and claims to have a good standard of education. The performance of schools and colleges are fairly compared to other States in the Country.

However, with the speedy development in the field of Science & Technology, specially in information & technology, various explorations and the solar system are still to be studied and discovered. In view of this, I would like to urge upon the Government of India to give more emphasis in the field of space & solar system and provide facility to the youth particularly to the school children to impart sound knowledge about the fast moving world. But, in order to do that, a Modern Science Centre and a Planetarium should be set up in the State of Nagaland.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to establish such a project in Kohima, so that the youth of this State would get maximum exposure and get acquainted and familiarized with the space and solar system.

(viii) Need to declare Teni-Trivandrum highway via Kottayam, Kottarakara in Kerala as national highway

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR) : In Kerala National Highway coverage is less in comparison to other States of the country. The Government of India recently announced for conversion of several State Highways into National Highways. But adequate has not been paid in respect of Kerala.

The newly declared National Highway from Teni to Quilon via Kottayam should be extended up to Trivandrum from Kottarakara.

The proposed National Highway Teni-Quilon is covered by State highway No. 1. This highway is called MC Road. The MC Road from Kottayam to Kottarakara is included in the National Highway No. 208 from Madurai to Quilon.

Therefore, I may request the Government of India to change the recently declared National Highway from Teni to Quilon to Teni to Trivandrum via Kottayam, Kottarakara.

(ix) Need to set up Bench of High Court at Trivandrum, Kerala at the earliest.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM) : The Government of Kerala after considering all aspects of the matter as early in 1996 has taken a decision to set up a bench of the Kerala High Court at Trivandrum. This being the long cherished desire of the people of the Southern Kerala and taking into consideration of the fact that there was a High Court at Trivandrum prior to the reorganisation of the Kerala State, the Kerala Cabinet decided to establish a bench of the Kerala High Court at Trivandrum and the proposal was forwarded to the Government of India for further follow up action. As the statutory requirements and submits a full proposal to the Central Government. As such the previous law minister has written to the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court for its opinion.

I, therefore request to the Government to expedite the matter for setting up a High Court Bench at Trivandrum, Kerala.

(x) Need to revamp Durgapur unit to Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR) Regarding availability of LNG in the State of West Bengal, a meeting was arranged by WBIDC (West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation) where the representatives of Vavasi Oil and Gas Pvt. Ltd., India, Al Manhal International Company UAE persuaded by the Govt. of West Bengal to reroute their proposed gas line from Gopalpur to Allahabad via Durgapur. Durgapur plant, as you know, is shut down since June '97 due to higher cost of production mainly because of high cost Naptha used in this unit as feed stock. The recently submitted revival proposal of Rs.399 crores ensuring a production of 3 LMTPA prepared jointly by the unit management, officers, Association and CITU have dealt elaborately on the provision of dual feed options too. The Project is still under the consideration of the Government. LNG will now be available at doorsteps of HFCL, Durgapur unit by January, 2004, it is high time to set up a Brown Field Project of at least 7.26 LMPTA urea manufacturing complex.

I urge upon the Union Government to revamp HFCL, Durgapur unit immediately so that the requirement of urea more than 10 lakh tonnes for the State of West Bengal can be met to some extent and the employee of that unit may also get benefited.

(xi) Need to develop Visakhapatnam airport as an International airport

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : The State Government of Andhra Pradesh is keen to develop an

International Airport at Visakhapatnam. This is necessary both for the development of tourism in the State as also for promotion of industries including hardware which require sophisticated logistic systems with international connectivity.

I, therefore request the Union Government to take necessary steps in this regard to develop the Visakhapatnam Airport as an international one at the earliest.

(xii) Need to set up a Power Grid Station at Baniapur in Maharajganj Parliamentary Constituency in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards setting up of a power grid station at Baniapur which falls in the centre of my parliamentary constituency. Since the creation of the Jharkhand state, the remaining Bihar has now become dependent mainly on agriculture. Chapra and Siwan districts of my constituency are already dependent on agriculture since industrial development in these districts is almost nil and power supply is the only ray of hope for the farmers for irrigation purposes etc. As soon as I was elected as a Member of Parliament in the year 1998 for the first time I had sent a letter requesting to set up a power grid station at Baniapur in view of the critical situation of power supply in my constituency I had also raised this matter under Rule 377 in June, 1998 and the hon. Minister had a talk with the Chairman of Power Corporation in my presence. Sanction for setting up of a power grid station at Baniapur was given in view of the critical situation of power supply and even date for laying the foundation stone for the same had also been fixed but the foundation stone could not be laid due to dissolution of the Lok Sabha only two days before the date fixed for laying the foundation.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to direct the Chairman of Power Corporation to set up a power grid station at Baniapur.

[English]

(xiii) Need to ensure proper implementation of foreign aided afforestation scheme in various pockets of Tamil Nadu

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN (PERIYAKULAM) : An afforestation scheme with an outlay of Rs.800 crore, aided by Japan, was planned to be implemented in various pockets of Tamil Nadu. The scheme was meant to plant saplings on the outskirts of villages adjoining forest area and hilly tracks to increase forest coverage. The said scheme was being implemented in Cumbum, Puthupatti and Uthukkadu areas

in Theni District. The area was divided into 3 zones for better identification and co-ordination. The forest department claims to have been planted about 1 lakh and 30 thousand saplings in 355 hectare so far in the said accordance with the scheme. But, it has been reported by NGOs and the public that thousands of such saplings have been planted in private land and elsewhere.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter and stern action should be taken against all those who are responsible for sabotaging this scheme.

(xiv) Need to declare Jankinath Bhawan at Cuttack, the birth place of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, as a national monument

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK) : Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birthplace Janakinath Bhawan at Cuttack, should be declared as a National Monument by the Government. The century old building is now being managed by Netaji Subhas Seva Sadan, a public Trust, which also operates a child care and maternity home in the same complex. Every day scores of people visit the birth place of Netaji and pay obeisance to Netaji and to his unique sacrifice which he offered for the freedom of this country.

In the era of socialism, the State has taken the onus upon itself to propagate the life and teachings of leaders of this country.

I urge upon the government to take immediate steps to declare Netaji birthplace - Janakinath Bhawan at Cuttack as a National Monument and maintain there a National Museum and archive as is being done at Anand Bhawan, Allahabad and Teen Murthi Bhawan, New Delhi.

(xv) Need to set up small scale, agro and coir based industries in the Industrial Complex at Pudukkottai in Tamil Nadu

SHRI THRIUNAVKARASU (PUDUKKOTTAI) : Pudukkottai is an important district in Tamil Nadu. It is an important agricultural and commercial Centre. Thousands of coconut trees are grown here. A huge industrial complex with necessary infrastructure is available in Pudukkotti. Water and electricity are also available.

Pudukkottai is a backward district and people mainly depend upon agriculture. There is a great outflow of population from here to other areas in search of employment.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to set up small scale industries, agro and coir industries in the Industrial Complex in Pudukkottai. This will not only facilitate economic

development of the area but also make optimum use of available facilities.

14.09 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings -contd.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, the debate on disinvestment was initiated by Shri Basu Deb Acharia followed by learned speaker, Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Shri Kamal Nath. This is a very important subject because this is a nation's wealth. When we are selling away the nation's wealth, there is a feeling in the people whether this money is being properly used or not. We have to dispel that theory that this money by way of disinvestment that is being brought will be put back again to a better utilisation, for a better purpose and for better productivity. Unless we make the people understand, there is every possibility that the nation, as a whole, is misunderstanding this Government.

As a matter of fact, this became inevitable after liberalisation. We could not help it because we could not provide them the necessary technology, necessary inputs and managerial skills. All these things have been neglected over a period of time in these public sector undertakings. Even while appointing the chair persons, they have not taken care to see that suitable persons should head these public sector undertakings. There were many public sector undertakings which were headless. There were no Chairmen or Managing Directors. I do not know the present position. The business is being carried on as in the Government. But when it is a commercial activity, when something is being produced, it should be produced viably and it should be marketed properly.

14.11 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

Then only our money will remain intact. Otherwise, every year they are going into losses. In the past, every year the Government used to provide in the Budget, grants for the public sector undertakings to recoup their losses and ultimately they never bothered about bringing them back to profit. Now the situation is different. Now the Government is not able to provide budgetary support to any of the public sector undertakings. We should classify these public sector units in two sectors - strategic sector and non-strategic sectors. The strategic sector could be owned 100 per cent by the Government. Government's business is to govern, not to

[SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI]

run the sick industries. At one stage, the previous Governments – I am not trying to blame anybody; these are the facts and we should accept the facts as facts – started acquiring sick units even in the private sector, as if the Government is more expert as compared to the private sector for running the sick units. How will this country prosper and where are we leading this country to? Unless corrective steps are taken, whatever activity we undertake, whether manufacturing activity or trading activity, it should result in some surplus; it should not end up with a loss. If it ends up with a loss, then we can think of its closure for ever.... (Interruptions) Dr. Sengupta, you also headed some of these undertakings as a Secretary. I think as Revenue Secretary, you have taken some of these decisions. But now I am not going into all that. We should all think alike in this matter. It is a question of the country's prosperity. When we talk of country's prosperity, we have to see how we can make this country prosper. Then only this disinvestment could be understood properly. The Report of the Disinvestment Commission headed by Shri G.V. Ramakrishna recommended several measures to be taken for disinvestment. Some of the recommendations are: PSUs must have corporate governance for improvement, there should be transparency and strengthening of investor interface, there should be change in commercial outlook, and so on. Individual Ministries have objections to disinvestment in units under their ambit. Some Ministers say, first do it in units under the ambit of other Ministers. So, everybody wanted to be – I do not know what I should say – very pious that he is not for disinvestment. Disinvestment is not a crime. We should not think that by disinvesting, we are committing a crime.

We are helping this nation. That money could be used to productive use instead of wasting the money. Do you want to waste the money? Then, you can waste it, you take over all the businesses again. Way back in 1976, China made it an open economy. We could not do it. China have done it because there was a single-Party rule. It is a different thing here. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is here. Whatever you have done yesterday when you were in the Government, you now differ with it. It is a different matter. But there must be some unified ideas in these matters.

That also should not come in the way. We can have some public sector units which are making profits or likely to make profits. We should build a lean and strong public sector instead of having a bulky and unwieldy public sector units. You make it a compact one and where you can make profit, you can make profit. For example in the steel sector, a modern steel mill is there in Visakhapatnam of Rashtriya

Ispat Nigam Limited. This is one of the most modern mills. You want to disinvest it. But before that, we can think of some more units which are making losses. The Commission has said to improve this mill. I will just mention what they have said : "To build in about Rs. 1,700 crore, to make it modern and to bring it back to 400 million tonnes capacity so that the unit can run." You can then think of taking a partner. Once you strengthen it, you will get a better price.

Supposing you go on doing like this, what will happen? You take the case of Maruti Udyog. I started mentioning this yesterday but then I closed it. It was one of the prime units, the pride of India – but not any more today. There is a stiff competition from others in the car sector. Whatever the value of the share of Maruti was at that time, say Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000 it is not there now. Even Suzuki Limited have said that they do not want to take up those 50 per cent shares of GOI. At one time they wanted to take it at very high price, as Dr. Nitish Sengupta stated. But, at that time, the Government said : 'We do not want to give the shares of the Government'. Then, all of a sudden, the Government has changed the mind and they offered the shares. When GOI offered the shares, they said : 'Thank you very much, we do not want those shares'. It is lethargy on the part of the Government. They should be able to take right decision at the right time so that the people will be benefited. Otherwise, these things will continue to be like this. There is no proper monitoring of these disinvestments now. I am sorry to say this.

As I advised or recommended yesterday – I do not say demanded – you should issue a White Paper as to what has happened because this is the people's money. It is not like just selling it away. It is more so because whatever money that you get by disinvesting, there is a fear or an apprehension in many of the people here that the Government wanted to use this money to cover up its deficit finance. I do not agree with it. Unless it is proved, we cannot say it. But that fear in the minds of the hon. Members should be dispelled by issuing a White Paper. Otherwise the people will mistake the Government. The proceeds from disinvestment are to be used for strengthening the PSUs whose health can be improved and a competitive spirit could be brought in by using this money. Such units could be helped with this money. You can use a part of this money to reduce the debt burden of high cost money. You have borrowed high cost money. Wherever there is high cost money, you reduce the debt of this country.

There will not be at least any burden on the people. If you want money for poverty alleviation programmes, you can take soft loans. People will give the money to the Government, other States will give you the money or other countries will give you the money at low interest rates. That

money could be used for taking up poverty alleviation programmes. Whatever money you get from disinvestment should not be used for paying the salaries or for anything else. There should also be some introspection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Murthi, I do not want to disturb you, but there are 15 speakers, and the hon. Speaker wants that we should limit each speaker to 15 minutes.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : If you want me, I will sit down. Yesterday, you gave a lot of time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The initiator had to be given that much time.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I do not want to argue with the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The initiator was stopped at 45 minutes.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I do not want to argue with the Chair. I will not take more than five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That makes it 20 minutes.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : The PSU Boards, instead of being filled with experts, at least, to the extent of one-third, are being filled with Government officials. No Board of the PSUs is responsible to the public or to the investors. Now, the Government is recommending that small investors should have representation in the Board. That is a welcome sign. There should be expert outsiders in these Boards so that there will be transparency, and what is happening will be known.

I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister of Industries, and the Minister of the State of the Department of Disinvestment, who are present here, that they should take a decision in the Cabinet. They are taking reports of the Disinvestment Commission to the Government in parts and not as a whole. Therefore, the truth is not coming out. I am sorry to say that the officials are not giving proper feedback to the Minister. So, you must go through the reports of the Disinvestment Commission. If there are any doubts, please call Disinvestment Commission Members so they will explain the position and then only you should take a decision.

In regard to these 45 units where disinvestment was recommended, what is the present status, and what steps is the Government taking to get a higher price?

Another point is that the Government companies are investing in one another. For example, ONGC is investing in GAIL; GAIL is investing in IOC; IOC is investing in GAIL and so on. What is this? In what way is it helping the

Government? It is only a whitewash, and this whitewashing business should be stopped forthwith. The Government's intention is realise the money and not to invest again in other public sector companies. You should take the permission of this House, if you want to again invest the money in any public sector company. So, please stop this type of investment. Whatever money you realise should be put to proper use, to strengthen the industry. The public sector units are all very rich. Out of the *Navratnas*, there is not even one *ratna* now.

All *Navaratnas* have gone now. My heart burns to see the nation's wealth being wasted like this.

At one time, the hon. Minister was the most-favoured journalist. Now also he should be the most-favoured Minister. I urge upon the Minister to kindly take necessary steps and come before the House at least in the coming Budget Session with details as to how the Government intends to realise higher value on individual industries; and how and by what date the Government intends to reach the target of Rs.10,000 crore of disinvestment.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only six minutes have been allotted to your party whereas I am giving you 15 minutes.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. We are discussing disinvestment under Rule 193. The concern expressed by some of our colleagues yesterday is justified.

When Public Sector Undertakings came in existence in India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru called them the temples and he further observed that these would lead to our development, would remove unemployment and would make India self-reliant. It was his humble effort. At present, there are nearly 235 PSU's in India, out of which 106 PSU's are running in losses whereas 127 are earning profit. I feel, these 106 PSU's are running in losses because of mismanagement and not because of lack of funds. Before disinvestment of any PSU's shares, we should try to explore the possibility of turning them into profit making units. I feel, Government is not at all interested in this regard. At present, there are two basic questions as to what is the policy of selling of shares of Public Undertakings. That is - what is the Government's policy in this regard? Is the policy transparent or not, whether it has any credibility or not and what are its terms and conditions? The House and the nation would like to know all this. It may be through a white paper or through any other mode. But you should take the nation into confidence with regard to your policy in respect of disinvestment of PSU'S. The second major question relates to utilisation of revenue

[SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN]

generated through the sale of these shares. What will be the priority area for investing funds accrued therefrom. How would you utilise it? What I feel is that the Government of India have no clear cut policy in regard to such fund. Finance Minister seeks to meet out budgetary deficit out of it and it should also be utilised for the payment of interest on foreign loan. Industry Ministry wants these funds to be invested in industries whereas Minister for Disinvestment would like that this amount should be spent for improvement of public sector. My point is that the Government have no clear cut policy for dealing with the large amount generated through sale of shares of PSU'S. It is quite unfortunate that not only movable assets but immovable assets are also being sold. Broadly speaking, country's dignity and prestige are at stake.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the most important point is that when these industries were set up the interests of the labourers were given top consideration. Earlier, 22 lakh labourers were working in these undertakings whereas now it has been reduced to 19 lakhs. Recently, hon. Prime Minister of India gave a statement that after some years, ten percent staff would be retrenched.

Presidential address reflects commitment of the Government. The President committed in his statement that every year one crore people would be provided employment. Whereas, now the Government desire to sell shares of PSU's and retrench the staff in Public Undertakings, which would render more people jobless. The Government should seriously think about the interests of labour force after disinvestment of these PSU'S.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to make one more request. As I have already stated unfortunately policies in our country are tailored in such a way so as to benefit only five to ten percent people. None cares for basic issues, such as problems of peasantry, unemployment etc. Today, people staying in rural areas are more in trouble. We daily discuss issues relating to farmers in this House but unless we give a serious thought to it, India will never prosper. After disinvestment of PSU's is over. I would like, the Government to take up rural road which are in bad shape. Recently, a Bill on Central Road Fund was introduced and we decided to levy cess on Diesel for development of National Highways. Through revenue generated by cess we would improve our National Highway network. Villages and cities are related to each other. Delhi daily figures during our discussion in the House, therefore we should take steps for development of villages then only the cities can develop properly. And if we are unable to develop villages, it would lead to disparity. Hence we should take up development of rural roads.

Infrastructure is very poor in our country. Earlier, one hospital was provided for population of 50 thousand. Now, that population in a block or taluk has increased four-fold. During 1972, per month Rs. 12000 were provided as annual budgetary support for basic amenities. Though 28 years have passed, but allocation remained the same whereas the salary bill of doctors in First Aid Centres comes to Rs.3 lakhs per month. So, the condition remain horrible. People from rural areas coming for treatment in hospitals like AIIMS or elsewhere do not get bed for 5-6 months. It causes great hardship to them. They are unsure about their turn to come. As far as big hospitals in Delhi are concerned, only rich people can afford to get treatment over there and not poor ones. Today, the condition of rural road is very bad, basic services too are in bad shape, same is the condition in education sector. The children want to study but there are no schools. I would like to tell this Government, that after disinvestment of shares of PSU, you are going to earn large amount and unless you invest that amount for employment generation, unless you give priority to provide basic services in rural areas, our condition cannot improve. Today, the number of unemployed youths are increasing uninterruptedly and we have no measures to control it. We are giving no thought to it as to how to generate employment. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to ponder over it seriously.

Sir, disinvestment process started in 1990 and a target to mobilise Rs.44 thousand 300 crore was fixed, whereas a target of only 18000 crore rupees could be achieved. We had decided to sell 33 undertakings whereby we were to get Rs.10 thousand crores whereas we got merely Rs.1500 crore. I am enable to understand what is the Government policy in this regard and what the Government intend to do? I would like to tell that the Government is in a quandary over this issue. I would like to reiterate that the House would like to know about policy of the Government in regard to disinvestment and about the clandestine deals clinched by the Government in this regard. It appears doubtful whether the Government is going ahead with its own terms and conditions or it is working under someones pressure. I urge upon the Government to issue a white paper in this regard and also fix priority then only disinvestment would be meaningful. Otherwise, I would feel that efforts are being made to keep this House and the nation as well in dark. Government's objective is to harass common man and please the rich community.

Sir, in the end, with a word of thanks to you. I would like to conclude.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Sir, when the august House is holding a discussion on disinvestment it is necessary to analyse the condition of the Public Sector Undertakings in the country. At the time the country got

independence the constitution makers had envisaged that industries should be set up in such areas as that their services would reach nook and corner of the country. Apart from this they had the intention that taxpayers money should be invested in such sectors the profit of which could be deposited in the consolidated fund of the country or returned back to people.

Sir, the total decentralisation of disinvestment is in the public Undertakings. When this issue is being discussed in the House, I would like to place some facts before the House. There are as many as 236 public sector undertakings in the manufacturing sector. Out of these undertakings, 126 are in private sector. Nearly 106 are running in loss. 71 undertakings have been handed over to BIFR. It is not felt necessary to discuss their condition however an amount of about Rs. 2 lakh 74 thousand crore of the country has been invested in these undertakings. I feel that it is necessary to make a further analysis of these figures. In spite of making such a big investment the income is only 13 thousand crore rupees. After all who will reply to this question that even after such a heavy investment in these undertakings, why the income is only 13 thousand crore rupees. I would like to further analyse the situation. Time deposit is being made in the Banks. If we had deposited such a big amount in fixed deposit, we would have got a return of 12 per cent and would have been in profit. While the present return,

[English]

as compared to public deposit, it is just four per cent.

[Translation]

Presently we are getting only 4 per cent return of the capital invested. So the analysis of the public sector undertakings is necessary as the mistakes that we have committed need to be rectified on the basis of this analysis. Presently 14 major undertakings of India are listed in the stock exchange. As many as 426 such major companies are in the manufacturing sector. Let us make a comparison up to 1995. Had some one invested and purchased its shares, its return value as on date would have been 2.4 per cent. Had the same investment been made in those manufacturing companies that are listed in the stock exchange, its return as on date would have been 24 per cent. Had the discussion on disinvestment taken place after the analysis of these figures, we could have hardly escaped from this discussion. I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that today almost all the public sector undertakings of the country except the few like Petroleum, coal, lignite companies are running in much loss. I would like to make a brief analysis of the profit making public sector undertakings. The profits of Petroleum, power and coal taken together came to nearly 65 thousand

crore rupees but if only petroleum is excluded from the group then the profit is reduced to Rs. 8000 crore. If coal is also excluded then the total loss as on date comes to Rs. 42000 crore. All the Public sector undertaking companies except Petroleum, coal, lignite and power are running in loss.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb. We are already short of time.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am trying to help you.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Now it has become necessary to compare expenditure on individual workers of a public sector undertaking with that of the private sector. Today the per staff expenditure in a public sector undertaking of India is 20 per cent of the net percentage on net sales while it is only four per cent in the case of private companies. We spend 20 per cent of the assets on staff of the public sector undertakings all over India and then compare it with the private sector. They also give salaries to their staffs under wage loss system. They also provide residence, telephone and other facilities to their employees. Still their expenditure on staff is only four per cent while the expenditure of public undertakings is 20 per cent. Who will reply to these questions? ... (Interruptions)

The interest cost on the public sector undertakings is 12 per cent while it is 5 per cent in the case of industries in the Private sector. From the analysis it is evident that the public sector undertakings of India are in bad shape. How long the taxpayers of the country will bear the burden of the loss making public sector undertakings? Who will answer this question. How much capital has been invested in these companies? A few days ago there had been serious discussion in the House. Hon'ble Raghuvansh Babu is present here. At that time Jaipal Reddy ji was also speaking and several hon'ble Members from this side were also speaking on issues related to Maruti Udyog. When the discussion was on, I strongly opposed it as it is necessary to have a thorough knowledge of the subject before it is raised in the House. Today what is the condition of Maruti Udyog? We talk about the employees but today not a single Member of the left front is present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They are present.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : There may be one or two Members present here but that shows how much interest

[SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY]

they have in this issue. They raise this issue only between 11-12 hours when the proceedings are telecast by the national channel of Doordarshan but where are they now?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not fair to make those comments. You cannot cast aspersions on any party like this.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : How many are sitting there?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : They are our wise colleagues who are sitting there. Those who understand the issue are sitting here. Shri Sangma ji is also present. All the members who are well wishers of the country are present here. The absence of those Members who are only interested in making anything an issue pinch me as I want to comprehend the analysis they are making. I was discussing the case of Maruti Udyog. The Members said in one voice that the rights of the employees have been infringed and the employees are being beaten. I also come from a rural area. My village is 70 km away from Patna, the capital city of Bihar. The bus that plies between Patna and my place is called one day service. It takes on a full day to cover a distance of 70 km. We are part of this country and what is happening there in the Maruti Udyog. Today when the market shares Maruti Udyog have gone down from 80 per cent to 40 per cent, the employees in blue uniforms come us and invite us for delivering speeches in the support at Jantar-Mantar. Why should we make speeches for them? Today out of 4700 employees, only 1400 are in service. When there were 4700 employees 1200 vehicles were being manufactured in six months but today when 4000 employees are out of service, 1400 vehicles are being manufactured within the same period of time. It calls for an analysis. Today hundred per cent workers have telephone facility and some of them even have AC and vehicles also. I am not saying that their facilities should be cut down but at least there should be a comparison. Please make a comparison of their salaries and a comparison should also be made from other points of view. The issue of Maruti Udyog is very important as it will decide the future courses of the country. We have heard the name of Ford Motors.

Average salary of employees of this company is Rs 10912. The average salary of the employees of Hyundai Motors is Rs 9728. We are using bus and trucks of Telco for last forty years and average salary of employees of this company is Rs.12044. In Daewoo Motors it is Rs.14008. One would not have made any guess about the Maruti Udyog.

The average salary of employees of Maruti Udyog is Rs.23017. Now they are making a demand for wage revision. If their demands are acceded then after revision, in first year they will get Rs.30000 and by 2004 it will be Rs.44000. For this purpose the services of Members of Lok Sabha are being utilised. They raise the issue of the employees without analysing the subject matter....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt the hon'ble Member.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : You can go to Janpath and give speech....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Sir, there are 12 Joint ventures of the Maruti Udyog and what will happen to the factories located in Gurgaon when the employees of smaller factories will start demanding the pay scale equivalent to that of Maruti Udyog? In that case what will happen to the Maruti Udyog. The Chief Minister of Haryana has opposed this move. He said that if this pay scale is given to the employees of Maruti Udyog, then all the industries of Haryana will be closed as the employees of those factories will start demanding the same scale. So there is a need to analyse the issue ... (Interruptions)

Madam, I would not like to say anything against the workers, however, through you I would like to bring a small matter to the notice of the august house. When I was elected as a Member of Legislative Assembly for the first time and I visited my constituency. I was told that the oldest leather factory of Saran district in the Public sector has been closed. When I was elected as a Member of Parliament for the first time in 1996 and visiting my Parliamentary constituency, I found that the oldest engineering factory that manufactured spare parts for the sugar mills of Saran has been closed. I lost the Lok Sabha election for the second time but when I was elected for the third time, I found that the oldest Engineering factory at Saran has been closed. When I was elected for the fourth time, I found that the Modern Factory, the oldest and the biggest chocolate manufacturing factory of the country has been closed.

Madam Chairperson, because of the system that was followed by the Congress party for last 40 years in the country and the mindset of the industries, most of the industries are now on the verge of closure. Therefore, it is necessary to discuss the issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rudy ji, now you please resume your seat.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Madam Chairperson, I am the second speaker of the Bhartiya Janta Party. The hon'ble Minister is also supporting my view point. It is very necessary that important question must be raised in the House. Now let us seen wherefrom the process of disinvestment started. There are many good persons in this party. In 1999 Shri Chandra Shekar ji came to power for a short period.

[English]

The Industrial Policy Statement in the Budget speech of 1997, Madam, it is very important for you also, Dr. Manmohan Singh had categorically said :

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know his speeches. Please do not worry about that.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : It says:

"In the case of selected enterprises a part of the Government's holding in equity share capital of these enterprises will be disinvested in order to provide further market discipline to the performance of the public sector enterprises."

This was his Industrial Policy Statement. In 1991, Dr. Manmohan Singh in his Budget speech had said:

"For the founding fathers of our republic, a public sector that would be vibrant, modern, competitive and capable of generating large surpluses was a vital element in the strategy of development. The public sector has made an important contribution to the diversification of industrial economy but there have been a number of short comings. In particular, the Public sector has not been able to generate internal surplus on the large scale enough. At this critical juncture it has, therefore, become necessary to take effective measures so as to make public sector an engine of growth rather than (I emphasise) an absorbent of national savings without adequate return."

This has been widely accepted but the thought and action in this regard are still apart. So, this was the crux....
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will have to finish now. You may leave the other points for the Minister. The Minister will use them in his speech.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I think the House is agreeing to what I am saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, we agree but there is not much time.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I could see, Madam, that you are also liking my speech. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Madam, several types of allegations have been made and it was said that our Government did not sell a single share after 1996 but who sold shares for the first time in 1991 and who sold the shares of Navratnas? Who will reply to that? Who sold the shares of Bharat Petroleum and IOC? The process selling out of the shares was started by the Congress Party. I do say that the process of disinvestment was started by Shri Manmohan Singhji. Who sold the shares of Union Carbide, MTNL and VSNL? Who started the process of disinvestment? How the process which was all right till now became wrong all of a sudden when they sat in the opposition. Please make an analysis of this situation. Madam, if any one desires to invest thousands of crores of rupees in this sector and can efficiently run and manage the industry then permission should be given to such entrepreneurs. Now we are going for disinvestment of Indian Airlines and Air India because they are not earning profit. There are 53 major Airlines in the world, out of which only 10 to 12 Airlines are in Public Sectors and remaining 35 to 37 Airlines are in private sector. This is the situation today.

My submission is that it is not the business of the government to run hotels. It is not the job of the Government to do business, rather the job of the Government is to rule. Besides, the other responsibility of the Government is to take care of the Industries which are in strategic and core sectors. That is why my submission is that Government should see the condition of the State Governments. See the condition of all the Road Transport Corporation. Today they are raising their voice against disinvestment. The Government of Delhi are also saying that the Delhi Vidyut Board should be disinvested. The Government of Karnataka and the Government of Maharashtra are also saying the same thing. Now it is the need of the hour because there can be no fraud with the people of the country. We can not invest the people's money in loss making industries on the pretext of providing security to people. It is necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now please take your seat
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Madam Chairperson, keeping in view the seriousness fo the subject through you,

[SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY]

I request the Government that it should make efforts to revive those industries which have market values. However, if this view is opposed merely for the sake of politics then I submit on behalf of the Party and the Government that my speech should be treated as incomplete as many of the points could not be taken up. I also request you that I should be given a change to speak in case points of this nature which are very torturing are raised in the House in future.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I have to cut the time of the next speaker of the BJP because you have taken everybody's time.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (TURA): Madam, Chairperson, this is a very important debate for the sake of the country and I think this debate should be taken with all seriousness.

After we became Independent, we established what is generally understood as command economy, viz. an economy in which public sector would be at the commanding heights. The main objectives of this policy were building infrastructure for development, creation of employment opportunities, creation of a self-reliant economy, generation of investible resources and prevention and reduction of private economic power. In pursuance of these objectives, we have Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948 and the Industrial Policy Statement of 1956. But over the years, the public sector generally came to be afflicted by several problems and the result is that by 1998, we have 240 public sector enterprises, of course, we have 235 working enterprises, with a capital employment of Rs.2,74,000 crore. In the year 1998-99, the number of loss making public sector enterprises was 106 and the loss in that year alone was of the order of Rs.10,000 crore.

Now, why have all this happened? Madam, I had the privilege of being in the Ministry of Industry for two years as a Deputy Minister. I was in the Ministry of Textile looking after NTC for four years as a Deputy Minister. I had been the Minister of Labour in this country for seven years plus two years in my State.

15.00 hrs.

I was the Coal Minister for two years. So, a major portion of my career as a Minister was devoted to dealing with the public sector.

Several factors have contributed to the poor performance of public sector. They are: low technological

upgradation, low productivity, poor management, excess manpower, low research and development and low human resource development. I would like to deal, out of all these factors, in a little detail on the poor management of the public sector.

Unfortunately, most of the time I have found that the top position in a public sector undertaking remains vacant. The process of selection of the Chief Executive Officer of a public sector undertaking takes such a long time that most of the time most of the public sector undertakings are without a CEO. Something ought to be done for this.

Secondly, in the absence of a CEO in a public sector undertaking, the Ministry practically runs that PSU from Delhi. The interference of the Ministry is so much that even if a PSU has its CEO at the helm, that gentleman has to come to Delhi perhaps twenty times a month to attend meetings convened by a Director one day, a Joint Secretary the next day, then again meetings convened by an Additional Secretary, the Secretary of the Ministry, the Cabinet Secretary and finally by the PMO. The officers of PSUs do not have enough time to attend to their work. They have no time either to apply their minds properly because they are so much subjected to the interference by the administrative Ministries.

The third important point is I think poor industrial relations. Unfortunately, all the major trade union leaders have concentrated their activities in the public sector enterprises. On top of that, every political leader of all political parties tries to have a union in the public sector. I am sorry to say that some of the Members sitting here are no exception to it. With the multiplicity of the trade unions you will find that there are now more than one hundred trade unions in certain public sector undertakings. Therefore, it is impossible for the management to deal with that kind of trade unionism. When I was the Labour Minister, I tried to bring some reforms in the Industrial Disputes Act. Anyway, this is certainly one of the reasons for the poor performance of the PSUs.

Another area where I am unhappy is the unnecessary vigilance and unnecessary inquiries against the public sector executives. Since the public sector executives are dealing with a large number of people including politicians and trade unionists, it is impossible for them to deal with all these people satisfactorily. So, somebody files a complaint against them with the CBI. I do not want to go into the functioning of the CBI at this stage. When the Bill on the Chief Vigilance Commissioner is discussed here I will be coming out with more details. But the number of CBI cases against officers of public sector enterprises is such that they do not have

mental peace to attend to their duties. They have to give reply to the Vigilance Officer of the Ministry, the Police and the CBI Officers. Now, under the circumstances, how do we expect our public sector units to perform? I am speaking from my own experiences. Even if I would have been put as the Chief Executive of a public sector undertaking, perhaps, I would not have been able to perform. But in some cases, I did try to assume the role. For example, when I become the Minister for Coal, the first thing I did was to keep all the investigations against the officers in abeyance and not to entertain any new investigations. I told them just not to worry about investigations and cases and to go on with their work and work. The day I assumed office, Coal India was losing Rs. 2800 crore and in six months time, we landed up with Rs. 164 crore of profit. It was because the officers were allowed to work. We do not allow them to work.

By 1991, the situation had become so difficult for the public sector that the then Government headed by Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao as the Prime Minister – and I was also a member of the same – had to review the policy towards the public sector. A new policy statement was issued on focussing of public sector on strategic, hi-tech and essential infrastructure, review of public sector portfolio investments, referral of sick industries/enterprises to BIFR, offering a part of the public sector share holding, including for general public, to raise resources, and secure wider public participation, which is being discussed just now, professionalism of the boards of the enterprises, performance improvement, signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, grant of autonomy for enterprises and ensuring their accountability. Therefore, the policy of disinvestment was actually first introduced by the Congress Government, when Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister.

In 1996, the then UF Government, through its Common Minimum Programme, further carried on this policy and it is they who appointed the Disinvestment Commission. The present Government is headed by the BJP which is the major party. What is the stand of the BJP? So, the policy adopted by the Congress Government in 1991 was again carried on by the UF Government. The BJP, in its Chennai declaration, said: "A specific goal of the investment programme should be achieved and drastic and speedy reduction in our national debt so that the resultant savings in loan and interest payments can be channelised for production and development in the much neglected social sector." To continue with it, then a year ago, the NDA Government of 25 political parties, constituted the Department of Disinvestment. The Department of

Disinvestment was headed by Shri Arun Jaitley and now headed by Shri Arun Shourie.

I want to make a small comment on that point. My plea to the Prime Minister would be not to change the Minister for Disinvestment too many times. When you are inducted to a Ministry, it takes three to four months time to really understand the Ministry and by the time you understand the Ministry, if you are shifted to another Ministry, then you need another four to five months time to understand it. And time is so precious and I do not think that the country can afford to lose it. Now, in spite of all these, we are still facing so many problems. We are still discussing it.

I have many points to make. The process of disinvestment is getting slow. I think the first reason is political instability. From 1989 to 1999, in ten years' time, where we had to have two elections, we had five elections; where we had to have two Governments, we had eight Governments and eight Prime Ministers. From a single-party Government, we have now come to not a coalition Government – I do not call this Government a coalition Government – but a multi-party Government. A multi-party Government with pulls and strings here and there cannot function properly. I do not know whether it can deliver the goods. We may have stability. I think I have spoken about stability and governance on the floor of this House. Today, the Vajpayee Government may be stable with 25 political parties. But where is the governance?

The third important reason why we are not able to take off is, I think, we have not been able to really achieve a national consensus though we all talk about a national consensus. I am saying that this debate has to be treated on a different footing. Today's debate has to be a non-partisan debate because on this particular issue we really need to have a national consensus. I do not think the present Government has been able to achieve that national consensus. Before they are able to have a national consensus, they will have to have a consensus within the BJP first. The BJP Government talks about disinvestment and the *Swadeshi Jagaran Manch* talks about socialism. Where is the consensus in the BJP on this policy? Where is the consensus among the 25 NDA partners on this policy? Where is the consensus in this House? Where is the time for this House even to discuss about a consensus on economic issues? We are seeing and we are experiencing ourselves how this Parliament is functioning. I am sorry to say it. We are more concerned about the ancient issues rather than the present issues and the future issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : I will take four or five minutes more. I will conclude.

Coming to the point, I would submit that the Disinvestment Commission has submitted its report. It has made a lot of recommendations. Most of the important recommendations are there. What is the position of those recommendations? I have gone through all the three volumes of the report of the Disinvestment Commission. I think they have done fairly a very good job. Altogether, 72 PSUs were referred to this Commission. The Government withdrew eight of them subsequently. So, effectively, they went into the functioning of the 64 PSUs. Recommendations in respect of 52 PSUs were made. What is the position? The Government has yet to take a decision on 30 recommendations of this Commission. Specific recommendations on PSUs were made. Out of the 14 general recommendations, the Government have yet to take decision on 11 of them. They have taken decision only on three of them. Those recommendations are very important and require urgent decision of the Government. For example, there is the establishment of a separate Disinvestment Fund. I will not read all these things because of paucity of time. Having been the Speaker myself, I do not like to defy the Chair. But I thought that this is an important debate and so I should not stop at that. So, the establishment of a Disinvestment Fund is there. The Government has established a Disinvestment Fund in 1968. But the details regarding the scope and the purpose of the Fund are not available.

We have not decided above delinking the investment process from the budgetary exercise of the Government. This was a very important point I wanted to make, but I will not make it now. What is the action of the Government on this? The decision is, decision awaited; Transfer of management – decision awaited; reduction of Government equity – decision awaited; disinvestment packet – decision awaited; voluntary retirement scheme, which is so important from the workers point of view, – having been a Labour Minister for many years I would like to speak on it, but I cannot speak now - decision awaited; monitoring and supervision power – decision awaited; and setting up of implementation machinery – decision awaited.

I would like the Minister to see that these decisions are taken expeditiously in whatever way he wants. I would like to conclude by giving humble suggestions from my side. Firstly, we need to take a comprehensive package view of all general and specific recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission and have a transparent policy of disinvestment and its implementation. Secondly, cutting across political spectrum, a broad national consensus has to be created to

make disinvestment a success. Thirdly, initiative for the consensus has to be necessarily taken by the Government of the day. Fourthly, the process of disinvestment should be depoliticised. It is very important. The matter is left to the professionals and the Government is confining itself to the rim of the policy. But on this, when we are talking about individual cases, I think, a lot of voice has been raised about Air India, Indian Airlines, MTNL, Gas Authority of India, etc. I think, we have to be very careful in those areas. I have some suggestions to make but I do not think I have time to do so.

I repeat what I said earlier. Disinvestment process should be funded. Disinvestment should be delinked from the Budget. Last and the very important point is, manpower issue should not be treated as a matter of nuisance value. Workers interest will have to be protected and their future should invariably be safeguarded with provisions against loss of income. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much, Shri Sangma. I am sorry. Because of time constraint, I requested you to conclude.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI): Madam Chairman, on behalf of All India Anna DMK, I would like to express my views on Disinvestment Policy of the Central Government. Everybody knows as to what is disinvestment – disinvestment of the Government shares to corporate, industrial houses. Privatisation can be done by displacement. Here, the displacement of Air India, Indian Airlines, and 41 Public Sector Undertakings is underway, facilitating the Central Government to take steps to privatise these undertakings.

Secondly, there is displacement by default. What is displacement by default? Public Sector undertaking, whether wilful or wanton or at the instance of the Government, commit wilful default in their performance. It seems the policy of the Central Government, will have to follow the Smithsonian policy to only police arms and ammunition. Except that, all the departments would be disinvested! The wealth and revenue of the country would become corporate wealth. That will not suffice. A statute of Mahatma Gandhi is there in front of the main entrance to the Parliament House. He was for *Swadeshi*. Are we following that *Swadeshi*? Neither side had followed it. We have been giving a go-by to the principles of *Swadeshi*. We accept the foreign exchange; we allow imports. Though you may earn a little foreign exchange, the policies of liberalisation, and globalisation affected the common man.

The leasing of airports in India is an example of this factor. The leasing of airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai was opposed by our party and we launched an

agitation in front of those parties at the instance of our leader. But the Government is bent upon privatising these airports.

Madam, on the 8th March, 2000, a Resolution was passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly not to sell the Salem Steel Plant and the Chief Minister also had said on the floor of the House that he would talk to the Prime Minister, but unlike Shri Chandrababu Naidu, he is not able to pressurise the Prime Minister. This is the only stainless steel plant in Tamil Nadu and we are not able to save that public undertaking. Yesterday, we, the Members of Parliament belonging to A.I.A.D.M.K. presented a Memorandum to the Prime Minister urging him not to sell the shares of that plant to private parties.

Madam, everybody knows that the banks were nationalised in 1969. First an ordinance was issued for nationalisation of banks. It was challenged in the court. The case went upto the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court said that when the Parliament meets, a Bill would be passed to that effect. So, when the Parliament met, a Bill was brought before this House and banks were nationalised. It was upheld by the Supreme Court in Shri Cooper's case in 1970. It said that the nationalisation of banks is in the public interest. Now, privatisation is in the private interest.

So far, about 41 public sector undertakings in India have been disinvested and the disinvestment shares have been realised since 1991-92 in the same 41 public sector undertakings. The Government is fast in selling public shares, the Government is fast in privatising public sector undertakings, but this Government is not fast in everything, but for disinvestment. They call industrialists and foreign capitalists very fast to the negotiating table. But till date, a White Paper on Disinvestment has not been presented to this House.

Madam, the disinvestment policy has adversely affected our economy. By disinvesting the shares of public sector undertakings the Government may get some foreign exchange, but the property of a public sector undertaking is public property. Some hon. Members have mentioned that many things have appeared in the newspapers about disinvestment and that a particular public sector undertaking is being sold to a particular individual. Selling public property to an individual at a devalued price is an offence. The Minister must know this. These things have appeared in *The Indian Express* and other local newspapers. In the case of Salem Steel Plant also, the proposed buyer's name has appeared in the newspapers.

The public sector undertakings are not being sold to benefit nation's economy. They are being wilfully disposed of to gain benefit for private parties. So, here it is a case of

public interest *versus* private interest. What interest has this Government got in selling a public sector undertaking to a private party? They are not here to rehabilitate those public sector undertakings which are running in loss. The Government is not in a mood to rehabilitate. They are in a mood to sell even the profit-making public sector undertakings. Why should they sell? The rich men sit coolly. They will sell their property. They would not work. They will sit and eat. The Government cannot run like a family. It is a nation. The Central Government should find out ways and means to make good the loss of the public sector undertakings. The Government has failed on this front to protect the interests of the public undertakings.

We belong to a regional party. We have interest in the nation's wealth. They may have a different disinvestment policy. This side of the House may have a different disinvestment policy. But as a regional party, we have to protect the interests of the nation. We are a part of the nation. Though we represent a region, Tamil Nadu, yet our region opposed this disinvestment policy. The people of Bihar may also oppose it. What for should they protect the public interest? The public interest is being given a go-by by the present Government. There is no inquiry as to who is going to buy these shares. The wilful defaulters should not sell the shares to any public undertaking. They should not find a place in the managerial work, especially in banks. So, we, belonging to the AIADMK, do not approve of the Central Government's disinvestment policy – past or present – because we are for concentrating the public wealth in the hands of the Government. The corporate wealth is different. The Government wealth should not be transferred to the corporate wealth.

The industrial houses are already bargaining for Indian Airlines and Air India. There is a mention about Tatas and Hindujas in a newspaper published today. If they are allowed to grab our public property, what is the use of being here and debating it? That is why I said that this Government was following only the Smithsonian policy – of only bullets, arms and ammunition. They must protect the property. This is to protect the Indian nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Madam, one minute, please. Since you have rung the Bell, the coherence goes away. Now, I have to think.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, it is the closing minute.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : You have blocked my mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That was the idea.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Madam, with great humility, I say that this is the only Government or the Ministry of Disinvestment that we have. They are dealing with public sector undertakings. What is the Minister of Disinvestment for? He is for selling, a seller. Why should there be a seller in the Government? He is constitutionally named as a Minister, but he has to negotiate. He is to disinvest. He is to sell the profit-making public sector undertakings.

In Jayangondam, all our MPs marched in an agitation for disinvestment, that is, against selling the thermal station. To whom? It was being done from the public sector to a private individual. We – 10 Members of Parliament – had to rush there to protect that property. Mr. Minister, you have to accept the views of 10 Members who had gone to Jayangondam to prevent the sale of that property and listed out all these aspects. I would say that we stoutly oppose the disinvestment policy. Even though we belong to a regional party, yet we oppose it. Thank you

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST): Madam Chairman, I rise to speak on the discussion under Rule 193 regarding disinvestment of public sector undertakings.

15.30 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*)

Sir, the CPSU disinvestment may be considered as a never ending debate. I personally oppose the name "Disinvestment Minister". The very approach of a name of a department or a Ministry should be not be prescribed or reflected as Disinvestment Ministry. It creates frustration. It gives an indication in the minds of the workers that this Ministry is all along there to disinvest our public sector undertakings. So, I would rather request to change the name of the Department of this Ministry.

Sir, yesterday only the Supplementary Demands were discussed. Under the Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises, Rs.316.72 crore were allotted as additional assistance to bridge the gap in the resources of public sector undertakings and out of which Rs.1.70 crore was only for plan outlay. It is enough indication that the central public sector undertakings are not being attended to appropriately or properly by the Government of India.

Sir, we are, from the very beginning, interested to know what is the policy of the Government in regard to disinvestment. We have no hesitation to say that in spite of being a partner in the NDA, we are receiving letters from the Office of the Prime Minister. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is

writing letters to Kumari Mamata Banerjee when we are raising some issues that these effective central public sector undertakings should not be disinvested abruptly, should not be sent for disinvestment off-hand. We are drawing the attention of the Government but it appears that it has gone in vain.

Sir, on the one side hike in the prices of petroleum products, wheat, rice, etc. is going on and on the other hand, the disinvestment is at its maximum thrash. The possibility of maximum unemployment is again being precipitated. Everywhere some uncertainty is prevailing, which we cannot accept and which we strongly oppose.

Sir, the policy of the Government should be transparent and workers should not feel frustrated and disappointed. In the era of such an acute unemployment, by these decisions, further unemployment problem will be wrongly precipitated. When the Central Government is going to take a decision of ten per cent cut in the Central Government jobs, then again this disinvestment policy and theories will create further problems for unemployment, which we believe that the Government should take care with all priority.

The working class of this country are really passing through their days with great uncertainty. Nobody knows what is going to happen. Air India has been discussed on several occasions. On our part we gave such a positive proposal repeatedly on the floor of the House that it is only in India that two airlines are operating, namely, Air India and Indian Airlines. Why is there not a merger of these two?

It is not understandable. Air India is making a huge loss. Its accumulated losses have gone up to uncertain limits whereas Indian Airlines has now started making profits. Its area of operation has been extended even beyond outside our country. The private airlines are operating by making huge profits. But Air India, the great symbol of Maharaja, is now going to be abolished. We cannot accept it. It is better that we can explore the possibilities of merger of the two airlines, Indian Airlines and Air India together. This unit can be a viable one. If this matter is taken into consideration with an imagination, with a positive farsightedness and with managerial efficiency, I think some light can be reflected.

It is our allegation from the very beginning that Eastern India is the worst sufferer of regional imbalances after Independence. Shri Arun Shourie, you are a great journalist of this country. You are aware of the name. Shri Ranjit Roy is a very prominent journalist of our country. Everybody knows his book '*Agony of West Bengal*'. At this era of disinvestment, West Bengal is going to be again the worst sufferer. In many States, there are many big Central Public

Sector Undertakings. Even the Central Navaratna Public Sector Undertakings are facing uncertainties. I, being a Member of the Committee on Public Undertakings, have the opportunity to come across different Public Sector Undertakings throughout the country. When we receive allegations that the Public Sector Undertakings are not getting the Central Government orders for their production and those orders are being sent to the other public sector units even from our country or even from abroad, we feel that all the Central Government Departments are to be given positive instructions to look after their Public Sector Undertakings with proper guidance and with proper outlook provided they are capable enough to look after these Public Sector Undertakings. Why cannot they look after the Departments as such?

So, we feel and also believe that a White Paper on this system, in particular, the very idea and the proposal of disinvestment which was discussed yesterday, is to be released. We want clarification very categorically as to which are the sectors in which the Government is going to take initiative to revive, what are their proposals, what are the Public Sector Undertakings in which they are in a mood to sell out to the private parties and which are the Public Sector Undertakings which they want to revive. So, unless and until we are provided with a White Paper that gives the indication properly, it becomes impossible to take part in such debate. On every occasion, once in a month whenever Parliament is in Session, we will take part in the debate; we will discuss something but nothing will come out.

So, I firmly believe that the Government should give all out importance to these deliberations. I hope, Shri Arun Shourie, who is a man of imagination, a man of foresightedness, should give due attention. This issue is being reflected by all Members, sections of the House, from this side, from that side and from everywhere. I cannot understand why this is taken for granted and why it is taken so casually. So, on our behalf, we are opposed to the idea of disinvestment.

I am not going into the details of the problem for want of time. These are the units, these are the sectors which were built up with a vision to build our nation after Independence from the beginning of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. That should not be allowed to be destroyed in a day. The Government is not having the same opinion as that of its allies.

On behalf of our party we totally oppose the idea to disinvest all the public sector undertakings all together and we do believe that the Government should take all care and reply accordingly.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the time to speak. I rise to speak on behalf of Bahujan Samaj Party.

[English]

But before I start, I want to make a complaint that -- ours is the Bahujana Samaj Party -- and we have a strong feeling in the whole country, that there is some discrimination against us and we are fighting outside the House. But we should not be forced to fight inside the House to achieve our share. Our Party is a bigger Party. We are 14 members here.

[Translation]

We are not given adequate time to speak.

[English]

We should be given our chance according to the Rules. So, I am making this complaint to you strongly, that we should be given a chance properly ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is decided in the BAC. It is the prerogative of the Chair. That should not be discussed here. That should not be raised here.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : It is all right. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is for deliberation, not for any other thing.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on disinvestment policy. Disinvestment started in 1991 during the reign of Shri Narsimha Rao. What is the objective behind this policy? Whether a sick unit will be sold or the unit which is running in profit will be sold and whether it was ever considered that how the money raised out of this sale will be utilized? I still remember when the Congress Government stated that in Banking 51 % shares will be kept by the Government and 49 per cent shares will be sold, then the Bhartiya Janata Party, which was then in opposition, thoroughly expressed their resentment by terming it a wrong step and advocated withholding of the decision. However, today when the same people are in the Government now they have gone further by selling 51 per cent shares. Today, the Government is saying that it will keep only 33 per cent shares and rest will be sold to the public. I would like to know from the government the reasons behind the difference in yesterday's approach and today's approach. Further, when people come to power they start talking differently then what

[SHRI RASHID ALVI]

they used to speak in the opposition. The Bahujan Samaj Party has not tasted power and may also behave similarly after coming into power. It is a pity that people start singing different songs after coming into power and have chameleon character.

I would like to know whether the disinvestment Policy is being formulated to make good the budget deficit or whether to use the money raised through sale of sick units for poor or for investment purposes. The Government is not prepared to give proper reply regarding their policy. The union cabinet had decided to sell four refineries for Rs. 1800 crore. When it was asked from the hon. Minister of Petroleum that what will be done with Rs. 1800 crore? Whether it will be used for generating capital assets or will be used to plug deficit? The hon. Minister of Petroleum hardly gave any reply. Do you know what 'jagirdars' used to do in earlier times? They never wanted to work. Therefore, they used to sell land for managing their household expenditure. This is what the Government is doing and it is happening for the first time. Shourie Saheb, disinvestment is not only happening in India but also happened in many other countries throughout the world. It took place in Britain. When Telephones and railways was running in loss in Britain then the British government decided in favour of disinvestment and two years back it declared the policy that two units running in loss, would be put up for disinvest. They informed all the workers that they are going to disinvest these two Departments. Afterwards, all the workers put in their best and both units viz Telephone and railways, which were running in loss earlier turned profitable. The entire profits went to the government and all the workers were able to retain their jobs. It is the statement of your Department that 35.5 crore workers are there in this country and out of which only one percent work in these undertakings. Mr. Shourie, what do you like to tell the country through this. According to your calculations one per cent means five lakh workers. This means five lakh workers will lose their jobs and the Government is not serious. What a useless argument is this, that only one percent workers will lose their jobs and it hardly matters to the country. You claim, that only five lakh workers will become jobless due to disinvestment and not more than this ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO)
Five lakh families will be ruined.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : This is hardly convincing that only five lakh people will get affected.

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MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME
IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND
PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Who said all this. Excuse me, we
have provided figures. It was never stated that only five lakh
people will get ruined. We were asked to tell the proportion
that how many employees are there in public sector. I would
like to inform that the 29 firms employing one lakh forty
thousand workers were cleared for disinvestment.

[*English*]

Compared to twenty lakh workers in Public sectors.

[*Translation*]

I am giving figures only and this does not mean that one
lakh forty thousand people will actually become jobless. May
be there is only one method to save their jobs i.e. these firms
should be revived. I will explain that to you during the reply.
Mentioning the figures does not mean that they will be
ruined.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Modern food was sold. The entire
country knows how it was sold. The firm which had the
investment of Rs. two thousand crore was sold for nearly Rs.
two hundred crore. If only the land of this firm was sold it
would have gone for thousands of crores of rupees. No
transparency was there in this matter. Mr. Shourie, when you
were asked about it then you stated.

[*English*]

The Government that is fighting terrorists should by no
means burden itself with economic activities like
manufacturing bicycles. This is shameful to you, I am sorry to
say.

[*Translation*]

You stated that the Government fighting the terrorists
should not involve in economic matters. It is unfortunate that
the hon. Minister of disinvestment is giving such statements.
Whether the government will fight terrorism after purchasing
weapons from the money generated by selling all these
undertakings. What will happen to the people of this country?
What will happen to the poor of this country?

[*English*]

This is a very unfortunate statement.

[Translation]

If you do this in Banking that only 33 per cent shares will remain with the Government then did you see that how much loan of millioners was waived off by the Directors of the Banks during last fifty years. If all the Banks are privatised then the loans of all the rich people will be waived off in one stroke. This money belongs to our country. This is a dangerous step which this government is going to take.

I would like to submit that Panna Mukta fields were sold to Reliance from ONGC. The Auditor General commented on this and said that -

[English]

They have played something foul

[Translation]

What does it mean? What the government wants? You are selling the undertakings blindly in which the money of the people of this country is invested. The Auditor general is putting objections. You are creating confusion in the country. Whether it is the matter of Maruti Udyog, Modem Food or of selling to Reliance, this Government had nowhere been transparent. Although, the Government constituted the Disinvestment Commission but it accepted only those recommendations of the commission which were favourable and rejected the rest. The Disinvestment Commission had clearly stated that it should not be utilized in this. There is special mention of it in the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission.

[English]

"Disinvestment should not be delinked from the budgetary process. The proceeds of disinvestment should be placed in a separate Disinvestment Fund. The Fund should be used to restructure PSUs, provide VRS for surplus employees, create infrastructure for the rural poor in the form of houses, schools, roads and retiring public debt."

[Translation]

When the Government is asked that how it will use this money then, the Government officially stated :

[English]

"These amounts have been credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, out of which the expenditure under different sectors are met. The total amount spent by the Government on various social sectors like health and family welfare, water supply, housing, rural

development, transport during the corresponding period was much higher than the receipts from disinvestment."

[Translation]

The investment undertaken from 1991 to 2000 is worth Rs.18,638 crore and the money provided from the consolidated fund between 1991 to 2000 was Rs. 1,25,317 crore. You want to fool the nation, you don't want to tell the nation clearly how do you propose to use the money, where do you want to invest it. You said that you are providing Rs. 1.25 lakh there but you are getting only Rs. 10000 crores in disinvestment. Then what is the need of disinvestment. If you have so much monetary resources, Why are you disinvesting. You ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Alvi, at four o' clock we have to take up the Railway Demand. Prior to that, there are two more Members in the list. Please conclude now.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I am concluding, Sir.

[Translation]

You had a target for Rs. 10,000 crores out which you have achieved a little more than Rs. 1500 crores. Where are you going to use the money coming from disinvestment. Budget deficit is around Rs. 77,000 crores, total debt is more than Rs. one lakh crore for which you pay 40% of the revenue as interest. Your policy is not going to succeed unless the Government has a policy about assessing where the money is going to come from and where it is going to be used. I want to make a suggestion that a committee of MPs be set up to monitor disinvestment process. All the parties should have representation in it and it should be consulted before any case of disinvestment is considered. The cabinet or just one minister should not be entrusted with this power. If you want to honestly pursue the disinvestment process and you want to use the money coming through disinvestment appropriately and for the poor, you should set up a committee of MPs without any discrimination and take that committee in confidence for selling any undertaking or any other disinvestment process.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude now. Now I am calling Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : The Committee should be taken in confidence before investing that money. You have to do it if you honestly want to build this country, if you want to use the

[SHRI RASHID ALVI]

money honestly. Today even your allies have arisen to oppose you. It is another thing that in case of voting they may side with the Government, but they are frankly expressing their discontent before you. Your allies are opposing you since none of us are traitors be they sitting this side or that side - all want to build a strong country. I don't want to hold Shri Arun Shourie alone responsible for it. This is the policy of the Government. But I want to tell the Government that everything changes with time. For 45 years they used to sit on this side and now they have changed themselves as well as their sides. Today you are in Government, tomorrow you may not be there.

'Shoharat ki Bulandi to ek pal ka tamasha hai,

Jis shakh par baithe ho, vah toot bhi sakti hai.

Therefore, I request you to disinvest after taking all in confidence. I oppose your current policy.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, between the last debate and this one, there has been a very important development in regard to disinvestment. And that is this massive 300-page report brought out by the employees of this Government who are represented in the Standing Conference on Public Enterprises (SCOPE). It is a pity that Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy is not here. In the usual habit of Treasury Bench speakers he made his speech and ran away. But I would commend to him this book and I commend it to the entire Government and all the Allies of the Government and, of course, my colleagues over here.

At the start of this Session I asked a question - Unstarred Question No. 2066. It is here with me. I asked as to whether the hon. Minister of Disinvestment knew of this report and what was his reaction to it. It was passed on to the hon. Minister of Public Enterprises. May I appeal to the hon. Minister, Shri Manohar Joshi, through you, to listen to me?

My question about this report was passed on, for reasons that I am not very clear about, to the Minister of Public Enterprises. In the written reply which I received from the Minister of State for Public Enterprises, there was a shocking indifference on the part of the Government to what their own employees, what their best brains in their own business are saying or urging. In his reply the Minister of State merely summarised the last section of the Executive Summary which is entitled "New Vision" and he completely

left out the previous section which is entitled "Major Findings"

I asked about the reactions to the findings in the report and he ignores the entire section on findings and picks up some few phrases that are there in the last section called "New Vision". Therefore, I am obliged to do what the Minister of Public Enterprises has failed to do - share with this House the major findings that have been made by SCOPE along with the Centre for Industrial and Economic Research in this massive and extremely well-researched document.

What have they said in it? I am just summarising the major findings. Obviously, 300 pages cannot be summarised in five minutes. Firstly, while the total investment in the 236 PSUs studied here - the number of PSUs changes from year to year; they have taken their own base year in which the number was 236 - while the total investment in the 236 Central PSUs is of the order of Rs. 2,36,000 crore, the Government equity in all PSUs put together is only Rs. 77,000 crore and the Government loans are another Rs. 20,000 crore. I keep hearing from Shri Arun Shourie and his colleagues - even I heard it today from Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy - about Rs. 2,36,000 crore being invested. Yes, they are. But they have not been invested by the Government. The Government's total investment in Public Sector Undertakings is about Rs. 77,000 crore of equity and about Rs. 20,000 crore of outstanding loans. That is all.

In other words, if you compare the total investment that the Government has put into it, an amount of Rs. 1,30,000 crore, that is more than half of the investment in the public sector, has not been invested by the Government but has been invested by the Public Sector Undertakings themselves either from their own earnings or from what they have been able to raise in the market. It is not your money. It is the public sector's money. But it is not the Government's money. Government has spent only half of what the total investment is.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (CONTAI): Can you tell me whether there is any difference between this and the share capital? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Yes, of course.

16.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is 4 o'clock now. Let me take the sense of the House whether to continue with this debate or ask the Minister of Railways to move the Supplementary Demands for Grants. Shall we resume the discussion after that? I want to take the sense of the House.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Let us continue till 5 o'clock.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, let us take up the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways).

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, we were called by the Speaker, and the hon. Speaker agreed that we could continue this discussion till 5 o'clock. Therefore, at 5 o'clock, we will take up the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since it was agreed in the meeting of the leaders, after the Minister's reply, at 5 o'clock, we will take up the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways). Shri Aiyar, please continue.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Indeed, in just three years, 1996-99, the Central PSUs have raised over Rs 90,000 crore from the market, almost equal to the Central Government's entire cumulative investment in PSUs in the 50 years since Independence. Why would anyone wish to invest his money in the PSUs if they did not have a better opinion of the PSUs than apparently the Minister of Disinvestment seems to have?

Second, Sir, on the Government's equity contribution of around Rs. 77,000 crore, the Central PSUs have been earning a net profit, and this includes those PSUs, 106 of them, which have been making a loss. We are taking all the PSUs together -- the loss-making ones, and the profit-making ones. The net profit of the public sector is 17 to 19 per cent on the equity subscribed by the Government. This is not my finding; this is in here in great detail. It is much better than the net average profit of counterpart companies in the private sector.

Third, if the Government's total earnings from the PSUs are compounded, that is, you add dividends, interest, taxes and duties, if you put these together, in just three years, 1996-99, the Government has earned a whopping 138 per cent on their cumulative investment over the last 50 years. Your cumulative investment over the last 50 years is about Rs. 96,000 - Rs. 97,000 crore, and all these earnings put together come to Rs. 1,28,000 crore.

I want, in this context, to remind the House that the Minister of State for Finance, in his reply to my Unstarred Question No. 991, in this Session, has confirmed what all of us have long suspected that whereas the income-tax and corporate tax outstanding of all our Central PSUs put together is Rs. 2,500 crore, the outstanding of the corporate assesseees is nearly ten times higher. It is Rs. 20,000 crore, according to the answer I have received from the Minister of

Finance. So, taxes are being paid by the public sector undertakings; they are not being paid by the private sector. You will end up in a situation through this blind disinvestment and privatisation, which will burn a huge hole in Government revenues, and you do not seem to be aware of this

The market recognises what the Government turns a completely blind eye to. According to this report, only 22 units -- Shri Rudy gave the figure of 24, I am not sure what is the right figure; but take 22 of our 236 public sector units -- are listed on the Stock Exchange. The market capitalisation of just these 22 companies, as on the eve of the last Budget on the 25th of February, 2000, was Rs. 50,000 crore higher, that is, 150 per cent higher than the entire capital invested by the Government in all these 50 years in all public sector undertakings.

Just 22 out of the total 236 companies : their market capitalisation is 150 per cent higher than your entire investment over the last fifty years. You still denigrate the public sector!

The market understands, even if this Government does not, that if you take our 236 PSUs and compare them to the top 5,000 private sector enterprises - as the Centre for the Monitoring of the Indian Economy (CMIE) has done - then you would find that the average rate of profit before tax of the Public Sector Units is a good quarter per cent higher than for the private sector. Do you still say they are not profitable?

Sir, there is a new criterion called Economic Value Added on which I have asked a question and I would be getting the reply shortly. I do not have the answer yet. On the basis of this criterion called Economic Value Added (EVA) - which is generally regarded as better than the accounting rates like the Return on Net Worth - both the 50 top Public Sector Enterprises and the top 100 Public Enterprises have performed better than the top 50 private enterprises and the top 100 private enterprises. This conclusion, Mr. Minister - by 'Mr. Minister' I really mean my old friend Shri Arun Shourie - has been drawn by SCOPE from data provided in *The Economic Times* and not the Marxist Daily News. Please understand that it is the spokesman of the private sector, *The Economic Times* which conducted a survey on the basis of which the Standing Conference on Public Enterprises has drawn conclusions that show that the EVA of the 50 best Public Sector Corporations have done better than that of the 50 best private sector enterprises and that the EVA of the 100 best Public Sector Corporations have done better than that of the 100 best private sector enterprises.

Sir, I ask, "Why this ideological assault on the Public Sector"? Why does the Government insist on refusing to categorise the PSUs into efficient and non-efficient units; into viable and non-viable units; and into economically strategic

[SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR]

units and unnecessary units? What is the great problem that this Government has in doing these categorisations? As also in categorising what should be disinvested; what should be privatised and what should be re-structured? Is it because the real value of Government investment of less than one lakh crore rupees is today worth more than three times that figure? The Government have invested less than hundred thousand crore rupees and the real value of those assets is at least Rupees three hundred crore and if we go by market capitalisation of the listed PSUs, then it is some twelve times that figure.

Sir, why this total absence of transparency in dealing with assets worth nearly five hundred thousand crores of rupees and perhaps up to rupees twenty-five lakhs of market valuation? Why this total absence of transparency? Why is the Government refusing to consult this issue with Parliament? Why this obstinate refusal to spell out a policy? An NDA ally, my friend Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, just now said that the Government does not have a disinvestment policy. The Government is dealing with rupees twenty-five lakh crore worth of national wealth and they refuse to give us a policy on the basis of which the Government is ridding themselves of all this.

I do not understand the Government's reluctance to share ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Aiyar, you have taken fifteen minutes. How much time do you want now?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : If you give me another five-ten minutes, I will conclude. I have deliberately got my speech ready. If you do not have the time to let me make it, I will place it on the Table of the House and end. I think I am making points that are relevant and on which we require answers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you conclude in another five minutes?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I will continue now. Whenever you want me to stop, I will. The rest of my speech, I will either hand it over to the Minister or to the Secretariat. I know there has been so much movement here that you are not looking at me and being totally disturbed. I would request you to please listen to me.

Why is there this great reluctance to share with Parliament what Government's views are on amending Article 12 of the Constitution, or adding an Explanation to it - a one line explanation - to endow the public sector undertakings with the autonomy they require to carry out

their commercial functions? We just heard Shri P.A. Sangma give us the most riveting account of the kind of interference that goes on from Delhi in the work of the public sector undertakings under the cover of the protection given by Article 12. All the Government has to do is amend Article 12, or add an Explanation to it saying that PSUs are not to be regarded as arms of the State in the way the Department of Disinvestment is an arm of the State, and they will get the kind of commercial autonomy they require.

I do not know why these conversations go on in the Treasury Benches!

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister for Sports, please do not play here.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I have got many things to say to Shri Joshi. He is being disturbed all the time.

This is about what the Minister of State of Public Enterprises stated. What a joke it is! I really call it a joke. In the answer to Question No. 1127 posed by Shri Prabhat Samantray, he has this to say. I want the Minister to listen carefully to what his Deputy is doing. He says :

"Public sector undertakings enjoy commercial freedom in their day to day functioning."

Does the Minister believe this? You just heard what Shri Sangma, after a decade of experience of running public sector Undertakings, has told us. They do not enjoy commercial autonomy. It needs to be given to them.

The conclusions of the SCOPE study have been translated into a memorandum to the Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings of which I understand Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay is a member. I would urge that until the Committee on Public Undertakings reports back to Parliament on the SCOPE memo, all disinvestment should be put on a freeze.

In the last debate, I had posed 13 questions to the Minister, which the Minister refused to answer. Now, SCOPE have posed many of the same questions. They have asked, 'Do we have a comprehensive disinvestment policy?' The answer is, 'No.' They have asked, 'Does Government's disinvestment policy include a holistic public sector policy?' The answer is, 'No.' 'What should be the prime objectives of disinvestment?' asks SCOPE raising the same question as we have. The Government refuses to answer. For the Government, disinvestment is an objective in itself, not designed for any purpose but to satisfy its anti-PSU ideological predilections. 'What', asks the SCOPE memo,

'reflecting our concerns, are the criteria for the selection of PSUs for divergent mechanisms of privatisation, disinvestment, or restructuring?' The Government refuses to specify the criteria saying that it will decide on a case-by-case basis. 'What', asks SCOPE as we have asked, 'is the basis for deciding which PSU to be set up for trade sales, which for strategic sales, and which for other modalities of disinvestment?' Once again, Government refuses to clarify the criteria. 'What', asks SCOPE and so do we, 'is the institutional framework for disinvestment?' All we get from there is an obstinate refusal to be transparent. 'Where', we have asked and so asks the SCOPE memo, 'will the proceeds of disinvestment go - "this is the question that has been raised here by Rashid Alvi sahab - to a disinvestment fund, or to the consolidated fund for restructuring viable PSUs, for funding an adequate safety net for workers, for the social sectors, for anti-poverty programmes, for infrastructure?" There are no answers, no answers about the priorities that they have as to what should be done with the proceeds of disinvestment.

The Government refuses to answer except to trick us into believing, as Shri Rashid Alvi just now pointed out, that since annual disinvestment proceeds are lower than any Ministry's allocation, therefore, we can take it that all proceeds are being put to good use. Is this an honest answer?

The basic reason, Sir, for our demanding a White Paper, as is also being demanded not only by all Opposition Members but by two of the NDA allies, TDP and the Trinamool Congress, is that the Government - or at least, the Finance Minister and Disinvestment Minister - appear to be proceeding on the assumption that the private sector is a good thing and the public sector is not. ...*(Interruptions)*

Shri Manohar Joshi, I need your attention.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): I was talking to him.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : That is fine. I am glad that he is here.... *(Interruptions)*... I specially requested you to be here for this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, two Ministers are saying that the private sector is a good thing and the public sector is not. The hon. Minister of Public Enterprises, in his speech of 1st April, 2000 which has been quoted in this Report says, "In my opinion, efficiency is not dependent on ownership." Wonderful. The Minister of Public Enterprises says, "Efficiency is not dependent on ownership." He adds, "There are efficient PSUs as well as not so efficient, ones just as

there are successful private sector companies and not so successful ones."

This directly contradicts the *Sinha-Shourie Thesis*. If one cannot distinguish between efficient and non-efficient PSUs then how can this Government have a Disinvestment Policy which does not distinguish between efficient and inefficient PSUs, between perennially profit-making and consistently loss-making enterprises and between those which occasionally make losses and those which occasionally make profits?

So, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the fact is that, as SCOPE memo also says, "there are no integrated strategies and no road map for disinvestment." Government policy is whatever Shri Arun Shourie makes up at the moment, and that is why he causes so much confusion in his own Government.

Sir, whether it is the Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Sharad Yadav, or the Minister of Petroleum, Shri Ram Naik, or the Minister of Textiles Shri Kashiram Rana or the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Shri Manohar Joshi, everyone rushes around issuing clarifications the moment Shri Arun Shourie goes before a microphone.

This Government does not know and the Ministers do not agree on what is the Government's Disinvestment Policy, and indeed, today, two NDA allies — "TDP and the Trinamool Congress — have in this debate, decried the absence of a policy.

Sir, in answer to an Unstarred Question No. 953 put by Shri Naresh Puglia and four others, the Minister of State for Public Enterprises had confirmed that 'his Ministry is working on a White Paper for Public Enterprises.' My question is, "Why can't the hon. Minister Shri Arun Shourie join hands with the hon. Minister Shri Manohar Joshi to include in that White Paper, the Government's answer to the questions that we have raised, that SCOPE has raised and that their own allies have raised, and that the entire Opposition has raised? We reiterate our demand for a Standing Committee on Disinvestment to oversee the activities of the new Department. I know, the hon. Minister of Disinvestment, a gentleman — I have known almost all my life — has too high an opinion of his own wisdom to feel the need of advice from others. But we are not talking personalities here. We are talking institutions. We need an institutional framework for disinvestment which will give Parliament a role of advice.

Sir, not a paisa of Government money was invested in the Central PSUs without Parliamentary sanction. How dare this Government flout Parliament by not having consulted Parliament on the game they are playing with hundreds of thousands of crores of national wealth which they themselves have done nothing to create. Thank you very much.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (BULDANA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate under rule 193 on disinvestment in public sector undertakings. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister of Heavy Industries would also intervene in this debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister in-charge of Disinvestment will reply to the debate.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I have for the first time in my life heard Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar saying what he said about the SCOPE report.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you have not spoken in this debate, how can you raise an issue? You must have taken part in the discussion.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : You may please read this book. I can give you this book ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You must have taken part in this discussion. Please do not disturb the House.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : It is written by SCOPE, your own employees.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : He took part in the earlier discussion on disinvestment also but he did not say these things. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I present this book to you. ... (*Interruptions*) If the hon. MP from the Treasury Benches is capable of reading 300-odd pages, he may go through it. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How are you getting up and raising an issue without my permission, without the permission of the Chair?

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : I am placing the views of my party the Shiv Sena on the disinvestment policy of the Government.

First of all, I oppose the policy of disinvestment.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Thank you.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : I am not saying this for getting your thanks but those are our views.

It is being told that the Government has no business to do with business. My question is, if it is so, is it not the responsibility of the Government to keep the control and

balance of the economy? Is it not the responsibility of the Government to ensure overall development of the country?

Regarding the disinvestment policy, there are many questions in my mind and also in the minds of the working classes in the public sector. Let us take a look at the public sector banks. After Independence, there was a necessity of massive investment in agriculture and industry. That is why, in 1969, 14 banks from the private sector were nationalised and thereafter six banks were nationalised in 1980. We will have to agree that we have achieved some development through the public sector banks in the rural areas of this country. But today we are again going in for privatisation of the public sector banks. Our experience of the last 14 years has been that many private banks have gone into liquidation or have merged with nationalised banks. This is our experience with the private sector banks.

If the public sector was introduced for the purpose of overall development, then can we say today that overall development is achieved? Secondly, by way of public sector, employment is generated. Is unemployment problem solved today? There is a huge unemployment problem in the country now.

16.25 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

Here again, the question arises whether we have got overall development in the country. The answer is no. Still our country is under-developed or undeveloped. It has been told that there will be no retrenchment on account of disinvestment. But VRS is there. On the sweet name of VRS, there are doubts and fears in the minds of the working class. They would accept VRS because they think that in future, the private management would throw them out of jobs in the name of inefficiency or indiscipline or for any other reason. That is the fear that is there in the mind of the working class.

The Government says that there will be no retrenchment. It may not be so in the present employment. But what about future employment? Today, the Government is the owner of public sector. That is why, person of every section, whether he belongs to SC or ST or any other backward class, is getting a job in the public sector. What will happen in future when private management comes in? Will they give jobs to every section of the society? It is the main question before us.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : I have taken just five minutes. I need at least 15 minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : Time is very short. Please understand. No. I cannot give you 15 minutes. Please conclude.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Okay, please give me two minutes more.

My suggestion is this. The Government says that all public sector undertakings will be privatised or there will be disinvestment. But classification of public sector is essential. It must be under the control of the Government. If each public sector industry runs in profit, why should the Government disinvest that type of industry? Secondly, if some weak industry is there and if it is having some lands or assets in excess of the need, then why should the Government not try to revive that industry? Thirdly, if an industry is incurring heavy loss and if there is no other alternative, then, one can understand the situation and the Government can disinvest. I will give a vital suggestion. Why should the Government not hire the management, taking 25 per cent value of the assets from the private concerns or small concerns? In that case, that management will run it on lease basis. The Government has to try that. It will be in the hands of the Government. The ownership will be there; responsibility will be there. In this way, the Government will have overall control of the public sector, and development will be achieved.

MR. SPEAKER : Very good.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a debate on disinvestment is going on and I see that this Government has become anti-people and senseless in its disinvestment process. All their allies are against it. We also strongly oppose it but they are rigid. They are an example of undemocratic Government
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is it proper to speak so loudly?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : They should explain why the term of disinvestment commission was allowed to expire? The Department of Disinvestment was constituted after the expiry of Disinvestment Commission and they were told to cut the expenses. Whether the shop of disinvestment has been opened to sell the country — please clarify? Everybody talks about transparency but where is it? They simply ignored the recommendations of disinvestment commission. Nobody is in agreement because they know the truth. Hon'ble Ministers such as Shri Sharad Yadav, Shri Manohar Joshi and Shri Ram Naik are opposed to it. They want to sell off 127 profit making undertakings. I allege that it is being done in haste. They have fixed an inflow of Rs. 10,000 crores through that route. Undertakings are planned

to be sold for peanuts. Where do they want to use that money? Shri Alvi narrated to us the recommendations of Disinvestment commission. Due to lack of time I won't repeat it but still I would like to mention it. Debate on the issue of Maruti is on. Ministers don't act on behalf of Government but they act as if they are an employee of the management. They say that they can tell only after asking the Master. Meeting was held at your residence. Thousands of employees are on hunger strike there. There is no complexity in the issue. Firstly in undertakings of good conduct which is unlawful should be withdrawn and secondly the victimising actions should be stopped. Other things would come later. This issue has been raised on numerous occasions. Cement corporation has been closed for last six months. An official was posted there and about that official CVC and CBI have mentioned in that he should not be given a sensitive post. The irregularity was mentioned later. They sent a name and when it created a stir hon'ble Prime Minister sent it back. Multi National companies are conspiring to put their own men at high positions so that they could later buy the units at throw away prices. A huge conspiracy is going on. Everybody now knows what the oft repeated transparency really means. Rumours about modern food is heard all over the country. Shri Shourie was a man of letters and he is trapped here. Earlier people with doubtful integrity used to be posted here. Now partnership has changed and an honest man has been posted here. I am not sure where he may go wrong. It was said that Disinvestment Department has been opened with a view to resource collection. What is there in Modern Food? Why are we not being told the worth of land, its present value and the rate at which it was sold. It was bought by a multi national company, Hindustan lever, why a National company was not allowed to buy it? They don't learn from Hungary and Russia. Selling off is profitable only in the beginning. But when the multinational start taking profits to their own country the condition of our country would be similar to Russia and Hungary. Therefore, we should learn from the experience of Hungary and Russia. They want to privatise through disinvestment. They should consider that it is profitable only in the beginning, later on it has many adverse effects. They intend to reduce or control fiscal deficit and budget deficit by selling the country, it is wrong and against the recommendation of Disinvestment Commission. Therefore, you should reply to all the issues raised, here, otherwise people of the country are apprehensive, hearing rumours that you are selling the country through disinvestment and fraud worth crores of rupees are being committed. I don't trust your assertion that everything is above board. I think that the Government is on the verge of collapse, that is why the Government is blind with arrogance. They have become so arrogant that they are not even listening to their allies. Therefore I warn them against selling off the country in this manner. We are opposed to it and with these words, I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please don't speak so loudly, you are sweating.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Even then I am not being heard.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Thank you very much for the opportunity given to me. Yesterday, comrade Basu Deb Acharia had initiated the debate, a very vital debate, on disinvestment. He had explained at length as to how the very process had started by the then hon. Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar, but it was quite different. He had explained the difference between what had been initiated by the Congress in 1991 and what had been done by the UF Government.

The present NDA Government is a bundle of contradiction and confusion. They lack a sense of proportion and as such they are constrained to be on the defensive. As far as the hon. Minister, a brilliant former journalist, Shri Shourie is concerned, I am reminded of Churchill who sat upon the liquidation of the vast British empire. The hon. Minister is sitting upon the liquidation of our national wealth. The Minister cannot deny the fact that he is sitting upon the liquidation of our national wealth. The brilliant star speakers of the BJP, Shri Malhotra, a very senior person and Shri Rudi, the younger generation representing BJP, were also in confusion and naturally, they were in contradiction. What is the policy of disinvestment which is being followed by the BJP led NDA Government? In the Budget speech of Shri Yashwant Sinha for the year 2000-2001 he has said :

"It is restructuring and reviving potentially viable PSUs, closing down PSUs which cannot be revived and bring down the Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs to 26 per cent or low if necessary"

The first two points were contradicted by the third point mentioned in the Budget speech. They had also said that as a part of the policy they will protect the interests of the workers. Here also, there is a great contradiction and they will never be able to protect the interest of the workers. Only the Maruti instance need be taken. They are just paying a lip service. They had started with *swadeshi* and now they are selling out our investments to foreign multinationals. It is not merely confusion and contradiction, it is also hypocrisy. They are paying lip service to *swadeshi* but they are serving *videshi* in actual practice.

Then, I would also like to mention a very important point. In the Budget Speech of 1999-2000, it is mentioned at page 17 in para 41:

"In 1999, I propose to raise Rs.10,000 crore through disinvestment programme. This will help the Government to fund the requirements of social and infrastructure sectors. Equally important, it will be leading to improvements in productivity and profitability of these enterprises and also further development of domestic capital market."

Now, improvement of productivity and profitability by selling out our shares and our wealth is a myth. It cannot be a reality.

Another thing is, what did they say about infrastructure and social sector in another Budget Speech? Sir, I would cite two examples about education and health sectors. In the Budget Speech of 1999-2000 Shri Yashwant Sinha, the hon. Finance Minister, who is an expert in this sphere said about health sector :

"The Central Government will provide funds to such *Gram Panchayats* that come forward with their own contribution to set up primary health centres and care facilities."

Sir, if that is so, then why should there be Central Government? So, where is the investment in the social sector through disinvestment? There is a contradiction. They have no policy. Another sphere is education. The Finance Minister said :

"Their aim will be to provide an elementary school in every habitation which does not have one within a radius of one kilometre. Initially, the local community would provide the premises and select a local person as part-time teacher. Teaching material and other assistance will be provided by the Central Government and the State Government, while Gram Panchayat will mobilise contribution from local community in cash and kind for running the school."

This is the way they are intending to fund these important social sectors. In their policy, they are saying that they are going to use disinvestment money for all these sectors. It is a contradiction.

I would also like to say that the working class would not be protected. Take for example, Maruti workers. They are on strike for more than two months and on fasting also for the last five days. They are treated like bonded slaves and labourers because they are asked to give a self-attested certificate that they will be always performing in a good manner. This is free India and an India which has a Constitution which gives the right to live. Right to live does not mean living like animals. But we must be able to live in a

dignified manner. This is the policy of this Government and they say that they will protect the interest of all the workers.

They have also said in the Budget Speech that they will create one crore jobs in a year. Now, it is the third year. According to their own policy, three crore jobs should have been created. Instead of that, they have created three Ministries including the Ministry of Disinvestment. They are also saying that they are going to cut down the expenditure by reducing the staff. But they are selling out these public sector undertakings. What would happen to these labourers? Will they be taken by these multinationals? Their policy is hire and fire. Where is the security of the labourers and working class?

Sir, I repeat that this Government has no policy. They only have confusion in their minds. I would like the hon. Minister to give answer to my question. What is this policy? I urge upon the Government and especially the brilliant Minister who is sitting upon the liquidation of our national wealth to review this disinvestment.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : Mr. Speaker Sir, as Shri Basu Deb Acharia reminded us when he started the debate yesterday, this is the third debate on disinvestment in the last one year in this House. In the other House also this matter has been debated twice. So, this is the fifth debate in the last one year on this one subject. It is a very important subject. But you contrast it with Defence which is also very important. How many times have we discussed Defence? I must say with some disappointment that the thinning of attendance in the House during the debate when you contrast it with the last Session shows that debates on this subject are becoming routinised. Some of the points that have been made are new ones but most of them, if you look at the debate of the last Session, are the same points.

The reason why I am bringing it to your attention is that one of the common themes that has marked the speeches of most of the hon. Members is that there should be greater Parliamentary supervision and Parliamentary participation in this whole process. On this I just want to mention a specific point which was made by Shri Kamal Nath and other speakers as to why we have obstinately refused to agree to the proposal for a Standing Committee on Disinvestment. That decision is entirely your decision, Mr. Speaker. The

Hon. Speaker has decided that the Committee that oversees the work of the Ministry of Finance will also oversee the work of the Department of Disinvestment.

Not only have we had five debates in this Session and in the last Session, in these very two Sessions by our count we have answered 304 Parliamentary Questions pertaining to disinvestment. I would really like to know what is missing.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): There lies your importance.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : We have given these answers. Our officers have appeared thrice before the Standing Committees to answer questions in greater detail about disinvestment of individual public sector enterprises. So, the first point that I would like to suggest is that Parliament is in oversight of these matters.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : In these debates the Ministers have been disinvested. When we started the debate, Shri Yashwant Sinha was the Minister; he was disinvested in favour of Shri Arun Jaitley. The second time when we had the debate, it was further disinvested to Shri Arun Shourie. So, I do not know what will happen to him now!

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE Just now Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay was making a point that before a disinvestment decision is taken, or as it is being taken, there should be Parliamentary consultation and supervision. I would like to mention the delicacy of the matter. For instance, in international competitive bidding it is very important that the potential bidders should not know who they are bidding against. They should not even know the number of persons whom they are bidding against. Otherwise there will be fixation of prices, cartels would be formed and the country would not get the best value for the enterprises for which they are soliciting joint partners.

That is why, in Air India I have consistently refused and every officer of the Department has consistently refused to either confirm or deny the name of any bidder or the number of bidders ... (*Interruptions*) It is my earnest request to you to permit me to speak without interruption because of the shortage of time. I will come to Modern Food! I have given the figures last time; I will again come to it. If these matters relating to bidding etc., were to be disclosed first to the Parliament there would be adverse commercial consequences. Moreover, when there is a clear distinction between legislative functions and executive functions, doing so just does not stand to reason.

The second point that I would like to urge is that the process is completely transparent. It is a wrong insinuation to

[SHRI ARUN SHOURIE]

say that anything that Arun Shoune or anyone else says prevails. That is not the case. There is a Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment presided over by the Prime Minister, of which Shri Sharad Yadav, Shri Manohar Joshi, Shri Ram Naik — all the person in whom you keep reposing your faith that they would oppose this move — are all members. Absolutely no proposal can be seen through that Committee unless it has the whole-hearted support and endorsement of the Ministry and the Minister under whose charge that public sector enterprise is. It has been my firm belief that nothing can be done before that agreement is obtained.

Shri Sharad Yadav is sitting here. He has been my friend for many years. Many of you may not know that he is the person who was selected by JP to be the first candidate at that time. Now, I will tell you, though I should not be disclosing these things but ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : What about Punna Mukta fields?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : That is not in disinvestment. That was at a time when the disinvestment process was not there. That is a case of oil exploration. You are complete confused. I do not want to pick up those examples which show that you have not understood the subject. I do not want to do that. You are talking about something else ... *(Interruptions)*. In the case of Air India and Indian Airlines, Shri Sharad Yadav not only attended all those meetings, but also devised particular formulae for the kind of disinvestment that should take place. He correctly emphasised that on how we should limit the foreign airlines holding to 26 per cent. That was what the Cabinet decided. When the advertisement was to be issued inviting expressions of interest, Shri Sharad Yadav went through every single word on his own and endorsed the text on file. But you keep hoping that somehow there will be disagreement.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sharadji your name has been dropped and you are sitting quietly... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : He heard your submission patiently. Now you too listen to him patiently ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Please keep quite or you might end up expressing your feelings... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Similarly, in the case of Shri Ram Nalk and in the case of Maruti, Shri Manohar Joshi, in every single matter ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Why was a clarification required there? When you announced what was apparently decided and you said that it was decided 'in principle', the next day, Shri Manohar Joshi came and said that it was not decided 'in principle'. And you had to rush all the way to Mumbai to get yourself saved. I do not think that this can be just taken as you claim it.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Not like that. There was absolutely no contradiction because a final decision on Maruti could not be taken. The 1992 Agreement is there which says, the agreement was entered into by the Congress Government, that the Government cannot sell any part of its equity without the written consent of Suzuki Motors Company.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : That was not the issue. You said 'in principle' and he has said 'not in principle'. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I never said that.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I heard you on television. You said 'in principle'.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I repeated word by word the decisions of the Cabinet. The Cabinet decision says that a Committee of Secretaries shall be appointed headed by the Cabinet Secretary to open discussions with Suzuki for recommending optimal ways for disinvesting in Maruti. This was the decision. I emphatically said in the Press Conference that I shall not say one word more than this. And Shri Manohar Joshi rightly said, on the following Sunday, that all that the Cabinet had decided was to open discussions because without discussing with Suzuki and getting their consent ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why was discussion required unless there was a decision to disinvest?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : That is precisely what you should be wondering about. But as far as the two statements are concerned, they were completely correct *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Why should you go to Mumbai ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, if you address the Chair, you can avoid these sorts of confrontations.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I am sorry Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not address Shri Acharia or anybody else. Please address the Chair.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Just as you had decided on the Committee on Finance, the same Committee, to oversee disinvestment, I am very grateful to all Members when they have been saying that the procedure should be completely transparent. For that very purpose, I wrote to the C&AG of India. If you permit, I would just read it out to you. I had written that I will be most grateful if every single disinvestment.... *(Interruptions)* I wrote to Shri Shunglu, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, requesting him that he should institute a process for examining and reporting on every single disinvestment decision. And I said that, for this purpose, we will be ready to give them every scrap of paper, every document relating to that particular decision, the moment it is consummated.

This is what I have also wrote

"I know that it has been a matter of concern to you also that the submission of audit reports to Parliament and their release to the public often takes almost two years from the completion of the audit of any Department. In view of the importance of this subject and of public concern in the matter, if you accept the proposal and specify the procedure to be followed, could you also consider ways by which the period of conducting the audit and submitting the reports on disinvestment can be shortened to a minimum?"

I would just take half a minute to read what the CAG has written. He has said that he has accepted the proposal. He said like this :

"Our normal procedure of audit for the Central Ministries is to conduct an inspection once in a year and send the inspection report to the Ministry. In case there are significant audit findings considered fit for being reported to the Parliament, then, those cases are included in the Annual Audit Report issued by this office. Our inspection reports are issued only to the Ministry and not released either to the Press or to the Parliament from our end."

The CAG drew attention to this because I had requested him to send the reports directly to Parliament and release them directly to the people and the Press. But he added :

"In view of the concern you have expressed for transparency in disinvestment, our office would be prepared to take up the audit of each case as soon as your Ministry is ready with the documents. A separate inspection report will be issued in every case."

I do not know why there is this allegation that things are not transparent. For instance, just now so many Members asked about it. Shri Rashid Alvi and so many other hon.

Members asked what are the proceeds going to be used for. The Finance Minister has clearly stated in his Budget Speech about this. You have approved the Budget, Everything will be done according to that.

A point was made by many friends that the Disinvestment Commission has said that we must set up a separate Disinvestment Fund. Shri Basu Deb Acharia mentioned this. Just now, he has also said about it. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): It was the proposal of the Disinvestment Commission also.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : That is exactly what they have said. They have reported that matter. The purpose of that proposal was that the funds should come in to one block. What has happened since then is this. Several hon. Members of Parliament and other leaders have been urging what the proceeds should be used for. Some of them have said that they should be used for social sectors like drinking water, primary schools and primary health. Others have said that they should be used for restructuring the public sector enterprises. A third set has said that the debt is very high and therefore the proceedings should be used to retire it. Shri Rashid Alvi was just now saying that rupees one lakh crore is being spent on the interest alone, that is, half of the revenue of the Government of India is used for that and, therefore, we should retire public debt. There have also been suggestions — Kumari Mamata Banerjee is here — that as the sick units of the public sector undertakings are concentrated largely in West Bengal and in Bihar. The proceeds should actually be used for reviving the industries in these areas. All these suggestions were made *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You are not doing that.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Day before yesterday, in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Salim was asking a question on the ITDC. He asked : "Will you assure the House that the funds, will be used only for tourism development?" So, all these are priority sectors. For that reason, it has been felt.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, the Great Eastern Hotel has been handed over to a French company by the Government of West Bengal. They are also doing it.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : of course, that was the point. It is not only that. Of course, nobody knows what the proceeds of that will go to.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Everybody knows about it.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : If we go by the statements of the INTUC leaders, as Shri Malhotra has pointed out, there has been no transparency and the French Company has been relieved *(Interruptions)* I am only on the point of assuring the House that the proceeds will be used properly. All these proposals are good proposals.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : If it is a proposal of the Union leaders, as you said, what is your proposal?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : We propose and you dispose.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : So, I will now dispose of your suggestion. After considering all these, we have put this suggestion to the Finance Minister. For the time being, the position is that priorities of development policy and for restructuring and all other expenditures are being set by Parliament through the approval it gives to the Budget and by the Planning Commission through the funds that Parliament allocates for budgetary support to the Plan and the State Plans.

17.00 hrs.

So, this process should continue and such proceeds as come, should go to the Consolidated Fund of India. The priorities can be assessed on an overall manner rather than by splitting the Consolidated Fund for tourism, for West Bengal, for Bihar, for restructure of enterprises etc.,

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : You are not satisfied with your own answer!

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I am. One question that was raised in the context of transparency by many friends, starting with Shri Basu Deb Acharia, was the question of valuation. That is very important because if assets are not valued, appropriately as Shri P.H. Pandiyan was just saying, it would be a crime, a cognizable offence, as many State Governments and leaders are realising. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : What about Modern Foods?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : If you want me to come straight to Modern Foods, I will come to that. There was one conspicuous case of under valuation which I always keep on my desk and that was precisely of Maruti. The share of Government in Maruti was brought down. The share of the

Government in equity was brought down from 60 to 50 per cent in June, 1992 and the shares were transferred to the Suzuki Motor Company - Rs.100 face value share was given over for Rs.269. At that time the share of Hindustan Motors, a company making an unrenowned car for 45 years, was selling at Rs.770. That was the valuation.

On the question of Modern Foods, it is very interesting. The assets were valued not in one way but in four ways. The net worth according to the Department of Public Sector Enterprises Survey of 1996-97 was Rs.28 crore. The value of assets according to the accounts as on 31st March, 1999 was - gross assets Rs.39 crore and net assets Rs.19 crore. Regarding the market value of the land, you keep saying Rs.2000 crore. I do not know where this figure comes from. According to the Government Valuer in 1996/97, the value of that land- with unrestricted use - was Rs. 109 crore. The use was not to be unrestricted, the factories had to continue. For valuation the global advisors had used different methods for valuing 100 per cent of the equity. Remember that, in the end only 74 per cent was sold. The valuation was put at Rs.30 to Rs.70 crore, and 74 per cent of the shares were sold for Rs.109 crore. I mentioned to you that in the case of Maruti, Rs.100 share was sold for Rs.269. Here, in the case of Modern Foods Rs.1000 share was sold for Rs.11,490. Yet nobody looks at the figure. But, you are right. Valuation is a very important matter. It must be done by different methods because, sometimes valuation of assets is important, sometimes it is not the way to secure the best value.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has admitted that the land of Modern Foods was not valued properly.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : No, Sir. I heard him. He said that if it is unrestricted, yes, it would be high because the land use was not allowed to be changed, it was valued in this way. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, why are you giving replies to the interruptions.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I am sorry, Sir.

Hon. Members have urged a very important point that we should be careful in valuation. I would also urge one point in return. Hon. Members, please do not destroy the credibility of institutions and processes by wild figures.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What is the present position of Air India?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I will just come to that. In the case of Air India, a very fanciful figure has been put out. In

the Standing Committee's Report, a figure about Air India was given and the committee stated that the valuation of Air India has been "reported" to be Rs.24,000 crore. So, I contacted the Members and asked as to where it was "reported" to be Rs.24,000 crore. Eventually, I was told that it was an article in *The Hindustan Times* which had mentioned that figure in passing. It so happened that I was called to the Economic Editors' Conference and at that Conference, the gentleman who had written that article also happened to be present. He is a well-known and respected journalist. He asked me a question and in return I asked him, in front of all the 150 persons, what was the basis of the figure of Rs.24,000 crore which had found its way into the Standing Committee's report. He said: "I will not disclose my sources" I had not asked for sources, I had asked him what the basis was. There is no basis.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : What about the suggestion made by Shri Sudhip Bandyopadhyay?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : With regard to valuation, I would like to submit that valuation will be done most carefully and it will be eventually cross-checked by the C&AG and he will be submitting his report to Parliament.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Your own ally gave a suggestion. Why do you not accept it? Why can you not club Indian Airlines and Air India together for the purpose of valuation?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, whether the domestic airline and the international airline should be one is a question of aviation policy. In many countries they are one and in many countries they are not. That is a separate question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Why do you not put them together and value?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : For the consumer, it is better to have competition. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : This kind of intervention is not good. Do not disturb the Minister.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, there is a perennial demand for a White Paper. Several friends have said, including Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, that there should be a White Paper on disinvestment. When each and every question has been clarified, answered, adumbrated, where is the need for a White Paper? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : This is untrue. He has not answered all the questions. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I will give you an example. In one instance, nine units are being disinvested. In another instance, the process has already commenced in respect of two units. In the third instance, three units are being disinvested. These are being done by the Governments of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. In Delhi, the process has started with an Ordinance. In Madhya Pradesh, the Government do not have money for V.R.S. and so they have taken a loan of Rs.100 crore from the Asian Development Bank to start the process of privatisation. Has any of this been done after producing a White Paper? In Andhra Pradesh, the process has started in respect of 10 units. Is there any White Paper? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, he has chosen these Governments as they are all Congress Governments. It is just politics. The State Governments have not brought a whole bunch of disinvestment proposals. He wants to disinvest 236 public undertakings. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, he is again going to walk out. He is preparing the ground for that.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, the Minister has not answered all the questions that have been raised by us. He is not accepting our demand for a White Paper. The Minister has rejected our demand. We have no alternative, but to walk out. He has no right to mislead Parliament.

17.04 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also walk out.

17.05 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rashid Alvi and some other hon. Members left the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, the Minister has not replied to our points. ... (*Interruptions*) He has evaded. ... (*Interruptions*) There is no accountability. So, in protest, we are walking out. ... (*Interruptions*)

17.10 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir we stage walk out due to the anti people, anti country policies and decisions of the government.

17.11 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Membrs left the House.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE Sir, this is a well-practised routine. Last time also, exactly this happened because they could not stomach the answers, because the conduct of their own Government was different. Exactly at this point, they left.

Two final observations were made. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay made this point. Just now, our friend from Shiv Sena also made this point about profit making companies. I will just mention two points in that context. One is that when the Congress(I) Government did minority sales of shares, the shares of 41 companies were sold between 1990-91 – at the end of the Congress regime. There were 41 companies. Of those, 38 companies were profit-making companies.

As Shri P.A. Sangma was just reminding us, 72 cases were referred to the Disinvestment Commission by the United Front Government. Of them, 45 companies were making profits. The Disinvestment Commission gave recommendations on 58 cases for disinvestment. Of them, 37 were making profit.

Similarly, in seeing whether a company is profit-making or not, as Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy has been saying, if we take away the petroleum sector, lignite and other units, like VSNL, in which the Government has a monopoly by its own laws, the rate of return on equity is minus four per cent whereas the Government is borrowing at 12 per cent.

In many cases, the profit may be there today. But it will be rapidly dwindling. I will mention to you just the case of VSNL. Till yesterday, it had a monopoly on international calls. Now, you have provided gateways to seven other companies. Its market share is plummeting. In the case of Maruti Udyog Limited, which everybody keeps citing, three years ago, its market share was 83 per cent. It made a profit of Rs. 650 crore. During the first seven months of this year, there is a loss of Rs. 128 crore and its market share is down to between 55-60 per cent. Should you not see this?

The ITDC was a great champion when they started. Today, in the first seven months of this year, of the 31 properties, every single property in the Hotels Division has made a loss. In many of its hotels, the bill on account of wages and salaries is more than the total revenue. Its occupancy rate is 38 per cent compared to other hotels in the same cities which is between 70 to 77 per cent. So, should you not see this?

My last point is that we must learn from history. We must get over these slogans. As Shri Sangma was saying quite rightly, we must see how time is flying away. We keep criticising of international companies and the appointment of international advisers. Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra gave many good examples about China. Messrs Morgan Stanley Dean Witer, is among the advisors to China. The same international advisers came to see me. I asked them, "What distinguishes China? How is it that they are able to get \$ 45 billion foreign direct investment in one year and we cannot get \$ 2 billion?" They said, "There are two points. One is that the Chinese take a decision, and in ten days, it is implemented." We go on with these discussions. That is the first difference.

The second difference, they said, was how market-savvy the Chinese are. Since last year, we are still debating the telecom sector. During the last year, there was a rush for telecom stocks all over the world. China immediately decided to sell the stock of the China Telecom Company, of their biggest company. Within weeks, they raised \$ 5 billion.

This year when there has been this oil price rise and we are still debating diesel price hike and non-diesel price hike, China called these Morgan Stanley people and said, "our task is how to convert this problem into an opportunity." What did they do? Immediately, they announced: "We are opening the retail trade in petroleum, petrol stations etc. in China to international oil companies. Come. But before you come, you have to invest in the IPO, of SINOPEC which is their equivalent to our IOC." In that issue they raised 3.5 billion dollars. Then they said, "Now you come in and start opening petrol stations." We go on with these interminable debates and we do not learn from how our rivals are mopping up opportunities.

Just now, an hon. Member asked, why are we not taking things to BIFR, why are you not restructuring these companies? In the last nine years, 23 revival packages have been implemented by the Government costing Rs.34,000 crore and not a single company has been revived. This is wastage of public money. You contrast this sum of Rs.34,000 crore with how much we spend on drinking water. It is Rs.2,500 crore.

In the case of BIFR, 2,841 companies were referred to BIFR and less than nine per cent of the companies have been revived, many of them got better automatically because market conditions changed. But all the others have had to be wound up or are still lying in that mortuary.

My plea to the House firstly is this: "Please believe that Parliament has full control of the disinvestment policy and it will be fully informed, it is being fully informed." Secondly, all the points that have been raised have been clarified repeatedly in Budget Speeches and in other speeches. Thirdly, it is time for us to learn, as Shri Sangma was saying, from the history of the last two decades and come to operational conclusions and let this process proceed. Public sector workers in almost every sector have one and a half to two times the emoluments of comparable private sector firms in the same industry. If we confuse the public by the kind of rhetoric we have seen here, or if we inflame public sector workers, all that we would have accomplished is that the value of those enterprises will be even less and the very object that you want to achieve, that is, that the Government of India should get the best value for these enterprises, will be defeated. So, my plea is, let us work together to implement a policy that is clear, transparent and open.

17.18 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE:
APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN
THE FIRST REPORT OF RAILWAY CONVENTION
COMMITTEE

AND

*DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—RAILWAYS

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Item Nos. 22 & 23 together.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House approves the recommendations made in paragraphs 115, 116, 117, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123 and 124 contained in the First Report of the Railway Convention Committee, 1999 appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues, etc., which was presented to Lok Sabha on 22 August, 2000."

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated

Fund to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2001, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 16."

*Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2000-01
submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand submitted to the Vote of the House (Rs)
16	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Other Expenditure	
	Capital	5,000
	Railway funds	15,000
	Total	20,000

Sir, when we are moving for the consideration of the Supplementary Demands, of course, I am grateful to all the hon. Members for their full support. I would like to mention in this House that Indian Railways is passing through a critical juncture, especially from the point of view of safety after the recommendations received from the Khanna Committee. This is a crisis time for the Railways, especially when the coaches, the rakes, the signalling system, etc. have become old.

I appeal to all our Members through this august House that instead of all these odds, the Indian Railways are trying its best to serve the nation and the people. But what we feel today is that we have taken some strong and stringent action. This safety matter is so important. That is why, we have planned a new safety plan for the next 10 years. If we want to restore normalcy, specially, in the safety areas, then we have to invest money for the Safety Plan. I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister. This is the first time that the Prime Minister has announced that the Railways are neglected. From the safety point of view, he is willing to give us support. We hope that, of course, after the recommendations from RCC, the Consultative Committee, Standing Committee, NRUCC and all the parliamentary Committees, this time we should not neglect the safety networks because safety never sleeps.

I want to mention this for the information of the hon. Members. In my last Budget, I gave 21 new trains. Out of that, 20 trains have already started. This Supplementary

[KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE]

Demand relates to all the subjects. Technically, it is related to the safety matter. It is only the safety matter that we have included in the Supplementary Demand.

Before starting the debate, I would like to give one information for the information of all the hon. Members that they should recall that a loading target of 475 million tonnes has been kept in the Budget for the current year. I am happy to inform the House that the Railways have already loaded 306.69 million tonnes till the end of November 2000, which is 16.25 million tonnes more than the loading last year. Last year, the loading crossed 50 years' record. This year also, within these 5-6 months, the Railways have loaded 16.25 million tonnes more. Going by the current trend, I am hopeful that the Railways would exceed the target laid down and it will be more than that.

In financial terms, the goods earning during the period is Rs.15,219 crore which is Rs.956 crore higher than last year's achievement of Rs.14,263 crore during the corresponding period.

The passenger earning is also Rs.206 crore higher than the target. It is Rs.615 crore more than last year. It means we have got Rs.1571 crore etc., income this time from the passenger and freight earnings.

I request the hon. Members to give more thrust to safety networks. I will listen carefully to whatever fruitful suggestions they give. I will request the hon. Members to give us some important suggestions to improve the safety networks, and suggestions for reforms and restructuring of the Indian Railways and how the Indian Railways should work. I will listen to them first and then I will respond.

MR. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That this House approves the recommendations made in paragraphs 115, 116, 117, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123 and 124 contained in the First Report of the Railway Convention Committee, 1999 appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented to Lok Sabha on 22 August, 2000."

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2001, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No.16. "

Time allotted is three hours only. Now, Shri K.H. Muniyappa.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (DARBHANGA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an 'Half-an-Hour Discussion' on the Olympics. When do you plan to take it? It is supposed to be taken up at 5.30 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been postponed to tomorrow.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is because of the Railway Supplementary Demand.

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): Please give me a minute time to say something. I want to make a request.

[Translation]

If it is to be discussed tomorrow as the hon. Member has stated then

[English]

it is a very important matter and many Members want to participate in this. I request you to increase the time from more than half-an-hour because it is generally called 'Half-an-Hour Discussion'.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demand for Supplementary Grant for the Railways in respect of Budget (Railways) for 2000-2001.

The Indian Railway system is the biggest in the railways of the world. Like the nervous system of the human body, directly or indirectly more than 75 per cent of the population is being benefited by this, in war, in peace, in heat or in cold. The Railways have been contributing their share to the nation. Therefore, it is our prime concern to build and develop a safe railway network.

The Railways have got an history of more than one hundred years. They have seen many ups and downs during the period when the earlier Congress Governments were in power. They have to strengthen and develop the system. During the years 1991 to 1996 more than 4,000 km of gauge conversion took place. It was a boom period for the Railways.

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I would like to mention some history. When an accident took place, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and even recently Shri Madhavrao Scindia – who were Ministers of Railways – accepted the responsibility and resigned. Now-a-days, look at the present hon. Ministers. Whatever may be the accidents reported, innocent people suffer but we are surprised that the hon. Ministers are not even ready to accept their failure.

Let us look at the last occasion of 1996. The United Front Government started laying innumerable foundation stones. I have got the information that if we have to convert those foundation stones into railway lines, we would need thousands and thousands of crores of rupees and it will take more than one hundred years to complete them also! What is the use?

17.27 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

That is because of the reason that to get cheap popularity the United Front Government had made all these things, to convince the Members of Parliament that they had made all those things. Even though many surveys were ordered, not even 25 per cent of them had been completed. That is what had happened in the United Front Government.

The present Government also has not been able to do much for the Railways. This is a very sad thing about which I would like to inform the House. To satisfy the Members of Parliament this was done. When will they complete them? How much amount of money is needed to complete these works? Why have these people to do all these things? They are laying the foundation stones but it will take one hundred years to materialise. This is the report or information received from the Department.

Is this the way to develop the Railways and complete them? These are the things we want to know from the hon. Minister because now the present Minister is a very dynamic and a committed Minister, who is committed to the work. That is why I want a clear cut clarification from the hon. Minister about what happens to the several foundation stones lying all over the country. If it is not possible to complete them, inform the House that it is not possible to complete them or what the stage of their completion is. Let the people know these things.

Today, trains are moving at a speed of more than one hundred kilometres. But our hon. Minister is running at a speed of more than two hundred kilometres. I want that the hon. Minister should take the stride at the same speed for the development of the Railways. In Japan, the speed of the

trains is three hundred kilometres per hour whereas in India it is not even one hundred kilometres. When do we reach that stage? Ours is one of the biggest democracies, the largest and populous countries in the world.

How to complete this project? This is a most important thing. So, I would like to urge upon the Government that some new formula should come up to develop the railways. Then, only it is possible.

The Government of Karnataka has ventured an MoU with the Ministry of Railways through Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company Limited- 'K-RIDE'. The hon. Minister has taken up four projects on a joint venture basis. The subscription to equity of K-RIDE by the parties are – Government of Karnataka: 26 per cent; Government of India 26 per cent; and the rest 48 per cent by financial institutions. So, in this way, it should be extended to all the States in the country. A separate fund should be provided for development for those States, which are coming forward. I think, at least this can be more useful. So, I would like to urge upon the Government to provide at least Rs. 1,000 crore for this joint venture every year. I think, it will be more useful and it should be done as early as possible.

Sir, I would like to put forward another important suggestion to this august House. The Ministry of Railways should exploit the commercial viability of the railway wasteland in cities wherever found feasible. We have to use that wasteland. It should be used for commercial purposes. Hundred of acres of railway land are lying on the side of the railway tracks. It is not properly utilised. That can be used by the railways for the tourist centres, to construct hotels and for commercial purposes that can be more useful. Twenty-five per cent of the total input is needed for the development of railways.

Another important thing is how to get the money for all these things. I do not want to mention the regions. The hon. Minister should understand and look into the matter. You can compare the southern parts of the country with the northern part in respect of ticket purchasing, income and how the trains are running. I am mentioning this because of my personal experience. I went to Varanasi in 1992. I found that more than 30 per cent of the people had not taken tickets. Then, how to run the railways? The hon. Minister is very dynamic and strict. She must see this thing and try to correct it. In this way, 50 per cent of amount will come for the development of Railways. It is the most important thing. You have to assert yourself and you have to be strict on this point. This is a practical suggestion I am giving. You can compare it from South to North. This thing should be corrected.

[KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE]

I would like to say another point. Even in the reserved seats, people are coming forcibly. They are not even allowing those people who are having reserved seats. For example, after Bhusawal, we cannot get seats. These things should be strictly restricted and the officers should be instructed accordingly.

Sir, I would like to give a few suggestions. Linking of pilgrimage centre is one. Running some special trains such as Palace on Wheels, which is successful in North India, is another. Construction of Railway Yatri Niwas hotels and running them in a systematic way would also earn money and foreign exchange for the Government of India.

Railways have enormous capacity to handle the goods, but because of the complex procedure and non-cooperation of railway staff, these goods are moving through trucks. Therefore, it is necessary to identify the field staff for the purpose and part of the earnings be given to the private agents on commission basis on a trial run. Railways should try to transport perishable goods also. Because of high production of the agricultural produce and low transportation facilities, farmers are facing many difficulties. This method can be tried. It is not an impossible task.

In Karnataka, we are purchasing potatoes from Shimla. We could not get even a month to sow the seeds. Karnataka people are regularly purchasing potatoes from Shimla. Thousands and thousands of wagons we are purchasing from there. For one-and-a-half month, the wagons run to South with potatoes but they do not reach in proper time and, therefore, we are not able to sow the seeds at the appropriate time. We are put to a loss because we are not able to sow the seeds within a particular time. Same is the case with paddy. So, the hon. Minister has to take care of the goods side and has to give more importance to it because whatever the farmers produce, those products must go to a particular place within a particular time. Then only they will get the profit. Otherwise you know, these are perishable goods and the farmers will lose even their inputs also. I think, Madam, you understand the problems of the farmers and will take care of all these things.

The hon. Railway Minister has been to Karnataka. She has had a discussion with the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka. She has cleared four projects in the joint venture, but another 25 to 30 projects are still pending. I can only mention one or two of them.

The survey of the Bisanattam-Manikuppam line in my constituency has been noted for consideration by the Hon. Minister for Railways, but the money has not been provided for the same.

Another important thing to which I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Railway Minister is that the revised combined cost of construction of Cable Stayed Bridge with approaches (kilometre 321 near K.R. Puram), on Chennai-Kilar-Bangalore section of National Highway No. 4 is Rs.47.42 crore. So far the Government has sanctioned only Rs.22.2 crore. The remaining amount should be released at an early date to finish this project. Otherwise, unnecessarily it will take more time. The National Highway No.4 is a very very heavy traffic road. Everyday the casualties on this road, compared to all other roads in the State, are more. Every month, not less than two to three hundred casualties take place. So, you can understand what is the position there. A large number of trucks are running on this road. If this road is completed early, it will be more useful for the public.

My colleague, the hon. Former Union Minister and the Member of Parliament, Shri Jalappa and myself requested the hon. Railway Minister twice for the completion of the Bangarpet-Yelahanka railway line project. Fifty per cent of the work has already been completed. The remaining fifty per cent is yet to be completed. They have already spent Rs.50 crore on this project. If the remaining 50 per cent is also not completed, then these Rs.50 crores will go waste. That is why I request the hon. Railway Minister to give top priority to this project. We requested the hon. Chief Minister last time to consider this even as a joint venture project. So, kindly consider it as a joint venture project and complete it. It will connect Tirupati, Bhubaneswar, Calcutta and the North-East.

Another important point is that we are producing mangoes and vegetables. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You restrict your speech to the Demands. These are only Supplementary Demands.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : I am concluding, Sir.

We, in Karnataka, are producing one-third of the total production of mangoes in the country. This has to go to the Northern and the North-Eastern parts of the country. So, this project should be completed early.

Another important thing I would like to mention is regarding the Bharat Earth Movers Limited. Since its inception in 1947, the work of the construction of railway coaches had been entrusted to this company, that is, Bharat Earth Movers Limited, which is one of the public sector undertakings. Under Madam's Ministership only, it has been given to the Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala and the Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai. I would like to know what is the fate of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited where 5,000 workers are in trouble?

They have the skilled labour only for this purpose. The Government of India is having it right from the beginning. What is the fate of those workmen now? An amount of Rs. 70 crore is spent every year for those employees. This was also requested earlier. I would request you to kindly share this problem. I agree that you need not have more than 1,000 coaches in one factory or something on those lines. But, whatever it is, you have to distribute it among these units. Otherwise, it is difficult. What is the fate of this company? There is a loss of Rs. 70 crore every year. Wherefrom will it come? This is one of the important things which I wanted to tell you. ... (*Interruptions*) It is a public sector undertaking.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Is it with the Railways?

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : This is also a public sector undertaking.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : But it is not with the Railways. It is with the Urban Development Ministry.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Madam, the Government had instructed earlier and it is for that purpose that the infrastructure was developed for construction of coaches. The entire skilled labour is there for this particular unit.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : There are so many such units.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : No, Madam. This is a very important one. You have to kindly consider this.

MR. CHAIRMAN Shri Muniyappa, under which Demand Number are you speaking?

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Sir, I am concluding. I will urge upon the Government to kindly look into this.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : Sir, please do not restrict like this. We have to discuss not only the Supplementary Demands but the RCC report also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Sir, we have to come to the rescue of the hon. Minister also. We are for the development of this sector. We will urge upon the Government to provide more funds, at least Rs. 1,000 crore every year. With a joint venture with the States, let them complete the projects which are pending.

Another important aspect is about safety. Today, once in every two or three months 50 or 100 people are dying in railway accidents. The safety measures are not properly

taken care of. Madam, as you have said, strict measures are to be taken for safety in the railways.

On maintenance and cleanliness, I would like to say that our standards are very poor. We cannot use the toilets in the Railways. We hope that the hon. Minister will take necessary steps to make them fit for use. This is one of the important things which we are saying. Safety is very poor. Development is also very poor. In this regard I would like to urge upon the Government to give necessary funds for this purpose.

Secondly, whatever schemes or plans that have been made in the past ten years for development, we are totally agreeable on them. It is the main thrust not only for the passengers but for the farming community also. It is one of the important projects which concerns the farmers who are very much concerned. At this stage I would like to urge upon the Government to give necessary funds for the Railways to take up all pending projects whether they are in Karnataka or elsewhere. In whichever area the projects may be, they are important. We are concerned at the national level.

I would suggest that instead of going in for cheap popularity regarding laying of innumerable foundation stones, you may kindly like to tell the people of this country as to which are the projects for which you have laid the foundation stones and which are the projects that you are taking up. You have to come out clearly with these details. I know that you are a very strict and dynamic person and you are not going to lay foundation stones unnecessarily. But I would request you to kindly give these details and to take up the projects on a priority basis. Then we will be really supporting you.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : My request to the hon'ble Members is that if all of you are brief then the House will not have to sit for long because more than fifty hon. Members are going to participate in this discussion.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : It will be better if a few hon. Members from treasury benches and more Members from opposition side speak.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants moved by the Hon'ble Minister of Railways. Quite a good number of improvements are taking place in the Railways after Mamataji took over the charge of the Minister of Railways. We hope that the Department of Railways will march under her leadership.

[SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT]

A little while ago the hon'ble Minister enumerated the achievements which are definitely appreciable. But there is need for further improvement. The Hon'ble Minister had expressed her concern about security aspect and also taken certain security measures. One such step is to provide optical fibre facility for handling the shortcomings of Railways at a faster pace from telecommunication point of view and also to pass on the information immediately between two stations in case any accident occurs or any such thing happens. The allocation for passenger amenities head has also increased and new trains have also been introduced. Latest locomotives of 4000 horsepower have also been made available by the Department of Railways. HUDCO has been roped in to increase the income by utilizing the vacant land of Railways.

Some good decisions were taken during the last Budget and the primary one was efforts made to increase the income of Railways without an increase in freight charges or increase in passenger fare. A very good effort has been made by this Ministry to earn revenue by commercially selling space for advertisements on the wagons of goods trains or coaches of passenger trains. The advertisement hoarding will be allowed along the railway lines at level crossings to increase the income. For the maximum movement of freight the Ministry of Railways have decided to start express trains before and after the existing super fast trains.

Sir, these Supplementary Demands are limited and requires the sanction of only Rs. 30,0000 but the decision taken from security point of view is really important. We have more than 50,600 level crossings in the country out of which only 16,100 level crossings are manned whereas more than 34,500 level crossings are unmanned. The Demands for supplementary Grants provide for converting 185 unmanned level crossings into manned ones for which I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards certain problems of Madhya Pradesh. Here, I would also like to add that many schemes have been drafted but the Ministry of Railways has not been able to arrange necessary funds for implementation. I know that Mamata ji has a soft corner for the poor. Therefore, as the Minister of Railways, she don't want to burden the poor people. Even then, certain measures will have to be taken for mobilising additional resources for expediting the pace of development in the Department of Railways. In India railway was introduced 150 years ago whereas there are many countries where railway was introduced 60-80 or 100 years back, but even then there the trains are running at the speed

of four hundred to five hundred kilometer per hour. We cannot expand the rail network but we can definitely increase the speed of trains for expanding and upgrading rail transport.

Today, another matter of concern is that the total freight movement is increasing, income is also increasing but it is not proportionately increasing in comparison with other sectors. The percentage of goods movement by trucks is rising but freight movement is not growing through trains. There could be many reasons such as, loading and unloading of goods, delay in taking delivery of goods, booking of goods etc. Therefore, concerted efforts should be made to reduce such shortcomings so that railways should be able to fetch more orders for the movement of goods.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the main problems of Madhya Pradesh. The hon'ble Prime Minister had inaugurated the work of laying new railway line between Lalitpur and Sangrauli. Therefore, I demand that this work should be completed at fast pace. Every railway line approved by the House is important but this particular railway line is especially important. The budget allocation made in this regard is insufficient. The condition of all the schemes I am mentioning here is more or less the same. I would like to submit that sufficient funds should be arranged in next Budget so that these schemes should be completed at fast pace. Setting up of zonal offices in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh and in Bilaspur in Chattisgarh has already been cleared. The zonal office has been opened in Bilaspur but the work of opening Zonal office in Jabalpur is not progressing satisfactorily. Arrangements should be made for its smooth functioning. The gauge conversion work between Ratlam and Neemuch has not been completed for a long time. Enough Budgetary allocation is not made. Only Rs. 5 crore was provided in this Budget. Hon'ble Prahlad Patelji had raised a question on 3 August, 2000 in this regard and during the reply the information about many schemes was provided. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister regarding the ongoing schemes of Madhya Pradesh that such allocation need to be made by her in next budget so that schemes could be completed as per the set targets.

Sir, similarly the Maksi-Indore-Godhara rail line was approved in 1989-90 since then the provision regarding this is being made in the Budget but the work on phase between Maksi to Dewas is not progressing as per the set targets. Current allocation is of Rs. 10 crore in the Budget but the pace of the work is slow. I would like to submit that its pace should be accelerated. Similarly, the target has been set to complete the Guna-Etawa railway line by 2003 but due to the lack of budgetary allocation the work is not progressing as per the schedule. Raoghat railway line has already been approved. The money has also been remitted to railway by

SAIL. Therefore, above work should be completed immediately.

The survey work has been approved from Raipur Baloda Bazar-Sargah-Jharaskuda. Initial survey has been completed between Ramtek and Gotegaon. Further action should be taken for completion of work. The initial survey has been completed for Panna rail line between Jabalpur to Panna via Damoh. The hon'ble Prime Minister had made an announcement in 1998 regarding Bhind-Orai-Mahoba rail line via Radh and Budget allocation was also made but the work has not started till date. The survey work is approved for gauge conversion between Gwalior-Shyampur but the work has not started. The survey work between Bilaspur to Mandla is incomplete. The fate of Indore-Bhudani survey work is also same. The fate of survey work of Salamatpur-Raisen-Begumganj Sagar rail is also same. The survey work has been completed for laying the new railway line between Ujjain to Ramgarh Mandi. Its report was submitted to Railway Board and Ministry of Railways in April, 2000. But, further action is yet to be taken by the authorities. Similar is the situation of new railway line between Satar-Devadi-Kareli-Nagpur. The electrification work of railway line between Indore and Ujjain is very important. This total length is 75-80 kilometer and disturbs the railway time table. This list of demands bears the signatures of all the Members of Madhya Pradesh and if you allow, I will lay it on the Table of the House. I am laying my speech and it should be included in the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I asked you to be brief.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : The sinhasat fair is going to be held in Ujjain after two years. From that point of view, the facilities at Ujjain railway station in a radius of 100 metre should be upgraded. Toilets, sheds and drinking water are not available. All these amenities should be provided. Dewas railway station caters to the needs of vast industrial area. In comparison to Indore station more revenue is generated there but still it has only one platform. Both up and down trains come on the same platform. At times both goods train and passenger train halt at the same time. Thus, people cross railway line beneath the trains thereby causing accidents. Therefore, second platform should be constructed there and the length of the platform should also be increased.

Kisauni railway station falls in my constituency. This station is in existence for the last 43 years. Now railway is converting it into a flag station. The lights have been switched off. The contract has been awarded to some contractor. Contractor issues the tickets there and nobody is aware of the schedule of trains. In this scenario once again it should be converted into a fully fledged railway station. A

stoppage is necessary in Akodia mands of Malwa Express. I am demanding this for a long time but it has not been accepted. Dewas station is not having modern locking and signal system. Therefore, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister towards its modernisation and installation of these gadgets. A new train has been introduced between Indore and Gwalior. Some people have approached the High Court against the time table set by Railways in this regard. The High Court have given its verdict. I understand that railways might have presented its case perfectly. Our lawyers might have argued forcefully in the matter but the court ordered to be given so much time. As per our information big transporters filed writ petition and they influenced the judgement through eminent lawyers. The stoppage at Indore station is of 45 minutes which hardly required more than 5-10 minutes. The engine there is also not in reversible condition. It moves in one direction. In Maksi stoppage time is 45 minutes. At this station also the train moves in one direction. There engine is not changed. Therefore at such stations 5 minute stoppage is enough. Then what's the use of halting trains there for 45 minutes. Your attention is specially invited towards the fact that conspiracy is being hatched to cause harm to railways. Some people are making Railways suffer through court by hook or by crook. This should be stopped. I would like to submit that its time table should be revised.

The Hon'ble Minister of Railways is very efficient and wise and zealous but whenever we travel by train most passengers comment that she is devoting most of her time in West Bengal. Therefore, the work of Railways is suffering.

18.00 hrs.

I think the targets she had set for West Bengal of removing the mal administration, which is there for years, is worth appreciating but along that I would like to request her that Department of Railways is a very important Department of the country and it should not be neglected.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly do not deviate from the subject. Don't drag West Bengal in between.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Therefore, you should devote maximum time to the Ministry of Railways so that the Ministry of Railways functions effectively and the country witnesses all round development.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, regarding the comment of the hon. Member I would like to state that I have devoted maximum time to the Railways. Comparatively I never devoted that much time to my party or to my state. Well, if any BJP member has any objection in this regard then they can remove me. But it is a fact and you should know the truth.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, he should not say like that.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I am the only Minister who has not gone abroad. Instead of going abroad, if I go to my State, attend to my State, what is the harm in it?

MR. CHAIRMAN : We know that.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I said that the hon. Minister devotes a lot of time to the Ministry but despite that the passengers are having different views.... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : What you said is wrong.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : If you still hold the view that what I said is wrong then I apologise... (Interruptions). If you are hurt then I withdraw my words.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thawar Chandji kindly take your seat.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Sir, she is a part of the NDA, Nobody should criticise her.... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We know that she is giving maximum time to the Railways.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) has been presented after the grievous accident that took place in the month of November 2000. That is why the hon. Minister of Railways while initiating the debate has also stated that the main thrust is the safety.

Sir, we also realise that safety should be the most important area of the Indian Railways. Unless there is safety we cannot have efficiency in the Railway operation.

But the Supplementary Demands for Grants which has been presented, does not reflect the intention of the hon. Minister although certain allocations have been made for manning the unmanned level crossings. We also want that the unmanned level crossings should be manned. It will take a number of years because thousands and thousands of level crossings are still unmanned level crossings.

There is also a provision for providing inter-locking system. This is also a safety item. There is one item about the track renewal of 13 kilometre Howrah-Kharagpur but no other item related to safety is there...

Safety is all the more necessary in the Indian Railways. In this regard, a number of Committees had been constituted, namely, Sikri Committee, Wanchoo Committee, Railway Reforms Committee, Khanna Committee, Railway Accidents Review Committee. The C&AG also, on a number of times, reviewed the safety performance of the Indian Railways. They have commented upon it also.

Sir, it is not that I am talking about the safety aspect only today. I have been raising this issue since long. We know, how a number of railway accidents which taken place remain unreported. They are not even reported to the Parliament.

The C&AG has commented that there is a gross under-reporting of the cases of accidents by the Zonal Railways to the Railway Board and by the Railway Board to Parliament. Out of 14,000 accidents from 1994 to 1997-98, only 3,157 accidents, that is 22.55 per cent, were reported to the Railway Board. If a derailment takes place, why is it not reported to the Railway Board? I have wanted to know this a number of times from the Railway Board. When a derailment takes place or when an interruption in the Railway system takes place, an evaluation of the financial loss or damages is not done and the information is not available with the Ministry of Railways.

We know that there are certain derailment-prone sections where derailments have taken place for years together. The Commissioner of Railway safety is to inquire into all serious accidents. Whenever accidents take place, the Commissioner of Railway Safety is immediately asked to inquire into them. Yet, out of 2,274 serious accidents reported during the period under review only 126, that is 5.54 per cent, were inquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

There is another alarming situation relating to the track circuit. All of us remember the serious accident that took place at Ferozabad. The then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao made a statement that all the major stations would be provided with track circuit. Money was available with the Northern Railways but that money was not utilised for providing track circuit. At that particular station, if track circuit had been provided, the accident would not have taken place. It was stated that all stations would be provided with track circuit but till now this has not been done. This has been commented upon by the Khanna Accident Review Committee also.

Another serious issue relates to the safety category staff. On an average, 8.07 per cent vacancies existed in the safety category staff during this period. The shortage was more acute at 11.20 per cent in the case of driver category. In this category, it is vital to fill up the vacancies. I know, a number of vacancies in this category are not filled up for years together because of a standing instructions from the Railway Board that about six per cent of the staff should be reduced.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, whatever he is quoting from the C&AG Report is absolutely correct. But I would take only one minute to explain the situation. Earlier, it was a fact that accidents had not been recorded. But when I took Over this charge I made it clear that every accident had to be recorded. That is why the figure is so high. This is because earlier the accidents were not recorded. He has mentioned something about staff also. I have already given instructions to induct all the staff necessary.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is a good step taken by the hon. Minist

Another important area is the duty hours of the drivers. The C&AG has also commented on this. There was an agreement in 1973 and a statement made by the then Minister of Railways late Lalit Narain Mishra. There was an agreement with the All India Loco Running Staff Association that the duty hours of the loco running staff should be limited to ten hours. But that is being violated in a number of ways. They also have commented. They have given the percentage also. What is the percentage? They stated 29 cases where drivers were forced to work for more than ten hours, thus causing accidents.

Accidents also take place due to mechanical failure because of permanent way or rolling stocks. It is also alarming. It is 37 per cent. How does mechanical failure take place? It is because replacement has not been done properly. Twenty per cent of our tracks are old and over-aged. There is no fund for that. RCC has correctly pointed out that Depreciation Reserve Fund was created for replacement and renewal. But what is the position of this fund? An amount of Rs. 76 crore only is left with that fund. With an amount of Rs. 76 crore, what sort of replacement and renewal can take place? There is an urgent need for replacement, for permanent way. There is a need for replacement of coaches.

There is one Organisation called Neutral Control Wing. I do not know whether it is an Organisation of the Railways or outside the Railways. But it is called Neutral Control Wing. I do not agree with its view. It said that 64.06 per cent of the wagons and coaches are being rejected. I do not agree with

its view. The percentage will not be 64. But there is a substantial percentage of wagons and coaches are required to be replaced. This is our experience when we travel on local trains, and not on MEMUs. We experience this in the conventional railways that a number of coaches which are being used should be replaced. But due to paucity of funds and constraint of funds, it is not being done, although our production units have sufficient capacity. RCF can manufacture more coaches than what they are manufacturing today; ICF can manufacture more coaches than what they are manufacturing today; Bharat Earth Movers can also be given orders. It is a premier undertaking which used to manufacture coaches. I do not know whether they are getting orders or not. Previously, it used to manufacture more than 400 coaches. Jessop is also a premier Organisation. But there is a constraint of funds.

There has to be some priority. Priority area should be to increase the capacity. Priority area is to replace our over-aged coaches, over-aged rolling stocks and over-aged permanent way. Priority area is to modernise our signalling system. Unless we modernise our signalling system, we cannot have efficient operation of Railways. Most of the operation depends on signalling system. We have a number of categories of signalling system, but still we are using the age-old token system. We have seen that a person would carry the token to the driver and hand it over to him. Unless the driver gets the token, he cannot start the train and the train would be detained for more than 15-20 minutes in a station. It hampers efficiency of the railway operation. So, that is needed.

The Minister, after taking over charge of the Ministry, ordered a CBI inquiry into the import of 142 tonnes breakdown crane. Why was it imported? What is the speed of the crane? When there was an accident at Ghaisal, how much time did the crane take? It took 52 hours to come to Ghaisal from Guwahati. That crane was brought for accident relief. Then, why was such decision taken? Who took that decision? Who was responsible for that? Maybe it was done by the Railway Board. I did see the order, and the comments of the former Railway Minister. I know what comments he had made. Instead of waiting for the outcome of the CBI inquiry, some action and some remedial measures are required to be taken. But that has not yet been done.

Similarly, there is an Organisation called Centre of Railway Information System. The objective was very good. When I was Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways, I visited that Organisation. I do not know whether Shri Naidu visited it or not. What was its objective? The purpose of that Organisation was to computerise the entire freight system. What is it doing now? Now, it has been given the responsibility of computerising the reservation. That was

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA]

not the original objective. It will come tomorrow in the Short Duration Question. It has appeared in *The Pioneer* that Railways have imported 20-year old technology. It is 20 year-old technology. I know that it was Canadian technology. It was imported from Canada. It has become obsolete and it has to be replaced. The amount mentioned is Rs. 198 crore. The Minister will tell whether it is correct or not in her reply. It would not be correct to cripple that Organisation instead of strengthening it.

Provisions have been made for restoration of bridges, and railway lines damaged due to recent floods in the State of West Bengal. There is a large scale damage to the property of the Railways. Already four months have elapsed. Restoration of train services in all sections has not been done. It does not brook any delay. In 1992, in my area, due to flood, the entire railway bridge was flushed out. The Railways restored it within one week. An other bridge was restored in less than one week, and another bridge was restored in six months.

Certain trains have been withdrawn. We do not know the reason for their withdrawal. Do we still believe in project uni-gauge? When the then Minister of Railways introduced the concept of project uni-gauge, I expressed my doubt that it is not possible in our country. We have to have multi-gauge system. You cannot convert entire metre-gauge into broad-gauge. It is not possible. It is not economically viable. Rather metre-gauge should be made more efficient by track renewal, and by replacing rolling stock. In West Bengal, 98 per cent is in broadgauge system. There are some narrowgauge rails. One was in my area. That is also being converted to broad-gauge. It may take four or five years. That is in Bankura-Damodar River Railway project. But there are two lines connecting Bardhaman with Katwa and Katwa with Ahmedpur in Bardhaman and Bankura districts. Suddenly, the Eastern Railways has withdrawn the railway service. There was a narrow gauge line and people used to travel through the narrow gauge.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : This has been restored two months back.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Has it been restored at Katwa-Ahmedpur also? Are you sure? If it has been restored, it is good ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Acharia ji you are giving good speech but we have time limited.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Today, I will not take much time. Generally I do give long speech but today I will be brief and will speak at length when the Budget will be presented. But I am speaking on a very important issue. The Hon'ble Minister started her speech from safety and ended with safety. I would also tread the same path...

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Those narrow gauge lines should also be converted to broad gauge. The Minister can plan for conversion of Vardhman-Katwa and Katwa-Ahmedpur from narrow gauge to broad gauge. Pending conversion, rail bus is the most popular thing can be introduced. I also had brought two rail buses which were manufactured by Mysore workshop. A very fine design was given by me. The Railway Ministry took a decision to convert it into broad gauge. I did not want those rail buses to run on those lines. The Railway Board shifted it to Orissa. So, pending conversion to broad gauge, rail buses can be brought and put on the service on these two sections.

I do not want to make very many demands. There is one train which has a lying-over period of two hours. I made a proposal and the South-Eastern Railway accepted it and sent it to the Railway Board. Two months' back the Railway Board approved extending one train from Adra to Purulia and Purulia to Adra. For four hours there is no train between Purulia and Adra. Still it is pending with the South-Eastern Railway. When the Railway Board has approved it, I do not know where lies the difficulty.

This is a Supplementary Budget. We should not concentrated a number of things. In the coming Budget more thrust should be given to safety, replacement and renewal and modernisation of the railway system otherwise, Indian Railways will not survive.

SHRI PRADEEP RAWAT (PUNE) : I appreciate, Sir, that our Railway Minister started this debate with the security aspect of the Railways. I believe that after a long time, Railways have a Minister who is really devoted and committed to the problems of the Railway Ministry and the safety of the passengers.

As we know, as much as 1.30 crore passengers travel every day in 9000 trains. In 1972, the classification of Indian routes was done as A, B, C, and D at the speeds of 160 kilometres, 140 kilometres, and 100 kilometres respectively. Since then, in the last 28 years, nearly 10,000 people have died in accidents and almost three-times more have been handicapped; property worth nearly Rs.9,000 crore have been damaged; and we have lost 1.5 lakh mandays. This is a colossal loss. We have to address this problem. Shri Basu Deb Acharia has covered many of the safety aspects.

Therefore, I do not want to repeat them. But I want to highlight one aspect of the safety, namely, the operating speed of the Railways. It has got two problems.

18.26 hrs.

(SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL *in the Chair*)

One is the steel which we use. The hydrogen content which is internationally known is 3 part per million but the steel which we procure for our Indian Railways has 6 PPM. I think that is the cause of the cracking of our tracks.

Another thing is that for the rescue operations, in 1984-85 we purchased 140 tonne cranes with an understanding that they will be able to operate at 90 kilometres per hour speed. But I will just give you a few examples. Take Ghaisal which is 300 kilometres away from Asansol, it took 28 hours to reach there at an average speed of 10 kilometres per hour; from Guwahati, it took 46 hours; to reach Faridabad, Haryana which is 32 kilometres away from Delhi, it took five hours; to reach Fatehgarh from Ambala which is 42 kilometres away, it took five hours; and to reach Ferozabad from Delhi which is 200 kilometres away, it took 16 hours - seven hours from Delhi to Lucknow and nine hours from Lucknow. I have taken these figures from Chairman Railway Board's letter.

Sir, an affidavit was filed by the Ministry of Railways in 1997 in response to a PIL. I want to highlight one aspect from that. In that affidavit, the Railway Board and the Government of India have submitted that because of the bad track conditions, the cranes cannot be operated at 90 kilometres per hour operating speed. If it is true, then how are we operating trains at 160, 140, and 100 kilometres per hour speed? I think we have to bring down the operating speed at par which will be certified as it is mandatory as per Section 27 of the Railways Act. It says that it has to be certified by the Chief Commissioner, Railway Safety. I would again say that I have never seen such a committed and dedicated Minister who has made Railways her life.. If the lives of our passengers is insecure, the operating speed of the trains should be lowered. So, if the cranes cannot run on an operating speed of 90 kilometres per hour, how can other rolling stock run at higher speed? So, either we should bring down the operating speed or we have to do something urgently to address this particular aspect.

I know this is a limited debate. But I want to air one particular thought. Sir, I represent Pune. If you take Pune-Mumbai Section, it is a 160-kilometre block. It contains 3 per cent of land mass of Maharashtra and 30 per cent population of Maharashtra but it generates more than 40 per cent revenue of the nation. I think the connectivity issue of these two cities is of national importance because it is an engine of

growth. Now our State Government has completed the Mumbai-Pune road which is of international quality. I would urge Kumari Mamata Banerjee to look into the aspect of Karjat-Panvel link which is just 29 kms. If it is established on a two-track basis, we can reach Mumbai within two hours. This is the need of the hour because this is the real aspect which is going to take us into the 21st century. Its importance is also very well known. If you take logistically, Pune-Mumbai connectivity is the most important aspect as far as our economic structure is concerned.

There are many other small points like commercial exploitation of the Railway property. I propose to discuss this with the Minister personally. I would again compliment her for the good work that she has been doing. I hope that under her leadership many issues, particularly those of safety, will be addressed properly.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL) : Mr. Chairman, Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate on the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Railways for the year 2000-2001.

Railways play a great role in the uplift and sustenance of the economy of the country. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to see that all regions develop equally and more so the backward areas. Economic viability alone should not be taken as the criterion for developing backward areas. Social obligations also should be given weightage by the Railways. It is a happy thing that under the dynamic Ministership of Kumari Mamata Banerjee northeastern States, which were very much neglected over the past 52 years where tribals and other poor people are predominantly living, have been give priority. I congratulate her on this act.

It is true and everybody knows that Railway Ministers have always been concentrating more and giving priority to their own States. But, Kumari Mamata Banerjee being a woman - as a woman does not discriminate among her children - has not discriminated among different States and she has awarded whatever they wanted with regard to new lines, budgetary allocations and new trains. The true woman in her has been reflected in her Budget also.

I do not agree with a Member's observation that Kumari Mamata Banerjee, a person who has been relentlessly struggling to uplift the poor and who is always available to them, is not available to the Members. It is our bitter experience and it has gone on record also that one senior Minister apologised one of the TDP Members for not granting an interview to him. That is why I congratulate Kumari Mamata Banerjee because whenever we go to her with or without prior appointment she has been always ready to receive us and others' also to redress our grievances.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR) : Now you can come to your demands!

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : I know what demands I have to make. I am very conscious of that. You need not intervene.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take note of his suggestion.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Coming to the safety system, it is good that the Minister has stressed upon the safety needs in her opening remarks. When we look at the Supplementary Demands, much of it has been allocated for manning the unmanned gates and for providing or reconstructing bridges which have been washed away in the recent floods in many States. To maintain the safety system, I would request the hon. Minister to see that coaches are well designed and the track is well designed. The hon. Minister has herself told that we are facing problems as the tracks and coaches are old. So, we have to concentrate more on these aspects.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. You have consumed about five minutes earlier without speaking on the subject. Kindly speak on the subject.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : I have not even taken four minutes.

Regarding safety system, the track has to be maintained well and coaches have to be well designed. If you look at the Japanese railway system, you may find that their trains are running at 400 to 500 kilometres of speed because their track system and coaches are good. We must concentrate on these things also.

A number of accidents are occurring at unmanned gates. So, such gates should be manned.

Coming to the State of Andhra Pradesh, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister, through you Sir, that it was discriminated against for the past 52 years. Only 60 kilometres of new lines have been granted. It is most discriminatory. Certain projects were sanctioned and conceived but they were delayed for a long time. Budgetary allocation was very less thereby causing cost and time overruns. Most of the projects were not completed on time. In backward districts like Telengana where perennial drought is there, people are migrating to other States for their livelihood. If the projects which have been sanctioned in those areas are taken up on time, such kind of migration could be avoided because there will be employment. Due to social backwardness, lack of employment and financial problems, they are going out of their district.

Coming to the demands pertaining to Andhra Pradesh, I request the hon. Minister that a new line, Nalgonda-Macherla-Raichur was conceived and proposed in the previous supplementary budget but only Nalgonda-Macherla and Gadwal-Raichur were taken up leaving out Macherla-Gadwal. So, I request the hon. Minister to include this section in the forthcoming Budget.

Other schemes which are pending in Andhra Pradesh are construction of a foot over-bridge at Kuppam Railway Station, computerisation of reservation office and improvement of passenger amenities at Kuppam Railway Station, providing manned railway crossing at unmanned Mallanur Railway Station, construction of road over-bridges according to Vision 2020, a document provided by the State Government and development of multinodal suburban committee system in Hyderabad for which Rs.30 crore has to be released by the Railways as its share amount. I request the hon. Minister to look into these schemes and take necessary steps.

I also request the hon. Minister to sanction a new train from Tirupati to New Delhi and increase the frequency of trains running between Vijayawada and Goa. Badrachalam to Kovur will be the shortest and convenient route, if it is taken up because coal and iron ore from Madhya Pradesh can be brought to Kakinada by that route. It is a very short distance. I also request the hon. Minister to develop Bitragunta Railway Station and have a railway yard to cater to the facilities and needs of the EMUs there. It is reported in the press also that gauge conversion between Mudkhed and Bollaram is going on at snail's pace. I request the hon. Minister to take up these projects and give preference to the projects of Andhra Pradesh.

18.40 hrs.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you since you gave me an opportunity to speak during discussion on demand for supplementary grants for Railways.

Hon'ble Railway Minister presented Railway Budget in this House almost nine months ago, since then, time and again there have been demand for supplementary grants. It means estimate of hon'ble Minister proved to be wrong. Whether the Railways have embarked upon any special task for which you have to seek funds very often? If your department has done any commendable work then you must make a special mention of it in the House. Hon'ble Railway Minister, Sir, in reply to a question you have stated that 66 new projects relating to gauge conversion would be

undertaken but so far uncertainty prevails as to by what time these projects are likely to be completed. In this connection also, hon'ble Railway Minister should clarify the position. Pace of development is so slow that so far we could construct only 62 thousand Kms rail route in the country. And so far, out of this, only 23.68 per cent of the rail route could be electrified. During last three years, the pace of electrification was 0.78 per cent. With the same pace of electrification, we will not be able to complete the electrification work even in the next 100 years. In this regard, I would like to ask hon'ble Railway Minister by when the entire rail network in India will be electrified? By when this target is likely to be completed?

Sir, I would like to cite an example as to how funds are being misused by the Railways. Railways have bought 20 years old technology for Rs. 198 crore which is known as Freight Operation Information System. Not to speak of its operation, even trial could not be conducted so far. Standing Committee on Railways have also severely criticised this system. The number of Railway accidents are on the increase. In comparison to 450 incidents during the year 1995, 250 accidents have already occurred during the current year from April to September, though half of the period is still left. You should ponder over this issue seriously and take steps to prevent accidents.

Sir, 125 railway routes are such which are unprofitable. Railways are not making concerted efforts to make these routes profitable. I would again request hon'ble Minister for Railways to take steps afresh to make these routes profitable. Comptroller and Auditor General of India have also made a mention of misuse of funds in Railways in its report. You should try to prevent such misuse. Though, you have tried to control bureaucracy. But, I would like to give an example as to how bureaucracy torture the staff under them. Coolies working at Gorakhpur and Delhi railway stations toil throughout the day, but they are harassed by the corrupt Officers and so far none of the officers have been punished. You should pay attention towards this. If a coolie earns merely rupees ten through fair or foul means, his token is withdrawn but officers who are totally corrupt are not even touched by anyone. Young people like me expect from you that you would surely take strict action against corrupt officers.

Sir, Gaishal rail accident was a major Railway accident. Railway Minister had resigned over this issue. Offices found responsible for this tragedy prima-facie, were suspended. How these officers were reinstated without receiving the inquiry report? It is a very serious matter. How two trains were allowed to run on the same track for 19 kms?

Meanwhile train crossed many stations, still the accident was not taken so seriously. You should also look into it. Sir, when I came to this House for the first time, in reply to a question, then you had stated that Gorakhpur-Anandnagar-Gonda railway line's gauge conversion has been sanctioned. Gauge conversion of Anand Nagar-Nautnawa route has also been sanctioned. This railway line connects Budha circuit. Passengers use this route to have a glimpse of Budha's birth place Lumbini. Through this very railway line passengers can go to Kapilvastu, the Capital of Gautama Budha. You have not allotted funds for carrying out gauge conversion work on this important route. It is unfortunate.

I would like to request you again to make provision of funds during current financial year for gauge conversion of Gorakhpur-Anandnagar-Gonda and Anandnagar-Nautanava railway line. Since you are seeking supplementary grants, so I would like you to release token money for this stretch also. Anandnagar to Nautanava lines gauge conversion is also urgently required. Gorakhpur-Sunoli is the only authorised route for passengers going to Nepal through Uttar Pradesh for coming to India from Nepal. If Anandnagar-Nautanava route is converted into broadgauge then it would facilitate foreign tourists visiting India from Nepal via Uttar Pradesh.

Hon'ble Minister, further I would like to say that for passengers travelling from New Delhi to Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chapra and further Barauni, there is only one train, that is Vaishali Express. Vaishali train gets so unduly overloaded on Fridays at New Delhi and on Sundays at Gorakhpur that passengers including MPs, suffer a lot, which is inexplicable. If the Gauhati bound Rajdhani Express is run via Lucknow-Gorakhpur once a week on Fridays and on Sundays and it is run from Gorakhpur to New Delhi then passengers from Gorakhpur, Gonda, Basti, Siwan, Chapra would surely enjoy better rail facilities. Gorakhpur is 735 kms from here. It takes more time for reaching Gorakhpur than reaching Calcutta ...
(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You are talking about Chapra.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : I am talking about Gorakhpur and not Chapra ... *(Interruptions)* The train would go via Chapra ... *(Interruptions)*. If you introduce any Rajdhani Express on any day during a week then people of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Central Uttar Pradesh would be highly grateful to you ... *(Interruptions)*. It will run via Chapra also. It would reduce the journey time. Now how much time we take for reaching Gorakhpur from Chapra, within the same time we would reach Delhi. Therefore, my submission is that if you introduce Delhi-Lucknow-Gorakhpur-Chapra train, it would facilitate a lot.

[KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH]

Sir, now I would like to raise issue relating to encroachment on railway land. Nautanava is an important railway station under North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur. A State Minister in U.P. who is a land Mafia, has encroached upon railway land worth lakhs of rupees at Nautanava railway station. Please make a note of it. Despite reporting this matter number of times, subject land has not been vacated from that Mafia Minister. The costly land should be got vacated from the illegal occupation of that Minister. These days mafia dom is so much prevalent in North-Eastern Railway Gorakhpur that all the tenders are finalised under their direction and officers are made to dance before these mafias. You get all the contracts awarded in Gorakhpur zone reviewed. The mafia-caucus wherein 3-4 mafias are operating, has taken full control of contracts. This racket needs to be broken. Two mafias amongst them are Ministers in Uttar Pradesh.

No doubt, you made praiseworthy efforts after assuming office of Railway Minister but you still favour West Bengal. People of this country expect a lot from you, therefore, I would like you to come out of West Bengal and perform the duties of a Railway Minister for the entire nation. With these words, I support demand for supplementary grants.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA) : Sir, I support the Supplementary Demands presented in the House for approval by the hon. Minister of Railways. Hon. Sister Mamata Banerjee is a dynamic leader. She gives a very sympathetic hearing to us whenever we go to her for any work and also makes efforts to fulfil our demands.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am an M.P. from a very backward area of Maharashtra viz. Marathwada. Marathwada is a land of saints and after being freed from the Nizam, it was merged with Maharashtra. After the railway line laid during the period of the then Nizam, no railway line for even a kilometre has been laid here till date. No development in this area has taken place during the last 53 years. In the past, we had launched an agitation for gauge conversion and had also gone to the jail, the then Minister of Railways Shri Madhu Dandevate had converted this railway track from metergauge to broadgauge. Hon. Pramanik ji was also there and he had also made efforts in this regard. A gross injustice has been done to the people of Marathwada. I would like to tell sister Mamata ji that people of Marathwada make frequent visits to eastern Vidarbha, Amravati, Akola etc. districts. Marathwada has developed more after the Railway conversion agitation. In district Beed of hon. Pramod Mahajan ji, there is no train available in any area except for Parli. There is also no train

available for Dharashiv-Usmanabad district, where there is a temple of goddess Bhavani. Marathwada people had launched an agitation for this rail facility. Recently a massive 'Rail Roko Agitation' was launched on 25th June under the leadership of hon. Govindbhai Sarraf ji, who has been awarded with Padmashree. All members of Parliament whether from the Shivsena or the Bharatiya Janata Party had participated in it. Mamataji was perhaps busy in elections then, so we had field meeting with hon. Bangaru Laxman ji and the officers of the Railways were also there in that meeting. We had raised big demands, but only one demand regarding a two minute halt to Tapovan Express at Gotegaon which falls in my constituency, has been sanctioned. Neither the number of bogies for that place have been increased, nor any proposal for the railway line has been approved. We belong to the backward area. I feel very sorry to say that the railways have ignored most of the areas of Maharashtra. Our people are as backward as the backward areas of West Bengal, but still we have been ignored. You have held a meeting with the MPs of Marathwada and Vidarbha and I hope that you would definitely fulfil one of our demands consequent to that meeting. A project for laying a new railway line from Amrawati to Narkhed at a cost of rupees 175 crore had been initiated. But only rupees 34 crore have been spent in this project till March, 2000 and merely 6 crore rupees have been earmarked for this project in the Budget of 2000-2001.

Another project for laying a new railway line between Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli-Bajinath at a cost of Rs. 353 crore was initiated, but only Rs. 44 thousand have been spent so far on this project and only Rs. 3 crore have been earmarked in the Budget of 2000-2001 for this purpose, which is no way reflects the intention of the government to complete the project. There is a distance of 359 kilometres between Miraj and Latur. The cost of gauge conversion of this stretch is Rs. 314 crore but only Rs.93 crore have been spent on it so far and only Rs.15 crore have been earmarked in the budget of 2000-2001 for this purpose.

The cost of Akola-Poorna gauge conversion is Rs. 228 crore but no amount has been spent on this so far. Survey of Shegaon Jalana new railway line has been conducted. If we go via Manmad, then we reach Nagpur comparatively early if we start from Mumbai and go via Manmad-Aurangabad-Jalana Shegaon, otherwise we have to go in the opposite direction to reach Nagpur. Just now, one hon. M.P. was also speaking in this regard and many MPs have supported this demand that although the survey of Shegaon-Jalana has been done, approval to allocate funds is yet to be conveyed. Broadgauge conversion work of Mudkhed-Adilabad and Mudkhed-Nizamabad is also incomplete due to paucity of funds.

A part of Nizam's state was merged with Maharashtra in 1960, but unfortunately, no progress has taken place in that area. I hope that you would do full justice to us. I wish that you may continue as Minister of Railways in this Government for five years. And I hope that the development of entire Marathwada region and other backward areas can take place with your efforts. Many of our MPs and MLAs travel by Devgiri Express, but there is only one Bogie which is attached from Nanded. It goes to Mumbai from Nanded. There is only one train from Nanded to Mumbai and there is only one AC-II class compartment in it. Many MLAs, MPs and freedom fighters travel by that train, but other passengers do not get any place in it. There is only one train from Marathwada to Mumbai, comprising 12 bogies. The number of bogies in this train should be increased to 18. I have been told that the work is going on at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal and this demand would be met. It seems as if the Devgiri Express belongs to South Central Railways. It is not of the Central Railway. We were merged with Maharashtra after the Nizam Hyderabad state was merged with the Union of India. We had demanded that Marathwada region of erstwhile Hyderabad state should have formed part of the Central railway. As the area of Aurangabad to Nanded comes under the South Central Railway, so the people of that place do injustice to us. Central Railway says that this is not their area. This is injustice to us. Please exclude this area from South central Railway and include the entire Marathwada region in the central Railway. Purna-Manmad Express train runs upon Manmad. It should be extended upto Nanded. Train from Aurangabad should also cover passengers of Nagarsol-Manmad so that daily passengers may get some relief. Railway line should be laid between Latur, Poornawali, Purnaya, Akola, Rotegaon, Poornatama, Jalana and Khamgaon. Many former MPs of Marathwada have been persistently demanding this railway line, but it has not been done. Many freedom fighters had also launched agitation for this purpose.

Survey for the new railway line from Jalgaon to Sholapur via Beed should be conducted early. Hon. Mamata ji has gone outside. I want to say that we have a major demand which should be fulfilled. Hon. Minister of Railways is sitting here. A superfast train on the lines of the Nanded Mumbai Express should be introduced for my area also. Another train should be introduced from Aurangabad to Tirupati. This is one of our major demands. It will also help increase income of the Railways. People from Aurangabad to Bangalore and from Nanded to Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Udgil, Usmanabad and Beed would be benefited by this.

Marathwada Railway does not have any funds. I, on behalf of the people of Marathwada, request the hon. Minister of Railways and the Railway Board to issue railway

bonds for the people of Marathwada. We shall extend our full support to it. We shall raise money through collections. We had issued bonds for Krishna Khare during the tenure of Shiv Sena Government in Maharashtra. Similar bonds were issued in respect of many other schemes and a huge amount was collected. Many schemes were formulated. With the help of these funds. If this is done for the railways, then a major demand of ours would be fulfilled.

Mamataji has left the House before I could conclude my speech. She had said that she would hold a meeting. I request her to take some action for Maharashtra immediately after holding a meeting with the MPs from Vidarbha as also with the railway officers sitting in the Gallery. Please do something for increasing the income of backward states.

19.00 hrs.

Today, if the number of advertisements displayed at the railway stations is increased, then it would add to the income of the railways. Similarly, today if we construct a complex on the railway land, then we would get more money. So, if more and more money is generated, then it would be for the benefit of all. I would once again request Kumari Mamata Banerjee that if she issues railway lines for Marathwada region then we all MPs and MLAs would be ready to sell all the bonds and would fully support this move and the money generated would be used for laying new railway lines in that area where not even a single kilometre of line has been laid during the last fifty years. With this request, I conclude my speech. Jai Hind. Jai Maharashtra.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request the hon. Members to be brief because there are sixty more Members who wish to participate in this discussion.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI (KALIABOR) : Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways).

I must thank the hon. Railway Minister for giving top most priority to the Railway safety, though the safety record of Indian Railways is not satisfactory. I hope, under her leadership, there will be rapid improvement in respect of the safety of passengers because most of the Railway passengers belong to the middle and poor classes.

Sir, Railways plays a very important role in the economic development of the region, in promoting national integration and bringing people closer from the different parts of the country.

[SHRI TARUN GOGOI

I would like to confine my speech to the North-Eastern region. Though rich in natural and mineral resources, the State is lagging far behind economically and industrially. As a result of which there is resentment among the youths. This is the reason for rising insurgency in that region. Today, the situation is terribly bad. There is a rise in unemployment and only through the improvement in the Railways, road, river and other methods of communications, there will be economic development.

Besides that, partition was also responsible for this and that has made the whole region land-rocked. The road, river and railway communication had been completely disrupted. So, unless there is a special package for the North-Eastern region, that area will remain backward.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards my area. I took up this matter with the then Railway Minister. In fact, I would like to draw the attention of the House on how the Railway officials mislead the Railway Minister. In the North-Eastern region, most of the rail lines were constructed during the British period. After the introduction of broad gauge, instead of extending these lines they have withdrawn them.

Earlier there was a meter gauge line from Chaparmukh via Haibargaon to Mairabari. But because of the broad gauge decision, it was decided to withdraw it from Chaparmukh to Naogaon and Mairabari. Naogaon is a very important town. Then, I took up the matter with the railway officials and they gave the same ground, 'economically unviable'. I asked them that if it is economically unviable, why did they not give up Assam. I took up the matter with the then Railway Minister and he ultimately agreed to it. Sir, you would be surprised to know that today the same line is found to be economically viable by the same railway official.

At the same time, a decision was taken that from Haibargaon to Mairabari they will run a rail bus. Then again they took a decision on Senchow. I suggested to the hon. Minister that if they did not want to run it, they could give it on lease so that he did not incur recurring expenditure on that. The Minister agreed also.

I got a letter from the then hon. Railway Minister, Shri Suresh Kalmadi saying:

"Kindly refer to your letter of 11.1.1996, regarding rail bus service from Haibargaon to Mairabari and Senchow to Silghat. You will be glad to know that one MG Rail Bus is being sent."

It was in 1996 and till date I have not seen that rail bus being sent by the Railway Minister. It is on the way and I do not know how long will it take to reach Assam.

Again, I took up the matter with Shri Nitish Kumar, the then, hon. Railway Minister. He wrote to me in 1998 saying:

"In accordance with the decision to introduce rail bus service between Haibargaon and Mairabari and between Senchow and Silghat, Indian Railways have placed order for manufacture of two 4-wheelers..."

The second time they say they have placed orders for two 4-wheeler rail buses. First time it was said that it was being sent. This is the treatment they have given to North-East. They are all along talking about the topmost priority given to the North-East. Again, they give another reason. They say:

"the introduction of these services is beset with certain problems relating to the revival of the abandoned track in these sections. Due to the terrorist activity in this part of the State, it has not been feasible to conduct the physical survey of this section..."

This part is free from terrorist activity. Those officers had misled you. You must inquire it. This is an area free from terrorist area. In case of other terrorist-infested areas, construction has been going on. You see how the officers misled you. Subsequently again it was decided to close it. I will tell you in August, 1999, they decided to close on the ground that it was found to be unremunerative. It was known before also that it was unremunerative. They say because of unremunerative, they decided to close it. Who is responsible for making this unremunerative? You did not take step. You are not operating the train. Again, today they are writing, and they say, 'restoration of the track also involves tackling law and order'. What are they talking? On the other hand dismantling will create law and order problem. This is an area free from terrorist activity. If you go and dismantle things, naturally, there will be a law and order problem. They say restoring of track also involves tackling law and order problem. What type of information they are giving? You must charge these officers also. They are giving reply to us, to a responsible Member misleading him. Madam Mamata Banerjee, you know Assam. You find out from your own sources whether this area is terrorist-infested or not.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE I have already instructed the Railway authorities.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : I am grateful to you, Madam. Then, I will not go to it. Then I will go to other problems. I am grateful to her that she has promised.

Besides, I would like to mention about Bogibeel. This is a very important bridge over the Brahmaputra not only linking backward areas of Assam but also it links up with the whole

of Arunachal Pradesh. This is an area to which you must give the topmost priority.

Then, another is in the Rangia Railway Division. It was inaugurated over five years back. The progress is very slow. In the whole of North Bank from Rangia to Morkakselang, there is no broad gauge line. It is a metre gauge line. So, we want that it should be converted to broad gauge line. You have sanctioned money for Lumding-Silchar line. I want that progress should be speedier. Then, we want more trains to Mumbai because it is the train which will bring the people of North-East closer. Otherwise, how can we bring the people to the mainstream unless you provide more and more trains? So, we want more and more trains to Mumbai, Bangalore and to other places in the South. There are trains but they always run late by 30 hours or 40 hours. So, more and more trains should be run.

I want Rajdhani trains should be made daily. In most of the Rajdhani trains, there are more stoppages. In most of the Rajdhani trains, I have found, compared to the other Rajdhani trains, there are more stoppages. So, it takes more time. So, you introduce trains on other days with a lesser number of stoppages. Then, there is a Maron-Dibrugarh branch line. So, I want that should be extended. If you link up with Maron-Dibrugarh, you can introduce another train. From Guwahati it can be linked up with Naogaon, then Golaghat, then Jorhat, then Sibsagar and then Dibrugarh. This will reduce the time. I hope the Minister will take notice of it. I am grateful to her for her assurance regarding my constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All those Members who are interested in laying down their written speeches on the Table of the House are requested to kindly do the needful so that we will save our time. Those who are interested in laying down their written speeches, they are free to do so.

19.09 hrs.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants of Railways. As has been stated in the House and as we all know that hon'ble Mamata ji has worked hard for the improvement in the workings of Railways and her zeal and labour has born fruits that we all witness.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the railways is a big Organisation and its network is quite extensive, many of our expectations are not being fulfilled. I know that keeping in view the economic hardship that we are facing, it is not possible to meet all the demands so soon. However, we should certainly appreciate the efforts being made by the Railways.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the Supplementary Demands especially from the point of view of security. Just now the security aspects had been discussed. The modern communication equipments have also been given to the railway staff. It has contributed towards reducing the incidents of railway accidents on account of better communication among staff. However I feel that there is further need for improvement in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there may be several other reasons. It is a fact that railways is an old Organisation. Though we are constantly making efforts yet running fast trains on old aged tracks may naturally cause accidents. So my suggestion to the hon'ble Minister is that she should make efforts towards replacing the old rails. As has been made out in the Supplementary Demands regarding the replacement of communication equipments similarly the older rails and the bogies and wagons are also required to be replaced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, for quite some time the people as well as the Members of Parliament are pressurising for increasing the number of bogies in trains. As a result of this, the trains which had initially 17, 18 or 19 bogies now have 22, 24 and 26 bogies, while the platforms have been constructed for trains having 17-18 bogies. In winters and for the children and ladies to get down from the trains is difficult and may also cause accident as the added bogies will remain out of the platform. So my submission is that the extension of platform is quite essential for avoiding such accidents.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am speaking on the subject. Bhainsauda and Bhawani mandi fall in my parliamentary constituency where railway platforms are to be further expanded. I appreciate the demand for the expansion of platform and providing more rail facilities to the local people but when it comes to the extension of older smaller platforms then it might disturb the older frequented gateways. When it causes inconvenience to the people then it is quite natural that the people will oppose the extension of the platforms. In this scenario when 10-15 thousand people are affected, then it is the responsibility of the railways to find out some amicable solution to the problem so that the security and facilities may be provided to the people without disturbing the older access roads.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the last meeting of Members of Parliament belonging to the Kota Railway Division, I had raised the problems of the people and also in the meeting with the General Manager, Western Railway that wherever extension of platform is essential from security point of view, it should be done and some amicable solution should also be found out keeping in view the sentiments of the people.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit one more thing in this regard that in my constituency which comes in Western Railway zone, the gauge conversion of metre-gauge between Neemuch-Ratlam is going on. I have time and again requested Mamata ji that this should be speedily completed so that there may be increase in the revenue of railways and the industry may flourish. Unless the work is completed the passengers will continue to face difficulties at Mandsaur and Neemuch railway stations when two trains cross at the same time one on line number one and the second one on line number 3 as there is no overbridge at the station. There is need to solve this problem as there is always possibility of occurrence of accident. I am speaking from the security point of view and for that purpose I am demanding sanction of funds. My submission is that if two trains simultaneously arrive at the station at the same time from two directions then how people will cross the line? They will have to cross the entire trains or will have to wait for two-three minutes and chances are that by that time, the desired train will leave the platform. Therefore, the passengers often miss the train or slip and fall on the track. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards this problem with the request to solve it immediately. The proper arrangement should be made there. I have also demanded for the stoppage of Jaipur-Mumbai Express at Suvasora.

I would also like to request that overbridge should be constructed at the said stations as it is quite essential. Overbridges are essential at Jawara, Mandsaur and Neemuch. Besides this some more subjects were taken up at the meeting with the General Manager in Indore. I would not like to refer to all those subjects. However sincere efforts should be made towards the solving of the problems raised by the Members in the meetings whether it is at the Division level, Zonal level or at any other meeting. The Members should be intimated about the action taken in that regard as the Members raise issues concerning their respective constituencies or one of public importance. Therefore, it is essential to take action in this regard.

I have also stated about providing more facilities to the passengers. The computerisation work at Mandsaur and Neemuch stations is going on and it should be expeditiously completed. I also demanded the gauge conversion of Neemuch-Ratlam route and have also been given assurance in this regard. I believe that since the Hon'ble Minister has assured for this, therefore it will certainly be completed as she is quite committed to her task. Besides this, the work for gauge conversion should be completed. I had also stated that the provision should be made in the Supplementary Budget. If it is not possible in the present Budget then sufficient funds should be provided for this purpose in the

next Budget as the culvert has been constructed and the work for dismantling the rails is going on. The railway tracks on both the sides has been widened and just a small piece of work is left there. If the remaining work is completed then the track will become operational and the investments of crores of rupees of railways will become meaningful and it will also provide facility to the people.

With this, I conclude and once again extend my thanks to the hon'ble Minister of Railway Kumari Mamata Banerjee and hope that she will work towards the betterment of the rail services.

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may be permitted to lay my speech on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is most welcome because we are running short of time and many speakers want to speak.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (MORADABAD) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while appreciating the Railway Minister's concern for railway safety in demanding Supplementary Grants for Railways in 2000-2001, I regret her ignoring an important Division of Northern Railways - the Moradabad Division. This Division only features in serial number 14 for interlocking four stations and nothing more.

Safety involves many aspects. Recently, there was a gruesome accident on National Highway-24 at the railway crossing in which a train rammed into some trucks and some people were killed. I would request through you, Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways, as she says and I am sure she is very interested in the safety aspect of the railways, to have all the unmanned railway crossings of the important unmanned railway crossings in Moradabad Division manned.

Sir, there are some very important necessities as far as railways go in our Division. Moradabad earns the nation roughly about Rs. 2,000 crore valuable foreign exchange annually through its brass exports. There is a platform called, platform number five, which is about a kilometre away from the main railway station. I have often brought this up in the House through Matters under Rule 377. Old, infirm people find it very difficult to get to that platform. Lots of accidents, minor accidents do take place while people commute at night to that platform which is about a kilometre away and a lot of trains come through that platform. I would be grateful if that platform is opened up for the public so that people do not have to traverse one kilometre from the main railway station.

Sir, Chandausi is a very important Mandi of Moradabad District. They have been demanding computer reservation facilities for a long time. I am sure, you will kindly arrange for

computer reservation facilities for Chandausi in Moradabad Division of Northern Railways.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH Sir, as I just said, Moradabad çams for the nation Rs. 2,000 crore annually. It is an important town, commercially very important. We have no direct link with Mumbai. We have been demanding a direct train to and fro from Delhi on a daily basis. That would give our town a great impetus, increase exports, which would be of great value to the nation. I am sure, it will receive your due attention.

*SHRI ADHI SANKAR : Sir, I rise to participate in the Supplementary Demands for Railways presented by the hon. Railway Minister, sister Mamata Banerjee. While supporting the Supplementary Demands on behalf of my party, DMK, I would like to make a few points:

What is most alarming in the Railways is the frequent serious accidents resulting in loss of lives of several innocent passengers and properties. So, it is the need of the hour to do some serious study as to what ails the Department and how to bring about safety and security in Railways. Of course, long-term planning is required. Finance is required because all rolling stocks, signalling and communication systems have to be modernised. Track renewal is required. Automatic Warning System is required. I hope the hon. Minister will pay adequate attention to this aspect.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have identified about construction of 12 Railway Over Bridge (ROB) in the Southern Railway which require to be taken on priority. In this connection, letter has also been sent to the concerned Railway officers in the Southern Railway, Chief Bridges Engineer. For constraint of time, I am not reading out all the ROB works but of these 12 ROB, 3 ROB/RUBs namely, RUB at Redhills near Villivakkam Yard, another one ROB/RUB at Manikkar Choultry road between Chennai Beach and Washermanpet Railway Station. The third one is, construction of RUB near Korattur railway station, in lieu of existing L.C. No.4. Since these bridges fall under the metropolitan city and due to heavy traffic, people are put to lot of inconvenience. Therefore, I request the hon. Railway Minister to include these schemes also in the forthcoming Railway Budget.

The other bridges are to be constructed at Korrkupet Railway Station, between Madurai-Kanyakumari road NH 7, near Thiruparankundram rly. station, RUB near Nehru Bazaar Stree with Rotary at Avadi yard, ROB between Tambaram and Vandalur stations.

Representation have been received for introduction of Millennium New Train Service from Chennai to Jodhpur/

Ajmer via Kalyan-Abmedabad, Marwar and also another train ex-Tiruchi to Ajmer. There are lot of people in Chennai who have a link with the State of Rajasthan and towns like Jodhpur/Ajmer, Mt. Abu, Pushkar which are also pilgrim centres. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to extend the Navjeevan Express up to Ajmer to meet the long-standing demand of the people.

I request the Hon'ble Minister, that kindly lay down a new railway line between Villupuram to Salem via Tirukoilur, Kallakurichi and also lay down the new line between Cuddalore to Pondycherry in Southern Railway.

I request the Hon'ble Minister, kindly speed up the work of Cuddalore ROB and also construct new ROB between the Highway road at Panruti and also at Ulundurpet again I request the Hon'ble Minister kindly open a computer reservation at Villupuram Jn. and also allocate more funds in Cuddalore-Salem, Villupuram to Tanjore B.G. Conversion.

In my Cuddalore parliamentary constituency, out of 6 Assembly Segments, Reshivanthiyam, Sankarapuram, Ulundurpet, the people of these places are not so far using the train facility even they are not seen the train also. To avoid this the long pending proposal Chengalpattu to Salem via Tiruvannamalai, Tirukoilur, Reshivanthiyam, Kallakurichi new line formation may be laid.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (SALEM) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for having given me this opportunity. I would appeal to you to give more time, but the guillotine is so fast that everybody is getting washed away in a minute or two.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there would have been time, I would have given to you. Please be brief.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : You can extend the time, Sir.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : He is speaking on my behalf also, Sir.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, the world's second largest Railway, with a network of about 62,000 route kilometres and 12,000 trains plying everyday, can no longer be run efficiently and effectively unless and until we look at the system in a different perspective. Of course, the hon. Minister was a bit agitated. A short while away, she admitted that she has been concentrating more on the Ministry. We would like the Minister to concentrate not only more but to concentrate fully. I am not casting aspersions on the dynamism of the hon. Minister. The functioning is well-refined but yet there are shortcomings.

[SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI]

Coming to the State of Tamil Nadu, a recent communication from the Ministry announced a ten per cent cut in the funds for the Southern Railway. A communication to this effect was received by the Southern Railway that there will be 10 per cent cut for many of the projects....
(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : No such type of decision has been taken.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Thank you very much, Madam. There was a Press report to this effect and I posed a Starred Question also, which may come up very shortly. I hope, I would get a detailed answer from the hon. Minister.

Sir, the Ministry has sanctioned about Rs. 173 crore only to the State of Tamil Nadu. I am saddened and pained to say that we have been neglected and ignored. Thousands and thousands of crores of rupees is the outlay for the Ministry, but we are pained to observe that there are more funds for that region to which the Railway Minister belongs. If the Minister is from Karnataka, there are more funds diverted to Karnataka, if the Minister is from U.P., there are more funds diverted to U.P. I do not know whether the reduction for the State of Tamil Nadu is because of that, but the fact is that the amount sanctioned to the State of Tamil Nadu by the Ministry of Railways is meagre and piecemeal. This would adversely affect the on-going projects, some of the gauge conversion projects, the metro projects and the monument programme like MRTS in metropolitan cities like Chennai. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that there was a Master Plan in which quadrilateral electrification was planned, in which all the four metro cities were to be linked with electrification. But Chennai and Mumbai have not seen the light of the day yet. I do not know why. The policy of the Railways has to have a re-look. Because of the hike in the diesel prices, electrification will be away out.

According to an estimate, Railways need additionally about 6,000 million units of power using only 15 million tonnes of coal. This is merely 1.35 per cent of the total production of the power sector. It is also a fact that the State Electricity Boards owe about Rs. 1,800 crore to the Railways. Now the Board can conveniently go in for mass electrification and stop payment and continue to draw power till the arrears are wiped off. This is one of the suggestions which the hon. Minister can think about.

Sir, when I say that a meagre amount was allotted to the State of Tamil Nadu I have certain facts to put forth before the hon. Minister. For a new line project of Karur to Salem, the estimate is Rs. 225 crore and the amount allotted for this year is only Rs. 10 crore. This meagre allotment will slow

down the process. It may take about 20 years to complete the project. The hon. Minister also has admitted in one of the press reports that to complete the on-going projects it will take more time.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the problem is even in my State also. I have to coordinate with the North-East region regarding a project - Mynaguri - Jogigopa in the North-East Frontier Railway - which will include the North-East also for which we kept only Rs. 6 crore. In the first year because of final location survey, they cannot spend lots of money unless and until the final location survey is completed. That is why it is so.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Thank you very much Madam. I would request you to kindly allot more funds for this project in the forthcoming year - 2001-2002. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, there are 2,500 kilometres of metre gauge lines and because of improper allocation of the funds, it would take a minimum century to complete the conversion work to broad gauge. To cite other example, for Cuddalore-Salem via Virudhachalam, the estimate is Rs. 100 crore and an amount of only Rs. one crore was allotted. As you have pointed out, you have another pressing point and, therefore, I would only urge upon and appeal to you that more funds are needed for this very important project which has been pending for a long time.

For Tiruchirappalli-Nagur-Karaikal project, the estimate is Rs. 200 crore and the allotted sum is Rs. 3 crore. For Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur-Tenkasi-Virudhanagar, the allotted amount was Rs. 3 crore.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): For Tiruchirappalli-Nagur it is completed upto Tanjore.
(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : There is another project Villupuram-Pondicherry for which only Rs. one crore was allotted. In the same way for Madurai-Rameswaram, the estimate was Rs. 240 crore but only an amount of Rs.5 crore is allotted. In the same way, for Tanjore-Villupuram, the amount allotted was Rs. 10 crore while the estimate is for Rs. 233 crore. For Palani-Chamarajnagar, an amount of only Rs. one lakh was allotted.

If this is the way some of these important projects are funded, it would take 30 to 40 years to complete them. My only apprehension is that if these are delayed in such a way, what would be the cost overrun? There are nearly 191 projects in the Railways costing Rs. 27,000 crore which are being monitored.

What is the reason for such a slow, snail-paced projection, and what would be the cost overrun? Ultimately,

this would be doubled or tripled. So, what is the way out? The only reason attributed is the financial crunch. The Minister, known for her dynamism, will have to find a way out for this. This is a pressing demand and, therefore, immediate attention has to be paid to this. If it goes on like this, the Minister herself has admitted in one of her interviews that to complete this project, she might require about Rs. 30,000 crore, and that it might take another 30-40 years to complete it. It has appeared in one of the reports. The maximum amount being allotted for this project is Rs. 1,400 crore per year. What is the way out? Are there ways for increasing the resources of the Railways in the conventional areas?

Now, I would like to mention a few of my constituency's pressing demands. Madam Banerjee, the demands, which I am going to put forth now do not involve much cost or more funds. I expect the Ministry to accept some of these genuine demands. If these demands are not met, I would be certainly accusing the hon. Prime Minister for having rejected your resignation.

One is a separate railway division for Salem. Certain vested interests are preventing this particular division from coming up. Madam, you can personally call for the file and look into it. Right from the First Lok Sabha, this has been our demand. Now, Salem has been included in the Palakkad Division. There are some people from the Palakkad Division who do not want this division to come up. We do not want the Palakkad Division to be abandoned, but what we require is a separate Salem Division to be created. Let the Palakkad Division continue. Probably, Shri Rajagopal, being the hon. Minister from that area, would not object to this. There are reasons for this. Even last year, we have written to the Ministry, and the hon. Minister had promised to look into it.

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN (NILGIRIS): What about Coimbatore?

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Palakkad is Just about 50 kilometres from Coimbatore. So, you need not have a separate Division for Coimbatore. We had given a detailed report on that.

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN : Coimbatore is a central place.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Well, I agree to disagree. Let there be a separate division for Salem.

In my constituency, two overbridges are very much required, that is, one at Salem-Sivadhapuram, and another at Omalur. Whenever we go there, as Members of Parliament, we get stranded for hours together. I am unable to answer the public when they ask me, "We have voted for you, what are you doing?" Every time, I have to bow my

head down without giving any valid answer. Please relieve me from this burden. These two overbridges are very much required in this constituency.

I have already demanded that gauge conversion work should be undertaken on Salem-Cuddalore line. Salem-Karur, Salem-Erode are two important towns, and they are commercially viable. There has been a demand for an Electrical Multiple Unit, which may also be considered.

There is a single fast passenger train from Salem to Bangalore. Our demand is that it could be made as a pair, that is, one starting from Salem and another starting from Bangalore.

This is not going to cost the Ministry heavily.

Sir, some of my friends have urged me to raise this point and that is about a level-crossing in Tenkasi. We have a General Hospital in Tenkasi. But in between the town and the hospital, there is a railway level-crossing. One could well imagine the condition when people get stranded for hours together in the level crossing and one could also well imagine the condition of the patients being taken to casualty and emergency wards. I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly look into this matter.

Sir, Shri Rajagopal, the hon. Minister would know about the heavy influx of the devotees to the Sabrimala temple from the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. We, along with the hon. Members of Parliament from the State of Kerala, had a meeting, Chaired by the hon. Speaker, where the hon. Speaker agreed for a new train from Thanjavur -- Salem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, I would conclude in one or two minutes. I would abide by your ruling.

Sir, if a new train is started from Dindigul to Sabrimala, then that would help both the States of Kerala and Southern parts of the State of Tamil Nadu. A train from Salem or Coimbatore would cover the entire State. This suggestion may kindly be considered by the hon. Minister of Railways.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister for a stoppage of the Kanyakumari Express at Kadambur, Kadambur is a trading city where there are a lot of spinning and textile mills. It would be worthwhile if this train could be stopped there even for a minute.

Sir, we need a new additional train from Karur to Chennai via Tiruchirapalli. The hon. Member, Shri Chinnaswamy, representing the Karur Parliamentary constituency, on several occasions have met the hon.

[SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI]

Railway Minister and pressed his demand for this train. It is viable. But there is a slogan in the Ministry of Railways that reads like this: "It is not commercially viable".

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can lay rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister to consider the broad gauge conversion of the Manamadurai and Rameswaram railway line. I would like to earnestly request the hon. Minister to consider these demands because these do not involve much fund. Also, the hon. Minister had promised, in response to one of the letters of Shri P.H.Pandiyan, that she would allocate funds for construction of a sub-way for Tuticorin Gate No. 1 and 2. I would like to thank the hon. Minister for that. But the State Government has to allot land for that purpose. You would know our predicament and what would be the result if we approach the State Government for land. I would like to request her to write to the State Government and we would really be happy if the sub-way finally comes up in the area.

*SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORRISA) : Sir, I beg to lay my speech on the Railway Supplementary Demand for Grants 2000-2001 on the Table of the House.

It is heartening to note that the Railway Minister Ms. Mamata Banerjee has taken steps to guard the unmanned level crossings. Unmanned level crossings are main cause of accidents. Steps need be taken to man all unmaned level crossings.

There have been number of accidents recently. Most important has been human failure. Steps need to be taken to make the signal staff more responsive to the situation.

I am to request that the following matters relating to Orissa may be given adequate attention :

1. Although Rs.5.10 crores have been allocated for the gauge conversion of Naupada-Gunupur Rly. line, no action has yet been taken. This may be expedited.

2. I had requested earlier that at least one train, weekly, may be started from Khurdha Road to New Delhi via Berhampur, Srikakulam, Vizianagram, Kelinga and Raipur. This will help passengers from Ganjam, Gajapati, Srikakulam districts to get direct train linkage to New Delhi. One train may please be sanctioned for the purpose.

3. A large number of people go from my constituency from Berhampur to Okha and Surat in the Puri-Okha, Puri-Ahmedabad Express trains. As there is no general compartment, labourers going without prior programme find it difficult to get accommodation. I am to request that two general compartments may be added to these trains.

4. The Sukinda-Baanspuri Rly. line in Khundha Road division has not yet been completed. Funds have been sanctioned but progress is very slow. The work may be expedited.

5. Electrification of the track from Palasa to Bhadrakh on the SER is very slow. This may be expedited.

6. The East Coast Railways Zone has not yet been made operational. This may be expedited.

7. The Haridaspur-Paradip line of SER is yet to be completed. The State Government has already given the required land. Railways may take steps to lay the lines.

8. Although survey has been completed and funds to the tune of Rs.10.00 crores have been allocated, no work has started on the Khundha Road Bolangir Rly line. This may be taken up.

*SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH) : Sir, I with your kind permission, I submit my this submission in support Demand of Grants for Railway and would like to submit certain points concerning to my constituency, i.e. Kutch District (Gujarat) as under :

1. I support the Demand of Grants on Railways.

2. Gauge conversion work between Samkhiyali to Palanpur requires to be started and completed as early as possible.

3. Frequency of Bareli-Gandhidham Express Train be increased 4 times in week from 2 in a week.

4. Ahmedabad-Howraha Express Train be extended to Bhuj at least twice in a week.

5. Similarly long Distance Trains Cochin-Ahmedabad and Chennai-Ahmedabad also requires to be extended upto Bhuj at least twice in a week.

6. In Kutch District, Khayda Town in Bhni Taluka assumes much importance from the Defence point of view,

and therefore survey work for extension of Railway line from Bhuj to Khayda may be carried out.

7. Gauge conversion from Maliya to Wanakaner is almost complete. I therefore request that the New Railway Train connecting Bhuj and Rajkot may please be introduced.

8. Intercity Train between Ahmedabad to Bhuj be introduced.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my sincere thanks for providing me this opportunity for the second time to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Railways on behalf of my Party, the DMK.

Sir, I, first of all, would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Railways, Kumari Mamata Banerjee. But, why do I congratulate? We never expected anything from the Ministry of Railways. But the hon. Minister has extended free travel facility, from their houses to the schools, to girl students up to the 12th standard. An amount of Rs. 15 is being charged for season tickets for people who are living below the poverty line and who are earning less than Rs.400 a month. The poor people are blessing the hon. Railway Minister for this. I also join them in doing so.

I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to matters of concern to my State, Tamil Nadu. Budgetary provision for laying new railway lines in the country is Rs.790 crore for the current year. Out of that, Tamil Nadu gets a mere Rs.44 crore. I feel that it is an injustice to the State. This amount is grossly inadequate. This amount is not in keeping with the demands of the ongoing projects. Hence, I request the Minister of Railways to make a higher allocation to the State.

19.42 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*)

Southern Railway gets Rs.66 crore to phase out level-crossings with road over-bridges and fly-overs. This amount is also very less. I request the hon. Minister to allocate more funds for construction of over-bridges and fly-overs in place of level-crossings. On the national highway between Chennai and Bangalore, national highway 46, there are four level crossings. The level-crossing at Pachakuppam needs to be replaced with a road fly-over at the earliest. This is a popular demand pending for a long time. Similarly Vaniyambadi and Pachoor level-crossings need to be replaced by a road over-bridge at the earliest. I request the Minister to look into these popular demands.

Last year, when I spoke on the Supplementary Demands I mentioned the Golden Rock Workshop. The

importance of this workshop hardly needs to be emphasised. It is a renowned and prestigious workshop of Southern Railway. I renew my request to the hon. Minister to look into the pressing needs of the workshop.

Integral Coach Factory is the pride of Indian Railways. It is earning huge amounts of foreign exchange for the country. There is a growing demand for building coaches all over the globe. I request the hon. Minister to modernise and expand this factory so that it can meet the global demand for coach-building and earn precious foreign exchange for the country.

Now, I come to another very important point. There is a lot of wasteland, unused land of the Railways available at many places. My esteemed colleague, Shri K.H. Muniyappa has also touched upon the issue of railway wasteland. It is a fact that several lakhs of acres of wasteland are available. It is not being utilised as such. In fact, there is no need for the Railways of the barren lands. But everybody knows that the Panchayat, Municipality and the Government are in need of several acres of land for construction of schools, hospitals, market, playgrounds etc. The Panchayat and Municipality are willing to purchase those lands. So, those lands can be sold to them.

So, my point is that if the Government comes forward, those wastelands can easily be sold to the Panchayat and Municipality and the amount recovered by the Railways in lieu of those lands, can be best utilised for the developmental works and improvements of Railway systems.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Tamil Nadu, several main lines are still metre-gauge lines. It is my earnest appeal to the hon. Minister that all those lines may be converted into broad-gauge lines as soon as possible.

Sir, last but not the least, I would like to mention about the railway needs of my Constituency. A railway line between Jolarpettai and Hosur existed before Independence. But for some unknown reasons, the service had been stopped. Over the years, my predecessors representing my Constituency have been requesting for restoration of that line. But so far, nothing has been done.

Sir, this is a very important line which touches Burgur, Krishnagiri, Kaveripattinam, Palakkodu, Hosur and Tali, which are the business hubs of granite, coconut, foodgrains, mango and tamarind which are the mainstay of the economy of this region.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my friends from Tamil Nadu have been saying that Rs. 173 crore is being provided this year. But I want to correct it. During 1998-99, the amount provided was Rs. 199 crore. During 1999-00, the amount provided was Rs. 206.14 crore, and during 2000-01, I provided Rs. 225.6 crore.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : We all thank you, Madam, on behalf of the whole of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI V. VETRISSELVAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this region has more than 50 lakh voters. It is the dream of the people of my Constituency to have a new line between Jolarpoettai and Hosur via Krishnagiri. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Railways to make our dream come true as soon as possible.

Sir, in this regard, I had written a letter to the General Manager, Southern Railway and he had sent me the reply assuring me that the preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey for this sector would be completed by December, 2000.

I request the hon. Minister to make available necessary funds for starting of this new broad gauge line project for which the people of my constituency would remain ever grateful.

I would like to request for some new lines for Tamil Nadu. Thanjavur to Villupuram is a most important new line to be formed. I also request a new line formation from Villupuram to Salem. Villupuram also needs a computerised reservation centre. There has to be a new line from Cuddalore to Pondicherry also. In 1992, a new broad gauge line from Tiruchirappalli to Nagore was announced. The scheme had been taken up by the Government but the line from Tiruchirappalli to Thanjavur has only been completed. The line from Thanjavur to Nagore has not been completed. So, I request the hon. Minister to complete the work and to allocate more funds.

I also want to make a request that for the convenience of the travelling public the following trains have to stop at Krishnagiri : Train No. 1413 - Quilon Express from Bangalore to Colmbatore; Train No. 1414 Quilon Express from Colmbatore to Bangalore; Train No.6232 - Mysore to Thanjavur Express; Train No.2677 - Inter-city Express from Colmbatore to Bangalore; and Train No.7526 Island Express from Bangalore to Kanyakumari. There are eight trains passing through my constituency but no train stops at Palakpod ... (Interruptions)

My senior colleague may kindly excuse me. I am making some important points.

Krishnagiri is one of the important business places in Dharmapuri district. Krishnagiri is surrounded by two States - Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Several thousands of people are coming to Krishnagiri from various places of India and several people are going from Krishnagiri to other parts of the country. The main business of Krishnagiri is coconut, groundnut, textiles, mangoes, food grains, etc. In order to

cater to the needs of the people, the Government should open a reservation counter at Krishnagiri. It would facilitate the people of Krishnagiri and its surroundings.

A lot of people going to Sabarimala from Tamil Nadu go from Thanjavur to Sabarimala. We request the hon. Minister to introduce a special train. This has already been mentioned by my colleague Shri Palanimanickam in the meeting.

I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity and for the patient hearing.

[Translation]

*SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH (KODARMA): Sir, railway line between Giridih and Kodarma has been approved but funds have not been released so far. It is hindering the speedy completion of the work. I request that funds be released so that the work could be completed speedily.

Sir, land for Kodarma Hazaribag railway line is being acquired along Maruatand. For this a large number of houses will have to be demolished. However, if the line is laid along Laravad, less number of houses will be affected. The amount of compensation will also be less. People of Tillaia had also met the Railway Minister. It should, therefore, be considered and the proposal of acquiring land along Maruatand dropped.

Sir, the capital of newly created state of Jharkhand is Ranchi but there are no satisfactory railway facilities for the city. Sialdah Rajdhani Express should be provided a stoppage at Kodarma station immediately. Besides, in other trains e.g, Purushotam, Purva Express etc. number of berths reserved from Kodarma station should be increased in all classes.

People stage demonstrations at Hazaribagh railway station very often for the stoppage of superfast trains there. So, the Jodhpur express, Purva express and other Super fast trains should be provided stoppage at Hazaribagh road station. A superfast train should be introduced from Dhanbad and it should be provided stoppages at Hazaribag and Kodarma.

A railway level crossing should also be constructed at Maskedih between Dhanbad and Kodarma. The train which is at present running between Giridih and Madhupur for 4 days a week should be run daily.

*SHRI BHAN SINGH BURA (BHATINDA) : I would like to record following points :

1. There should be a overbridge in Bathinda city at the point of Khooni Phatak.

* Laid on the Table

2. There should be a underbridge in Mansa city.
3. There should be one overbridge in Raman mandi in Bathinda district.
4. Crossing level have been sanctioned on Delhi-Bathinda Rly. line near Gulabgarh village. 10 lakh rupees have been given from MPLADS Fund but construction work has not been done.
5. Two Shatabadi Trains should be started between Delhi-Ferozepur via Bathinda .
6. There are two trains are running between Bathinda and Delhi. One via Jakhal and other via Ambala-Patiala. Train runs between Bhatinda and Delhi takes five hours and train runs via Ambala takes eight hours.
7. Bhatinda is the biggest Railway Junction in Northern Railways. No modern facilities have been provided there. I demand that Bhatinda Railway Station should be modernised.
8. Double line sanctioned between Rajpura-Bathinda should be started construction. There should be double line between Jakhel and Bhatinda should be constructed with immediate effect.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA): Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

I think, the hon. Minister is the right person there surrounded by wrong persons. But I am hopeful that she would come back to the right track and that is why I am supporting these Demands. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN : You can come back here.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I have never been with you. How can I come back to you? ... (*Interruptions*) Earlier, she was with us. I hope, she will come back to us.

[*Translation*]

Mamataji has been a good Minister but the number of railway accidents that took place during the tenure of Bhartiya Janata Party's Government has outnumbered those that happened in the past 45 years. I would like to state clearly that Mamataji is not responsible for it. The Chairman, Railway Board and the hon. Prime Minister said that adequate funds are not allocated to railways. Therefore, Government is responsible for all those accidents. Required funds are not being given to the Railway. So it is affecting safety of railways. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has said that the matter will not be delayed and funds will be provided to replace the tracks. The Government is responsible for it. Shri

Malhotra is supporting me, from his core of hearts he is also smiling. Common man is scared to travel by rail because of shortcomings in safety measures. More and more funds should be provided to railways for its proper management. I would like to request Mamataji to pay attention to it. This evening there was a discussion in the evening on disinvestment. I have an apprehension in my mind that Government may resort to disinvestment in the railways and sell it out. I would like to state that railway lines should be laid and more trains should be introduced at those places from where Railways can earn more revenue.

She is not only the leader of West Bengal but also a national leader today. Uttar Pradesh is adjacent to Delhi. Railway Department will not run in deficit if more attention is paid to Uttar Pradesh. I am pained to say that required attention is not being paid to the Uttar Pradesh. The people of Western U.P. often visit Delhi for business purposes. Attention of the Government towards this region will enhance the revenue of the railways.

Large tracts of land is lying unused in the vicinity of railway stations in Western U.P. The land has not been put to any use during the past 50 years. No Government has taken any steps in this regard. The department will earn much revenue if this land is put to use. Hon'ble Minister knows better how to put the land in optimum use. It can be used for commercial purposes. A market can be set up there or hotels for the commuters can be built there as has been done elsewhere also. It will earn revenue and benefit the department. Common man will be benefited by it. As the Government have increased the diesel prices considerably, I have an apprehension that the Government will increase prices in the coming budget. If attention is paid in this regard, fares will not be increased and the common man will get relief.

The work of electrification in the railways is going on very fast. I am not an expert on the subject. But in the entire country less electrification work of the tracks has been done. An expert committee should be set up for this purpose. It should not happen that we continue to spend funds on it and one day we come to realise that we are proceeding on a wrong path. A commission should be set up for this purpose. That Committee of experts should come forward and see as to what steps should be taken in this regard.

Instead of speaking much on the subject, I would like to talk about my own constituency only. According to the report of the Ministry there are 24 thousand unamanned railway level crossing. Manned level crossing are very less in number. More and more railway level crossings should be manned in the absence of which large number of accidents are taking place. Such accidents are taking place in areas

[SHRI RASHID ALVI]

adjacent to Moradabad, Rampur, Gajrolla in Western U.P. The Government should pay attention to it to reduce the number of accidents. Animals and human being are killed in these accidents. My Parliamentary Constituency is Amroha.

20.00 hrs.

Earlier it was not a district, it was a part of Moradabad. Now Amroha has become a district headquarter. I think Railway Ministry is not aware of it. That's why, it is not being treated in the manner it deserves. I would like that the Government should provide funds for Amroha as a bridge is to be constructed there, because in the absence of that bridge people are put to inconvenience. Construction of this bridge by railway department will provide a lot of relief to people. During the last Budget Session also I have made a request in this regard and again during these supplementary demands, I request that the bridge should be constructed as early as possible because it is urgently required there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, several important trains which are running via Amroha, do not stop there. The Railway Department is not paying any attention to it though it is a district headquarter. I would like to request that some trains especially some fast trains should stop there. Journey from Amroha becomes very difficult. It is difficult to come from Amroha to attend Parliament Session in Delhi as trains do not stop there. Therefore, I would like to request that trains should be provided halt at Amroha and Gajrolla stations.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the third point that I would like to mention is that security arrangements in the trains are not up to the mark. Adequate number of policemen are not deployed there. Due to that cases of theft are reported very often in the trains especially the women commuters find themselves insecure. Therefore, proper arrangement of honest police personnel should be made there. Because at present police themselves are working hand in glove with the pilferers, they take bribe from them and let them move freely. It is better that the Railways should book the luggage of the commuters so that their luggage could be kept safely, moreover it will earn revenue for the department. Therefore, attention is required to be paid to this, also.

Gajrolla is situated at a distance of 100 km. from here. It connects the entire Uttarakhand. Now Uttarakhand has become a State. There was a proposal to introduce a train from Gajrolla via Chandpur and Bijnor but that has not been implemented till now. I would like that a new train from Delhi to Bijnor via Gajrolla and Chandpur should be introduced so that people of Uttarakhand and Western U.P. could be benefited. Railway Ministry has been requested several times in this regard but nothing has been done for the last 50

years. However, I am hopeful that it will certainly be done during the tenure of Kumari Mamata Banerjee, the train will be introduced and bridge will be constructed. I am very hopeful of her.

In the end, I would like to state that Bachhauran is a small station in my constituency. It was a full-fledged station. Perhaps railway did not earn revenue from this station, that's why it has been degraded and only a halt has been provided for the trains there. Therefore, I would like to request that instead of halt, its status as a station should be restored which will benefit the people of the area.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : What is the name of the station?

SMU RASHID ALVI: It is Bachharun station. I hope Mamataji will do this work. Shri Malhotra ji is also supporting it. I am not going to make a lengthy speech. I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

[English]

*SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL (KARAD) : Sir, I would like to give my written request through you to Madam Railway Minister while supplementary grants are being discussed.

KARAD on South Central Railway is my headquarters. The Lok Sabha constituency is named as KARAD (Maharashtra). The population which takes advantage of Railway is about thousand persons per day. All Mail Express Trains stop at Karad. Karad is famous for educational institutions having Government Engineering College and private medical college. The commerce, pharmacy, Arts, Science, Business Management colleges are many in numbers. The population of students is more than 25000. About 3000 to 5000 students are coming from other States of the country.

Still there is no facility of computerised reservation. I request Madam Minister through you to kindly give personal attention to my request and do the needful in near future.

I will be thankful if my request is sent to her for implementation.

[Translation]

*SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Sir, I am laying my written speech on demand for supplementary Grants (Railways) 2000-2001 on the Table of the House.

I demand for doubling of Bhusawal-Surat railway line. The passengers are facing hardship due to single track on

* Laid on the Table

Bhusawal-Surat rail line. At present passenger trains from Gujarat to Howrah and trains bound for South are being run on this track. The Gujarat State has direct rail route to South. If it is not possible to carry out this doubling work, right now, I request that funds for this purpose should be allocated in the next General Budget.

All the express trains running on Bhusawal-Surat rail line must be given stoppage at Nawapur and Dodaicha stations which are in my constituency Nandurbar (Maharashtra) for the facilities of the local people.

I demand that special facilities should also be provided at Nandurbar railway Station on Bhusawal-Surat railway line. Backward tribal areas should also be given priority in this regard.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (ARARIA) Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak over the demands for supplementary Grants (Railways). The length of railway track in our country is 1,60,360 kms. and it has become old. Majority of the experts are of the view that if fast trains are run on old tracks, there will be definitely be possibilities of accidents. Hon. Railway Minister is requested to pay special attention towards this. It is natural that if old railway tracks are not changed at right time and if trains run of these tracks then certainly accidents will take place. There is a need to think over this subject. In the absence of modern safety system, the Indian Railways which is considered as one of the largest railway network in the world is meeting accidents. This year around 500 people have become victim of railway accidents. As per the last year figures, around 700 passengers have been killed in railway accidents. The people of entire country are apprehensive of these accidents, hence hon. Railway Minister should do something to install modern equipments so as to avert accidents.

Hon. Minister of Railways had said in Rajya Sabha that she will not allow privatisation of Railways at any cost. I would like to congratulate her for this. The NDA Government is privatising most of the departments. My request is that Railways should not be privatised and I hope that you will make efforts in this regard.

Though the Government have increased the prices of eatables by 44 percent yet I would like to say that the catering system in the Railways is not satisfactory. We travel in Rajdhani Express while visiting our Parliamentary constituency. Neither the catering system nor the quality of mineral water is good in 2424 Rajdhani Express which runs between Delhi and Guwahati. Attention should be paid towards the quality of mineral water. Besides Rajdhani

Express, the catering system in other trains should be reviewed from time to time.

About eight coaches of the three new models had been procured from Germany. They are lying unused at the yard of New Delhi Railway Station while the cost of the one coach is Rs. 8 crore. I would request that these should be utilised and the money should not go waste.

Sir, in our Bihar State people are demanding that besides other developmental schemes, attention should be paid towards various railway projects also which are under consideration. It is a common presumption in Bihar that since you have become Minister of Railways, you have not paid required attention towards Bihar. I request you to implement all railway projects by paying attention towards it.

Now, I would like to mention about few railway projects pertaining to my constituency. The matter of Katihar-Jogbani rail line is pending since long. As per my information, this matter is pending with CCA. Few days ago, when we inquired we came to know that it has not been sanctioned by Ministry of External Affairs that is why it is pending in CCA. Katihar-Jogbani line is supposed to pass through three Parliamentary constituencies and terminate at Indo-Nepal border. This is very important project. I hope the foundation stone would be laid in the near future and the work would start. Few days ago, former Minister of Railways had visited our constituency. There in a press conference, he had said that he himself and Mamataji would certainly visit our constituency in January and will lay the foundation stone for Katihar-Jogbani-Forbisganj railway line.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I request hon. Minister to pay attention towards this. You are aware that the work of gauge conversion of Maansa-Saharsa-Forbisganj line was taken up long ago but it has not been completed so far. The work of gauge conversion of Maansa-Forbisganj was completed in first phase itself whereas the work of Maansa-Saharsa line is going on at Snail's pace. If the work continues at this speed then it will take years to complete. Therefore, my request is that more funds should be allocated for expediting the work of gauge conversion of-Forbisganj-Saharsa rail line so that this work can be completed without delay.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently survey was completed in my constituency for laying railway line. My request is that sanction may also be given for starting the survey Supaul-Peepra-Triveniganj-Raniganj-Gidhvaas-Araria line. Secondly there is a long pending demand for construction of Shankarpur - Triveniganj - Jadia - Chhatapur - Mirdaat-Narpatganj - Badhnaha railway line of Madhepura. When Shri Lalitji was Minister of Railways at that time orders were

[SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN]

issued for conducting survey of this line but it has not been conducted so far. My request is that action should be taken to get this survey work done. During the tenure of former Minister of Railways, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, it was decided to conduct survey for laying railway line from Araria to New Jalpaigudi but no progress has been made in that also. My request is that special attention should be paid towards this and the work of conducting survey should be started.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Araria is a district headquarter in my constituency where there is a halt but there is no railway station. There is no arrangement for the signal also. It is headquarter of our district. Therefore, through you, I request hon. Minister of Railways that this halt may be converted into Railway station. There are many labourers who travel on valid tickets from Bihar to Delhi, Punjab and Haryana but the Jawans of GRP and Railway employees intimidate them unnecessarily and deprive them of their money etc. Earlier also, I had said this thing. There have been many instances where the railway employees themselves looted the labourers after administering intoxicating materials to them. Such incidents are a matter of shame for the railways. Many such people come to us and say that they were looted even though they were travelling on valid tickets. My request is that such incidents must be checked forthwith because it is great injustice to the labourers. I request hon. Minister to take stringent measures so that such incidents may not be repeated in future.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, finally, I would like to say that the train which runs between Katihar and Jogbani has only four bogies whereas the number of passengers who travel in this train is more due to which many passengers have to sit over the roof of the train, while travelling owing to which accidents have taken place several times. But even then bogies have not been increased. Hence, my request is that instead of four bogies eight bogies should be attached to the train. When we ask DRM about this, he says that since we do not have bogies, we are giving old bogies. I submit that the bogies should be purchased from NGP situated nearby or from elsewhere. However, I request that instead of four bogies eight bogies should be attached to the train running between Katihar to Jogbani for the facility of passengers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, finally, I would like to say that there is no direct train from Katihar to New Delhi due to which thousands of passengers are facing lots of difficulties. From there, many passengers travel to Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and other parts of the country for earning their livelihood but since there is no direct train from Katihar and there is lack of enough capacity in other trains, they are compelled to travel on train's roof. Therefore, my submission is that one direct

train from Katihar to New Delhi should be introduced. With these words, I conclude my speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the proceedings will continue till late night, therefore, dinner arrangement has been made for all Members. The arrangement of dinner has been made in the Room No.70 for MPs. and Press people while for the staff it has been made in Room No.73. The dinner will be available from 8.45 p.m.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK) Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I would like to thank the hon. Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee for her leadership and guidance in taking the Railways in the right direction.

Transport, communication and energy are the three most important things in the development of the country. Railways provide the cheapest mode of transport. Therefore, the need of the hour is that we should feel secure while travelling in a train. Security itself generates faith. Government should provide maximum safety to the passengers travelling in the train so that their confidence in the Railways continues.

Justice Khanna Committee had made certain recommendations for the development of the Railways. I would like to know what steps have been taken in this regard. Nobody is saying that you make the whole investment at one go. But attempts should be made to make investments. I would deliberate on some suggestions which I have in mind. The hon. Minister has already stated that progress has been made, but much more needs to be done and she needs full support from all quarters.

Today, Railways are facing competition from Roadways. It is a very serious challenge. What is the traffic today in Railways in comparison to Roadways? India was a rail-dominated economy, but today she has become a road-dominated economy. Railways are not able to handle the quantum of traffic that they are supposed to handle. In 1950-51 Railways were carrying 89 per cent of the freight and the Roadways were carrying only 11 per cent of the freight. But, today the Railways take only 40 per cent of it and the Roadways captured as much as 60 per cent of the freight. Similarly, in 1950-51 Railways were carrying 80 per cent of the passenger traffic and 20 per cent was carried by the Roadways. Today, the position is reversed. Railways carry 20 per cent of the passenger traffic and the Roadways carry 80 per cent.

A Committee called National Transport Policy Committee was formed in 1986, which had determined some intra-model mix in respect of traffic to be handled by the Railways and the Roadways. It had suggested certain parameters about different kinds of traffic. It would have been better if our Surface Transport Minister was also present here and participated in the discussions. It said that short distance traffic - both passenger and freight - should be left to the Roadways, so that they are developed and Railways should not bother about the short distance traffic. But what is happening today? We all understand and we have been deliberating on this at least twice every year that Railways are six-times energy efficient than that of the Roadways. The rail construction cost is also six-times cheaper than that of the road. If the freight traffic only is reversed, that is, from the present position if it were to become 60 per cent Railways and 40 per cent Roadways, then the saving on diesel alone will be worth around Rs.6000 crore.

That much of diesel can be saved if this traffic is again brought back to the Railways. Therefore, a new Transport Policy Committee has to be appointed. I would request the House to support this cause and review the whole transport structure in this country today and see what is happening in the railways and roadways. By the end of the Ninth Plan, it is going to increase further. The passenger traffic is going to increase upto 399.4 billions and freight traffic is going to increase to nearly 520 million tonnes. The Minister has also stated, while piloting the Supplementary Demands for Grants today, that progress has been made but the amount of pressure that is there on freight and passenger traffic is quite alarming and quite very big. We should think in that respect and therefore, a National Transport Policy is required.

I would like to give you one instance though, of course, there are a number of instances on how to increase the revenue of the Railways. I will mention about coal. We are producing about 350 million tonnes of coal and the share of railways is 135 million tonnes which means that it is less than half of the coal that is being produced every year. If we can increase it by 100 million tonnes, then the Railways can earn a revenue to the extent of more than Rs.6000 crore. This is only with respect to coal. There are other goods such as iron ore, fertilisers, cement, steel, etc.

I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and also the House to the recent ordinance. It is about the Central Road Fund. A cess of one rupee per litre on petrol and diesel is levied with effect from 2nd January, 1998 on petrol and 1st March, 1999 on diesel. Ordinance was promulgated on 1st November, 2000 and it has been decided that 50 per cent cess on high speed diesel will be invested for the development of rural roads and the entire

cess on petrol will be allotted as follows, that is, 57.5 per cent of this 50 per cent will be invested for development and maintenance of national highways and only 12.5 per cent will be invested for construction of roads, under or over bridges and safety measures for unmanned level crossings. The rest, that is, 30 per cent will be given for development of State roads. In this year, 2000-2001, around Rs.5800 crores has been given but the total money which has been collected - which is a huge amount - is going towards the development of roads. We are losing our priority. That should be looked into and priority should be given to the development of safety measures specially of the railways.

I would draw the attention of the Minister on a number of replies which I have received. I would also come back to the development of my State, Orissa. A number of replies have come. I have got the first reply in March, the second reply in July-August, the third reply in December. I would draw the attention of this House and also of the hon. Minister to Daitari-Banspani railway line. For the last 30 years, leaders of Orissa, irrespective of party affiliations, have been agitating in this regard. Even in 1970-71, our leader Shri Biju Patnaik organised a demonstration and *dhama* in New Delhi with all his colleagues and supporters. Since 1970-71, work regarding this track is pending. Today, the total cost of that project is Rs.587 crore. Sir, Rs.216 crore has already been spent. This year, around Rs.40 crore has been provided for that. But very little progress has been made. We want to transport iron ore from the Sukhinda mines to Paradip. Money is being spent. The national wealth is being spent by transporting the ore by trucks. A huge amount of money is being wasted by way of consuming diesel. A lot of foreign exchange is being spent and wasted by consuming diesel. So, this is one aspect. We should identify our priority. We should invest more on the Railways so that these projects can come up at a speedy pace.

I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Haridaspur-Paradip line. This is a new project. This year, a sum of rupees one crore has been provided. Already, a sum of rupees sixteen and a half crore has been spent. In the reply given by the hon. Minister of Railways, it has been stated that the final location survey has been completed; land acquisition plans and papers have been finalised and are with the State Government.

20.27 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Sir, I was telling that land has been acquired to the extent of ten kms. It is in alignment from Haridaspur end. An amount of Rs. 5 crore has been paid to the State Government for land acquisition. Work would be started as

[SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB]

soon as land becomes available. This is one instance. There are a number of other instances.

Regarding Khurda-Bolangir also, the same problem is there. The State has to provide the land. About the Lanjigarh project also, the position is the same. The Koraput-Rayagada line has already been finalised. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this. This is the reply given on 9th March, 2000 relating to Haridaspur-Paradip line. The final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition plans and papers have been finalised and have been submitted to the State Government. An amount of Rs.5 crore has been paid to the State Government for land acquisition. Work would be started as soon as land becomes available. This is the reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : I will conclude. I have started just now. This is the reply which has been given by the hon. Railway Minister in the month of March. This is the reply which I got through this House from the hon. Minister in the month of December. Already, nine months have passed. I would like the hon. Minister to clarify. For whom this project is kept pending? What is the difficulty?

Now, I would like to draw the attention of this House to a news item which was published on 4th July, 2000. This is a very serious matter.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Or, the written speech can be submitted to the hon. Minister.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : I am quoting from a news item which was published on 4th July, 2000. This was published by the *Indian Express*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please submit it in writing to the hon. Minister.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Then, what was the necessity of standing here and explaining all these things? Please give me some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude it in two minutes.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Sir, just allow me to complete it. A delegation was led by Shri Yerrannaidu with three or four Members of the Standing Committee on Railways.

They have met the Chief Minister at Bhubaneswar. This Report was published in the newspaper. Shri Yerrannaidu

said that the Railway Minister has agreed to the recommendations of the Committee for constructing 52 unmanned level crossings in Orissa. Only 150 level crossings out of 482 are manned in the State. I have given around Rs.8 or Rs.9 lakh to man an unmanned level crossings in my constituency. Only two years have passed. I have repeatedly drawn the attention of the Minister, and I am yet to get a concurrence relating to that. This is a very small matter which can be sorted by the Minister.

Shri Yerrannaidu told this paper that the Committee is strongly of the view about the matter relating to the Eastern Coast Railway Zone. It states, The Committee Members met the Chief Minister on Monday where they have expressed their displeasure over delay in finalisation of land acquisition due to non-cooperation of the successive State Governments. I would like to mention three instances relating to Daitari-Banspani, Lanjiguda-Junagarh, and Haridaspur-Paradeep. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister, through you, that some concrete steps should be taken. Money cannot just lie with the State Governments. It is not just the present Government that is responsible, previous Governments have also been sitting over the money. They are not getting land. If they hand over the same to the Railways, construction can be carried out speedily.

I would like to draw the attention relating to the Eastern Coast. The Chairman of the Standing Committee, Shri Yerrannaidu has told the Press and I want to put the same on record. ... *(Interruptions)* A notification has already been issued for Jaipur and Hajipur Zones. These two Zones were created after the creation of the East Coast Railway Zone. This is the statement of Shri Yerrannaidu. He said, I quote "There is no point as to why the ECR Zone should not be notified". They observed and said –

"The entire geographical jurisdiction of Orissa should be brought within the purview of ECR."

... *(Interruptions)* The survey for the development of Talcher-Gopalpur port is in the pipeline. I would request the Minister to consider that. We have to connect them immediately. At least, from this year, some money should be invested for the survey because Talcher is the black gold mine. We are trans-shipping coal to Southern States like Tamil Nadu. Gopalpur can only be developed if linked with Talcher. Money will not be a problem. We can get money.

As was suggested by our State Government, also as was suggested by the Marathwada Member from Maharashtra, bonds can also be circulated to create large amount of money for the development of railways in our much-neglected State of Orissa.

"Now, I draw the attention of towards the main problem of my own State, Orissa. East Coast Railway zone was created in 1996. For last 30 years leaders of Orissa had fought and demanded for shifting of Headquarters of South Eastern Railways from Garden Reach to Bhubaneswar. In the early Nineties, creation of new Zones was discussed in the Standing Committee of Railways and it was their considered view that, a Zone, should be carved, if it is profitable. The then Prime Minister in 1996 inaugurated the ECR Zone. After the initial thrust, the interest seems to have died down and today most of the zones are just extended offices of the original zonal office. These zones were created by the Cabinet. The other formalities should have followed. But I am told now that Railway Board is considering continuation of these New Zones. There is utter confusion.

The Standing Committee on Railways, after due deliberation, has endorsed that viable new Zones should be given full Government support. East Coast Zone is a viable zone. Development of Orissa has hampered because there was very scant progress in Railways during the last hundred years. There is a need to strengthen the ECR Zone. The Zonal office at Bhubaneswar can monitor, and follow up all the railway projects relating to Orissa much more effectively than it is being done from Calcutta. Centralised purchases and works relating to Railway offices located in Orissa are being done at Calcutta. If it is done in Orissa, it would benefit Orissa based firms. It would generate jobs in the private sector.

A General Manager has also certain powers relating temporary and permanent employment of persons both in HQ and in the field offices. This would help Orissa, if GM or GM rank-officer is posted at Bhubaneswar.

I would draw the attention towards another difficulty. Earlier persons who excelled in Sports, Culture, Scouts and Guide streams were appointed on compassionate ground by the HQ office of the Zone. Orissa is being denied because ECR is not made fully functional. Despite ECR, not much progress has been made as it has not been notified. Today the top officers of ECR Zone do not enjoy the functional and decision-making powers of a regular General Manager. On the contrary, full allotment to the new zone is being reduced year after year.

I would draw the attention towards a news item published on 4th July this year relating to the matter of ECR Zone after a Sub-Committee of Railways Standing Committee visited Bhubaneswar. It is stated, "the Committee met the Chief Minister on Monday where they expressed displeasure over delayed finalisation of land acquisition due

to non-cooperation of the successive Government. While the Railway Ministry is not going ahead with construction of the headquarters building of East Coast Railway at Chandrasekharpur due to non-settlement of the land dispute, the Haridaspur-Paradip and Daitari-Banspani projects are not progressing as the State Government is yet to finalise land allotment. About 39.9 acres of land allotted to ECR is disputed while nearly 1100 acres of land is required for the other project."

If this is the view, who is to be held responsible? What is the Railway Ministry doing after learning about the fact? I would request the Minister to look into this problem and take steps to clear all hindrances and bottlenecks.

It is also reported in that paper on the same date that "Chairman of the Committee Shri Yerran Naidu told that the Committee is strongly of the view that an early Gazette Notification by the Centre on the East Coast Railway (ECR) Zone is the need of the hour to expedite the ongoing railway projects in the State". If this is the opinion of the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways, what is stopping the Ministry to notify?

Lastly, I would draw the attention towards newspapers which state that, money is being shifted from Orissa Railway Project. I do not believe this is to be true. But Railway Ministry should clarify. If they keep silent, a wrong message is sent.

Building the second rail link between Talcher-Paradip is a necessity. Already tender has been opened for second Birupa Bridge. It should be finalised as early as possible. Similarly, the electrification of rail lines in Orissa is taking a long time. Hardly 50 percent of the allotment is being spent. Why is it so?

Recently to one of my questions, which was answered on 7.12.2000 that Koraput-Rayagada line is already commissioned. But Tunnel ventilation work is in progress in the 2 long tunnels and this work is expected to be completed by this month. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to start a new train, named Sabari Express from Bhubanewar to Koraput.

I would also congratulate hon'ble Minister for initiating the long pending work to connect Khurdha Road with Bolangir. Though not much money has been allotted for this project but all big projects start with a small beginning and that has been so. I would congratulate her and at the same time request her to provide adequate funds in the coming budget, which she is going to present in this House next year, which I am sure.

Puri-Khurdha Road double line is a necessity, only Rs.5 crore were allotted this year. Detailed planning has been

[SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB]

taken up. Hon'ble Minister knows, the difficulty of passengers travelling by Train to Puri. Therefore, I would request, Sir, through you, to the Minister to provide adequate funds for this project.

And lastly, I draw the attention of the Minister towards the construction of Lord Jagannath Temple on Railway land at Kharagpur, West Bengal. Lord Jagannath is not only the God of Oriyas, but of the whole universe. Of whom, Didi is a great devotee. I would request, this Temple land be legalised and the devotees be allowed to offer prayer as they have been doing for the last so many years.

At the end, I thank everyone, for giving me a patient hearing.

*SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI) : As I am allowed to put my views on the Railway Budget Supplementary, first of all I congratulate Mamataji for her flawless leadership in leading the Indian Railways on the right path. Though the Railways in the form of transformation with faster trains and carrying more weightage from one corner to another of country. It has always helped and come to the aid of the Country during adversities like Cyclone and other Natural calamities. It would not be fair if accolades are not given to Mamataji as she played a vital role in movement of relief during the Super Cyclone which had hit the Orissa Coast.

As it is a supplementary demand I would not go into the detail working of The Railways and its problems and its successes.

Only I would like to put forth that my Constituency the District of Kalahandi is one of the most backward Draught effected regions of the country. And a Railway Project namely Langigarh Road to Junagarh has been under construction since last 9 years and is yet to be complete because of poor allocation against the same project. This Project was taken with intention of joining the KK line which handles the Iron Ore Mines of Bailadela and connects it with The Waltair or Visakapatnam Port. Also it connects the Bauxite mines of Korapur which is one to the distressed districts of the KBK. Now if the Langigarh Road to Junagarh line is completed and further it is connected from Junagarh to Ambaguda then it will join the KK line and the vast deposits of Lime stone of Malkangiri and Bauxite Deposits of Kalahandi can open up for exploitation. So it is my humble request to the great lady in this August House to provide sufficient funds for the Langigarh – Road – Junagarh project and provide some allocation for survey of the Railway line

beyond Junagarh to Ambagura on the KK Line and make it a continuous project namely Langigarh Road to Ambagura which will eventually cover the Entire KBK region in the State of Orissa.

Also I would like to demand to make the SAMATA Express leaving Visakapatnam for Nizamuddin daily for the convenience of the people of my constituency who are now migrating in huge numbers in search of work because of the Unprecedented drought this year.

Also I demand for a Air conditioned Maintenance Unit at Rayagada under S.E. Railway.

Also Conflicting reports are to be read in papers that the CAO office will be shifted from Bhubaneswar if it is true then this move should be stopped immediately and more allocation be provided for making this new Zone more vibrant and the on-going projects to be completed.

Also I demand to make the Puri – Ahmedabad Express daily via Vijayanagaram. Also a rail cum road bridge should be constructed in between Titlagarh and Kesinga. With these few suggestions I support the Supplementary Demand of Grants of the Railways moved by Mamataji.

*SHRI S. MURUGESAN (TENKASI) : Sir, I request the Hon'ble Minister for Railways through this Supplementary Demands and Grants (Railways), to consider the demands of my Parliamentary Constituency pertaining to Ministry of Railways.

My Parliamentary Constituency, "Tenkasi" is situated in between the big Municipal Corporation, Tirunelveli and most famous tourist spot "Courtalam". People from all walks of life use to visit Tenkasi frequently for so many reasons. The population of my parliamentary constituency are mostly from backward and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Previously there was an hospital and bus stand in Tenkasi town between Tenkasi and Madurai. Since it is a very big Government Hospital and Bus stand people from Tenkasi are used to go there frequently in order to get proper treatment and to get transport to the neighbouring cities. Due to the heavy traffic in this highways the level crossing in this route is closed frequently. People who are going for these two places are suffering due to the closure of the level crossing frequently. I have already represented this matter to the Hon'ble Minister for Railways for several times. Already a team of officials visited the place and submitted a report in favour of my request. But till now no action is taken in this matter. I request the Hon'ble Minister to consider my request and necessary orders may be passed for construction of an overbridge in the highway in between Tenkasi and Madurai.

Secondly, I am very much thankful to the Minister of Railways for ordering for conversion of meter gauge into broad gauge from Virudhunagar to Quilon and from Tenkasi to Triunelveli. But due to the meagre allotment of funds, this project is not at all started and I request the Hon'ble Minister to commence this conversion from Tenkasi and to allot more funds in order to complete this project at an early date.

Puliyangudi, a big Municipal City, nearby Tenkasi town is having more than one lakh population. But till now it is not connected with the Railway route. The existing Railway Line in between Sankarankoli and Tenkasi may be diverted through Puliyangudi in order to provide the train facility to the people of this area. Only 8 Kms of Railway line is needed to provide train facility to the people of Puliyangudi. By spending a small amount for this diversion, the Government can be able to provide train facilities for more than lakhs of people.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to add a few words in the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 2000-2001. Our Railway Minister is a turbulent Minister. So, I find no substantial argument in opposing the Demands for Grants. Rather, I would request this Government to allot more funds for the development of this sector, because Railways do not only render commercial services, but also discharge public utility services. As we know, Railways is the biggest public sector undertaking in our country. It has a mammoth and extensive network spread over 62,809 kms. throughout the nook and corner of our country. It provides employment to as many as 15.8 lakh people. Therefore, we must allot more funds for this sector so that it would help in generating more employment for our future generations. Till now, as it is reported, 23.3 per cent of our Railway network has been electrified. However, no review on the results of electrification has, so far, been conducted as was alleged in the C&AG's Report. I would request the hon. Minister of Railways to give an explanation on this issue.

Sir, we are now undergoing in an age of second generation reforms. In the name of privatisation, our national assets are being squandered away. Therefore, it is easy to surmise that another national asset, Railways would not be spared from the onslaught of mindless reforms. Privatisation has, already, been seeping into this sector through schemes like Build, Own, Lease and Transfer (BOLT), Own Your Wagon (OYW) etc. These are some examples of privatisation in the Railways. Through public and private partnership, the private sector is going to set up a terminal and to provide railway connectivity to the new and upcoming ports. I would like to ask a question to the hon. Railway Minister in this regard. In spite of her stiff resistance, would

she be able to withstand the onslaught of privatisation any more?

Sir, reforms must be taken up in this sector so as to tone up all railway-related infrastructure, sophisticated signalling system, rolling stock and, above all, strong safety measures.

The Railway accidents have been increasing at an alarming rate which often take a toll of many lives. In West Bengal, we have experienced the harrowing incident at Gaisal. A Commission of Inquiry was constituted. But its Report is yet to be revealed. Furthermore, the officers held responsible for dereliction of their duties were exonerated later, on the plea that it would be a blow for their morale.

There were many Committees, constituted such as, the Kunzru Committee in 1962, Wanchoo Committee in 1968, Sikri Committee in 1978, Venkatachellaiah Committee in 1996, and Khanna Committee in 1998. The Railways have received a plethora of recommendations. But it is a pity that these recommendations are not being implemented. I have already entreated to our hon. Minister of Railways for restoration of a line between Nashipur and Azimganj in my district Murshidabad, West Bengal.

You are well aware that the district of Murshidabad is world famous for its historical importance. It is a district of heritage and culture. If the railway as stated above is restored, then, the total economic scenario of my district would have changed. My district is regarded as a non-industrial district of West Bengal. The land upon which the railway line is proposed to be built up belongs to the Railways. Therefore, as far as the acquisition of land is concerned, it will have no problem.

My district is a border district, adjacent to Bangladesh. Therefore, Army deployment will be facilitated if that particular railway line is restored. Two pillars have already been existing on the Ganges River. Therefore, I would again request the hon. Minister of Railways to consider this project sympathetically because it concerns the economy of my district.

Furthermore, the Howrah Division and the Sealdah Division will be merged by simply extending the line by two kilometres.

The maintenance of coaches is of vital importance because the Railways is the principal mode of transport of our country.

The safety measures should also be enhanced. The Directorate of Safety has already been in existence under an executive officer. But that Directorate does not enjoy the nodal powers which it should have. If the nodal power is not

[SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY]

delegated to this Directorate then we cannot fix anybody for any lacuna or any fault.

As far as Indian coaches are concerned, we often face the problem when we travel by train. It has been reported that 20 per cent of Railway coaches are usually declared condemned prematurely. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Railways to develop Railways at par with all other developed countries in the world because it is the principal mode of transport in our country.

I would once again request the hon. Minister to consider my requests sympathetically.

[Translation]

*SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (BANASKANTHA) : Sir, 75 percent network of Western Railways is in Gujarat whereas Zonal Office of Western Railways is still in Mumbai thereby adversely affecting development of railways in Gujarat. For the last several years M.Ps. from Gujarat have been demanding for shifting of this office to Gujarat, but the Government have not paid any attention. Always the excuse given is that it is impossible to set up Western Railway's Zonal Office in Gujarat. But infact, reluctance of officers of Western Railways to leave Mumbai and to work in Gujarat may perhaps be one of the reasons.

Since long Ganga conversion work at Gandhidham and Palanpur has been pending. It is believed that plan has been formulated and the estimate is also reported to be ready. But, if the pace of work remain so slow then it would take years to complete the work.

Salt industry is the main industry in several areas of Gujarat and the Railways provide them open wagons. In addition, they are not provided any other facility which hampers development of salt industry. In recent years there was a move to improve the functioning of Railways and Rakesh Mohan Committee was also constituted for this purpose which has also submitted the report. My submission is that, the weakness of railways should be made known to the public and the representatives of people and also the steps being taken by the Government to bring about required changes.

I do agree that Railways are facing difficulty in fulfilling social allegations and it is being misused also. I further demand that misuse of Railways should be checked and stringent measure taken in this regard. It is matter of great pride that the hon'ble Minister has spared the hike in rail

freights though prices of petroleum products were increased. Poor and labour class are happy over this move.

Corruption is rampant in Railways. If we do not check this menace in Railways and do not remove the corrupt staff immediately then existing constraint of resources would become more serious. The surplus land lying idle with Railway can be utilised. Similarly, other items not in use in railways and depreciating over time can be disposed of to mobilise resources.

Cases of theft in Railways is on the rise. Often luggage lifters deprive the passengers of their belongings thereby putting them into trouble. The Government should provide additional coach wherever waiting list crosses 300 persons mark, so that the passenger can get reservation and the Railway earn revenue.

My submission is that increase in rail accidents is a very serious matter. Cases of sabotage and deliberately causing damage to railway property too have come to light. Whenever accidents take place, the matter is investigated but negligence of railway employees has never been pointed out. Further, inquiry takes lot of time and by the time the report comes the people often forget that any accident had taken place.

There is a vast scope for expansion of railway network but unabated corruption hampers development work and desired results are not achieved. Whenever, we demand completion of any project, often constraint of funds comes the pet reply and shortage of funds hampers progress of work.

Further, I would like to submit that though train service between Palanpur and Haridwar has been introduced, but there is no halt at Palanpur. Similarly, there is no halt of Ahmedabad-Delhi Rajdhani Express at Palanpur. My submission is that at Palanpur halt should be provided. There is no VIP quota for Palanpur. Hence quota of two VIP seats should be provided in train Numbers 9708, 0707, 2916 and 2915.

Palanpur Railway Station should be upgraded to 'A' class. There is no rack point for loading, unloading of fertilizers at Palanpur which causes great hardship to farmers. I urge construction of rack point at Palanpur.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (DOMARIAGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, railway is the cheapest mode of transport for the poor people. I rise to support Supplementary Demand for Grants presented by the hon'ble Railway Minister. For unmanned railway crossings more funds have been provided in supplementary grants which would facilitate safety of passengers.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards my Parliamentary Constituency, Sidharthnagar. Sidharthnagar touches Gonda, Gorakhpur and also Nepal border. A metergauge loopline is there between Gorakhpur and Gonda. Several years ago, people use to travel by meter-gauge directly upto headquarters and Lucknow but 8-10 year ago railway line from Gorakhpur was converted into broadgauge. Passengers from that side have to travel by metergauge upto Gonda or Gorakhpur to board the broad gauge train. Single railway track between Gorakhpur to Gonda causes congestion of trains. Since 1990-91, I have been requesting conversion of this track into broadgauge. Every year the hon'ble Railway Minister stated that the survey work is over. An outlay of Rs.250 crore was provided in 1997-98 Budget. Ten years have elapsed, but the project is yet to be cleared. After ten year lengthy correspondence, I managed to meet Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission for obtaining clearance.

Sir, my submission is that if this line is converted into broadgauge then it would serve as an alternative rail line between Gorakhpur and Gonda and passengers coming from Nepal to Delhi by Bus would prefer journey by train. Nearly 200 buses ply between Krishnanagar Delhi and Sunoli Delhi and if this line is converted into broadgauge then passengers would be able to travel by train. If Buddhist circuit consisting of Banaras, Sarnath, Kapilvastu, Shilabasti is connected by broadgauge, it would facilitate movement of Budha Circuit Trains. Therefore, conversion of this line is highly essential. As Shri Akhilesh Singhji has stated just now, survey of Gonda Bahraich rail line was also completed simultaneously. An estimate of Rs. 50 crore has been approved for conversion of this line. This also needs to be converted urgently. This line is very important. It would not only facilitate running of Budha circuit trains but would fulfil long pending demand of passengers coming by bus from Nepal. One of reasons for backwardness of my area is that cement and coal do not reach there and large amount is pilfered. Even fertilizers from Basti are transported in trucks. Therefore, this meter gauge line should be converted into broadgauge so that the area could develop. We all travel through Gorakhpur.

There is one train called Vaishali Express from Gorakhpur wherein equal number of passengers are forced to travel on train as are seated in the train. 20-22 M.Ps, travel by train from there but they do not get first class reservation. A bogie has only 18 berths. Therefore, I demand a Rajdhani Express between Delhi Gorakhpur on Friday and Gorakhpur-Delhi on Sunday so that passengers, especially those who do not get seat in Vaishali Express can travel comfortably. We, the Members of Parliament, have prepared a representation in this regard.

Main platform at Basti Railway Station is too small to accommodate this train. So the platform should be extended. Passengers have to use overhead bridge. Waiting Room at Basti station remains closed and there is no place for VIP to rest. These issues should be pondered over by the Government. I am grateful for giving me an opportunity to speak.

*SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (JHABUA) : Sir, Railway Ministry conducted a survey long back to lay one very important line, known as Maksi-Dahod rail line, passing through my Parliamentary Constituency Jhabua-Ratlam. Subsequently, the Ministry allocated small sums over many financial years. Laying of this railway line will boost industrialisation around Jhabua and adjoining tribal areas and also generate employment. People of tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat would have access to rail travel and it would usher in a new era by providing opportunity for development and employment in this area. Work on Dahod-Indore and Devas-Maksi line is being taken up in a phased manner but inadequate allocation of funds by the Railway Ministry during the last several year is enough evidence to refute the claim of Railway Ministry that this work would be completed within one or two years. Making a mere provision of Rs.5.00 crore in 1992-2000 Budget proves that the Government is not serious about completing the work expeditiously. Time and again, Railway Ministry states that work on Dahod-Indore and Dewas-Maksi line is being done in a phased manner but the stretch of rail line passing through Indore-Dhar-Jhabua does not find mention anywhere. When the work relating to laying of railway track on this stretch would be taken up. As per Pink Book 1998-99, estimated cost of this project was Rs. 297.14 crore. Today pace of work has caused cost escalation and now its estimated cost has touched Rs. 597 crore which is just double of original estimated cost. By the end of the year, 1999-2000 estimated expenditure is just Rs. 21.09 crore. It is a matter of great surprise that a provision of just Rs. 10 lakh has been made in the 2000-2001 Budget which proves the old saying, 'a drop in the ocean' correct. If the work progresses at this slow speed than manifold cost escalation cannot be ruled out.

Meghnagar Railway Station of my Parliamentary Constituency, Jhabua-Ratlam, is exactly in the centre of Mumbai-Delhi route. Passengers from Jhabua, Banaswada, Panchmahal district of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat use this railway station for boarding/deboarding from train. This way this station is much crowded. Meghnagar is the only major railway station in predominant tribal district Jhabua but existing platform at this station is too small to accommodate the passengers. Since overhead shed is very

[SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA]

small, the passengers have to face lot of problems during summer, rainy season and during winter. Absence of adequate facilities for drinking water at platform puts the passengers in great hardship. Expansion of overhead shed at Meghnagar Railway Station is quite essential. At the same time serious problem relating to drinking water also cannot be neglected. All these facilities should be immediately provided at the railway station.

Ahmadabad Sabarmati Express from Faizabad in the UP direction crosses Thandla station at 24.03 hrs. and 02.02 hrs for downward direction. Since large number of passenger are interested in boarding this train at Thandla Road station so a halt of this train be provided there to help the passengers.

Baroda-Dahod MEMU Train leaves Baroda at 10.45 hrs. for onward journey and returns from Dahod at 16.10 for Baroda. It is essential to extend this train upto Ratlam. Another MEMU Train running between Dahod and Ujjain, if extended upto Bhopal would help passengers of my Parliamentary Constituency.

Gorakhpur-Baroda Avadh Express crosses Bamania Road Railway Station at 18.18 hrs. during upward journey and 08.28 hrs. during downward journey. Since large number of passengers are interested in boarding train at this station therefore it would be better if the said train halts at Bamania Road Station.

Indore-Bandra-Avantika super fast train crosses Thandla Road at 20.41 hrs. during upward journey and at 04.43 hrs. during downward journey. There is need to provide halt of this train at Thandla Road. A large number of passengers travel from this station to Bandra and other places.

Indore is a major industrial centre of Madhya Pradesh and the largest city as far as population is concerned. At present, Avantika Super Fast train provides link to Bandra. In view of large number of passengers and inadequate number of sleeper reservation available the passengers have to face great hardship and it has been observed that Waiting list is increasing as this is the only available Bandra bound train. Therefore, my submission is that one more Express train should be provided between Indore and Bandra so that left over passengers can be accommodated. It would not only provide comfort to the passengers but would also generate revenue for Railway.

Amritsar-Mumbai Frontier Mail touches Meghnagar Railway Station at 20.30 hrs. during upward journey and at

05.20 hrs. during downward journey. In view of large number of passengers at Meghnagar, it would be better if this train is provided halt at Meghnagar station.

Jammu Tawi-Mumbai Super Fast Train touches Meghnagar at 09.00 hrs. during upward journey and at 17.00 hrs. during downward journey. This train should also be provided halt at Meghnagar station.

Trivandrum-New Delhi Express should be provided halt at Ratlam Railway Station, since it is a major station on New Delhi-Mumbai rail route.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA) : Respected Chairman, I thank you very much for this opportunity. While moving the Supplementary Demand for Grants (Railways), the hon. Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, has given emphasis on safety measures. Anyway, it is better late than never. The alarming number of railway accidents should have opened the eyes of the Railway authorities much earlier. But I think it is against the backdrop of the accident that has taken place in Amritsar, which had taken away the lives of many, the Minister has thought about giving more emphasis on safety measures. Manning the level crossings, upgrading the signal system and also constructing under bridge and over bridge are some of the measures that have to be taken into account while thinking in terms of safety measures.

But the most important question here is how to have the Budgetary requirements. Unless the Finance Department gives equal importance to this major problem faced by the Railway and gives more Budgetary support, I do not think that even if the hon. Minister has a keen interest to do this, she will not be sure – any one for that matter – or be able to do this. So, here, the attention of the hon. Finance Minister also should be sought.

Then another point, which I would like to highlight is, that the hon. Member from Orissa a little while ago had already mentioned about the break-up of the Road fund recently constituted and then we will find that the significance which we should have given to the Railways, which is actually the most important network of transportation and the basis of infrastructure has not been given the importance which it should get. This is very important. That means, the priority is decided in a manner in which it should not have been. The Railway should have got a better priority as far as the Road Fund is also concerned.

Regarding the manning of the level crossings and the construction of over-bridges and under-bridges, I would like

to give my experience. Receiving letters from the hon. Minister about contributing funds from the MPLAD Fund for this purpose, I have given Rs.30 lakh for the construction of a footbridge in one of the important stations, that is, Tellicherry and also given Rs.18 lakh from my Fund for an under-bridge where the railway track is very high and the people have to get across the railway, walking, crossing the railway and even women and children, pregnant, women had to cross the railway to reach the National Highway. And an amount of Rs.14 lakh has been given by me. But now, a very cumbersome correspondence has been going on between the Railway authorities in the Southern Railway and the District Collector, who is the nodal agency to implement it. I myself, have written a letter to the hon. Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and also the Minister of State for Planning and Programme Implementation, Shri Arun Shourie, for which I have not received a reply even after the passage of more than two months.

Perhaps, Kumari Mamata Banerjee must have been very busy with Bengal politics. I do not blame her. Everybody has every one's politics and each one plays one's role in a smaller degree or in a better manner. But at least the officials in the Railway Ministry should have taken care of their correspondence. I used to get a very prompt reply from Kumari Mamata Banerjee. But of late no reply is received at all. There is no reply at all! If this is the situation, how can one think in terms of any safety measures there? If this is the way things are being taken care of, how can the Railways be run? I hope that the Members of the Railway Board who are present here, will take note of this very important matter. I am prepared to shell out my MPLAD Fund for this purpose.

And another thing is, in the letter from the hon. Minister we were suggested about giving MPLAD Fund for manning the unmanned level crossings. It is stated that some Rs.10 lakh would be required. When I wrote to the Southern Railway authorities, I got a reply that the estimated cost would be Rs.27 lakh for constructing an underbridge!

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR) : It is a very important point.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : I would like to know why this disparity in the estimate is there, from Rs.10 lakh suggested by the hon. Minister and Rs.27 lakh in the estimate given by the Railway authorities.

In this connection, I would like to say one important point. One lot of corruption charges are being reported in the newspapers about the Southern Railway authorities. I do not know about the other Railway zones. I am not touching upon that.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Who gave this reply to you?

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : It came from the Divisional Manager.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You just give me a letter.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : We have received a number of letters from the Manager of the Southern Railway.

21.00 hrs.

This is how the Railways are taking care of the MPLAD Fund given by us. We want things to be done at the earliest. Feet are being dragged on by the railway authorities. I would like to know how expeditiously we can do things.

Now, I come to the matters concerning my constituency. Over-bridge at Chorode has been a two-decade old problem. After pressuring and pasturing the officials in the Ministry of Railways, I have got the sanction for the Chorode over-bridge project. The National highway portion is going to be started very soon. In the 2000-2001 Budget, the Railway have provided Rs. 2.5 crore for this over-bridge project. I would like the railway authorities to start the railway portion of the bridge at the earliest. National Highway portion will be started very soon because already the bidding is over. It is open and they will start the work.

Sir, recently the Transport Minister of the Government of Kerala, I am told, had met both the hon. Minister of Railways and the hon. Minister of State of Railways. In Badagara station, a lot of land is there. There was a request that if some land is leased by the railways to the Kerala Government for starting a bus station, that would definitely improve the situation in Badagara station as far as commuting between railway station and rest of the area is concerned.

Sir, regarding Konkan Corporation, unless the doubling of Shornur-Mangalore region is completed it is of no use. Of course, when hon. Minister of State, Shri O. Rajagopal came to Kerala recently, he told that it would be completed only by 2003. I do not know why it should take such a long time. Some contradictory reports are coming. I do not know which is correct and which is wrong. Anyway, we would like to have it completed at the earliest. Unless that is done, there will not be any utility of this Konkan Corporation as far as Kerala is concerned for which we have contributed our might and share. We deserve to have this completed at the earliest.

[SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH]

Sir, in my constituency construction of one bridge has not yet taken off. Then, how can they have the doubling of lines? It has been started one year ago and still it is at the foot level only. It has not taken off.

Then, electrification of Shornur-Mangalore sector is very important. We, in Kerala, get a step-motherly treatment from the Central Government. As far as Malabar region is concerned where my constituency is situated, step-motherly treatment is being given. So, electrification of Shornur-Mangalore sector should be undertaken during the coming Budget.

Moreover, since the days of Comrade A.K. Gopalan, there was a demand from my constituency and also from the rest of Malabar region for a line from Tellicherry to Mysore. In the light of tourism development activity, this would be a very profitable line and, I am told, the survey has already been completed. I hope the hon. Ministers would take care of this important point.

Then, I come to stopping of trains at Badagara and Quilandy railway stations. In the newspapers it has come that the hon. Minister of State, Shri O.Rajagopal has promised to get the stoppage at Badagara for Rajkot and Ahmedabad trains and Kerala Express for Quilandy. So, I hope, you will take care of these things, being a *Malayalee* though representing Madhya Pradesh.

I would like to say one word about the quality of food served in the trains. It has of late become very poor.

Another thing, bedding supplied in Second Class A.C. compartments in Kerala bound trains are of very poor quality. So, I hope, all these matters which I have brought to the notice of the hon. Minister will be taken care of. I promise that I will send the copy of the letter which I received from the Divisional Manager to the hon. Minister.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, personally I have not been able to appreciate why the Government should come to the Parliament repeatedly for Supplementary Demands for Grants after the Budget is passed by the Parliament. It was only in August that we passed the Supplementary Demands for Grants and now again we deal with another set of Supplementary Demands. Yesterday we dealt with the Supplementary Demands (General) and today we are dealing with the Supplementary Demand relating to the Railways. Does it indicate that there is a lack of comprehensive thought about the subject? I think at a time when the Government swears by liberalisation, by reforms, and even claims to have

achieved immense success therein, it is time for us to at least change the mode of Budget preparation and ensure that you come with the Demands only once a year and make arrangements according to the Demands sanctioned or approved by the Parliament. Be as it may, I must say that it is gratifying to note that today's Demands for Grant relate to strengthening of safety measures, particularly regarding manning of the unmanned level crossings. The Minister has drawn our attention to the enormity of the problem. It is a staggering figure of 24,313 unmanned level crossings in the country today. The present Demands relate to 185 of such unmanned crossings. I think if we move at this snail's pace, it will perhaps take over a hundred years to provide for the manning of all these unmanned level crossings. I must, at the same time, say that I do appreciate the concern of the Minister in particular in initiating action in this direction. But we have got to do much more than what we are planning for.

We have the problem of unmanned level crossings and the large number of accidents which lead to immense loss of life and property. But given the state of even the manned crossings that we have in congested cities, even those are not free from danger. Perhaps the design of such crossings or the gates or the leaves – I do not know what you call them – may be of a bygone era and we have all seen it for ourselves that when the gates are closed, it means nothing to the people. People are able to jump the same with impunity. I would take this opportunity to also urge upon the hon. Minister that it is not much of a research or development that is required, but some innovation has got to go into it and you have got to have such gates which leave no scope for somebody to cross over.

It was the Railway Reforms Committee which recommended in 1982 that 2.6 per cent of the current value of the Railway assets be appropriated to a Depreciation Reserve Fund which would be necessary to meet the replacement and renewal requirements of the Railways. From the Report of the Railway Convention Committee, we learn that three years back, the balance there was Rs.1,434 crore and today it is reduced to a meagre... (*Interruptions*) Sir, may I seek the indulgence of the hon. Members to kindly permit me to speak?

Sir, today this amount has been reduced to a meagre Rs. 76.72 crore whereas according to Justice Khanna Committee's report, we need as much as Rs. 15,000 crore for the purpose. I would only like the hon. Minister to tell us as to what are her plans to meet the renewed requirements of the Railways. I do not have to repeat that; but it is a fact, as we learnt from the reports, that the recent accident in Punjab was primarily because of the defective rail track, which needed replacement long back, but was not replaced

because of constraint of resources. But we cannot play with the lives of the people and with the property of the country, with the national assets. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what we are doing about it and what are our plans in this regard.

Having said that, I would only, very briefly, refer to one or two points. I think, if I am not mistaken, a few days back the hon. Prime Minister referred to some corporatisation of railways. I do not know as to what are the Government's plans thereon. But I would like the hon. Minister to take the House into confidence, to spell out the Government's policy thereon as also what does the Government feel because Railways are the major carriers of vital, important commodities which are considered to be the core sector of the country.

We import fertilisers which have to be distributed all over the country. North India produces foodgrains which have to be transported to all parts of the country. Coal comes from there to run the thermal plants. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I think I have not taken much time. Anyway, I must go by your directions. I would conclude here. But I would only, very very briefly, refer to some things for which I have been waiting for so long here and this pertains to my constituency.

Chandigarh is a modern city, a symbol of resurgent, modern India as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said. It is the Capital of two States and also the headquarters of the Union Territory. But the rail services to Chandigarh are not adequate. A city like this should be very well connected with all parts of the country. We have been told repeatedly that the rail connection from Chandigarh to Ludhiana would be a reality very soon. But, perhaps, such promises or assurances have been elusive. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Give me only two minutes time and let the remaining speech be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I think this should not come from the ruling Party side about laying of speeches. It is a practice which we should not be setting up for ourselves in this House here. There have been occasions when we have been sitting for the whole night to talk on these important matters.

I think Railways today is not a social service. It is a requirement. You have to transport goods and commute and this mode of transport must be in competition with the other modes. To meet the needs of the people, there is an imperative and an immediate need to have another Himalayan Queen between Chandigarh and Delhi. We have one, leaving Delhi in the morning, and to meet the needs of the common people there has got to be another one starting from Chandigarh in the morning to reach here. To say that Chandigarh is connected by Shatabdi Express is not enough because Shatabdi Express caters to a different section of the society, to a different category of people. For the common man, whose interests the Government professes to serve, you have got to have one Himalayan Queen or Janata train for the people from Chandigarh to reach Delhi and those places enroute.

There is also the need to connect Chandigarh to the South. You have a weekly train upto Hazrat Nizamuddin which could very well be extended further up to Chandigarh. The railway station is being upgraded and I must thank the hon. Minister for that.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Discussion is being held on the supplementary demands. Discussion goes on on the railway budget throughout the night.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, we are going to have terminal facilities there and the works on washing lines etc. are going on. Therefore, it is the pressing need of the people. A large number of people from the South, from Kerala and Tamil Nadu in particular, and also the Service personnel are settled in Chandigarh. Those people would like to come some time to the in place and there is no connection for them. I would urge the hon. Minister to extend some trains from Ambala to Chandigarh as has been done in the case of the Paschim Express.

Then, certain coaches could be attached and detached and put on with other trains from there so that people settled in Chandigarh, Kalka and other areas in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab, could avail of this facility and come to these places.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time does not allow, therefore, please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, in the past, one of the reasons proffered by the Railways for not extending the facilities to Chandigarh was that Chandigarh lacked all these facilities at the railway station. I have mentioned that those have been provided and, therefore, there is no reason why the South-bound trains should not now be started. There is a long pending demand of a train from Chandigarh to Haridwar and also to the North-East. There is no reason why these trains should not now be started. You do not have to bring the train all the way from there to Chandigarh. It is only taking the train a little further from Ambala to Chandigarh and Kalka.

I would take this opportunity to request the hon. Minister to look into these aspects and come out with the proposals. At the same time, to conclude, I would request her to refer to, advert to and answer the very few queries that I have brought before her. Thank you very much. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, let me say one thing to that hon. lady Member sitting there. I have all the regards for her. If she continues to disturb like that, she will not be able to speak. If she gets an opportunity when I am sitting here, I am saying this with utmost respect, she will not be able to speak. She should know that the Members of the ruling Party have to be accommodative, and know that others have a right to speak. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I have stood here to support the supplementary demand for Grants presented by the Hon. Minister of Railways to meet the expenses of railways. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Now you should also know you would also not speak ... (Interruptions) I will not let you speak ... (Interruptions) I respect everybody but if they are repeatedly interrupting like this, then I will also not let them speak ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (JABALPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had only made this request but he is insulting me like this ... (Interruptions). He is saying that he will also disturb ... (Interruptions).

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You were disturbing time and again. Therefore, if you speak, I will not let you speak. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had only requested him to conclude fast. What else I had said? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You will also not be able to speak ... (Interruptions) What had I said against you that made you speak like that ... (Interruptions) what was wrong with you that made you cry in between ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : I had requested to the hon. Chairman ... (Interruptions) I had said nothing to you. Why are you crying? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Miss Mamata Banerjee is a dynamic Minister. And we have much expectations from her ... (Interruptions) we pray to the God that may she become the Chief Minister of West Bengal very soon.

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (BULANDSHAHR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my submission is that if we call the lady members first sitting in the House, it would be more convenient ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : You first listen to me. And listen to our leader later on ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that the Railway Minister is also a lady and she will have to sit till the last. Will she also leave the House? we lady members are here to sit along with her ... (Interruptions). We are here to give her company ... (Interruptions). We are not going to leave her alone. ... (Interruptions).

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would be happy if she becomes the Chief Minister of West Bengal very soon and gives respite to the people as a head of the Government. But what I want to say that the relationship between Bihar and West Bengal is very old. Earlier Bihar and West Bengal were one state. We have been separated from the same place but if you try to pay all attention to West Bengal only ignoring Bihar, it would be disappointing for the people of Bihar. Be it Shri Ram Vilas Paswan or Nitish Kumar ji who had been the Railway Minister earlier, the funds for railway projects which were sanctioned for Bihar are being released at a very slow pace. The funds allocated for various sanctioned scheme are meagre, be it a new rail line, gauge conversion, doubling of rail line, electrification, construction of a railway bridge or over bridge.

If you see to it, you will realise that if funds are provided at this pace I am afraid if these schemes would be completed even in as hundred years or not. The people of Bihar are amazed at it. I would like to submit that Bihar is a backward state and after carving the Jharkhand state out of it, it has become poorer. We are left with 70 per cent of population now whereas the sources of income have remained only 30 per cent. We have got a total of 90 lakh hectares land out of which 68 lakh hectares of land is affected by floods. If possibilities of rail facilities are ruled out in such areas and funds are not provided in time, it would be gross injustice to Bihar. A proposal regarding a rail line between Captanganj-Thava-Chapra has been shunting between the Railway Ministry and the Planning Commission since a long time, you know about it because you also pass through that area. The Sitamarhi-Muzzafarpur rail line has been sanctioned but going by the pace at which work is going on, I do not know whether I will be able to travel on the above rail line in my life. Many a scheme of Bihar has been pending. You know it very well that the foundation of the Ganga bridge was laid by the then Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda. We know that foundation was laid and survey was conducted and it is now five years since then but the final lay-out of the bridge has not yet been prepared. We have got only one bridge at Mokama—this is a road cum railway bridge across the river Ganga. And the second bridge is in Patna, a road bridge. Road bridge and rail bridge have been sanctioned for Munger but no work has yet commenced on these also. You know that a four lane over bridge has been sanctioned at Chiraiya Tal. But funds are not being provided for that also. I want to read it out. Fathuha-Islampur, Rajgir-Hiswa-Tilaiya (to connect Rajgir with Gaya), Ara-Sasaram, Rajgir-Islampur, Daniyanwa - Biharsharif - Seikhpura, Khagaul- Punpun-Daniyanwa (Patna bypass) Mandarhill - Ramapurhat via Dumka, Beoghar-Sultanganj, Patna-Ganga rail bridge, Munger-Ganga rail cum road bridge, Shagaria-Kusheshwarsthan, Daraunda - Maharajganj, Sakari - Hasanpur - Barauni, Muzzafarpur - Minepur - Sheohar-Pipradi - Belavaghat - Dhaka - Motihari, Bagaha - Chhitauni, Siotamarhi - Sonbarsa - Bhithamor - Jainagar, Hajipur-Sagault via Vaishali, Delhi to Gadwa, Sasaram to Bhabhuva via Chunar, Supol - Triveniganj - Jadia - Bhargama-Raniganj - Araria. These are the new rail lines sanctioned to be constructed. But the funds sanctioned for some rail lines are five lakh rupees or say ten lakh rupees. How the work on these lines could be completed within the paltry sum? Similarly land filling is on for gauge conversion of the Jai Nagar-Darbhangha to Narkatia via Sitamarhi. Land is being filled on the both sides from Jai Nagar to Darbhanga. Narkatia Ganj to Darbhanga is a broad gauge line. What is the fault of people of the area between Darbhanga to Narkatiaganj? People are doing cultivation in that area, vegetables are grown. When Parmal is priced at Rs. 5 per

kg. in our area, it is Rs. 15 per kg. in Patna and it is priced at Rs. 25 in Delhi. If the above section is converted into broad gauge line, the people of that area can have direct access to the market of Delhi and they can take their produce to other markets also. It should have been done via Gorakhpur but that is not done. I am concluding in five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude in one minute.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Similarly, the work of gauge-conversion of the Jainagar - Darbhanga - Narkatiaganj, Mansi - Saharsa - Farbisganj, Kaptanganj - Thawe - Siwan-Chapra, Katihar - Jogbani (along with Katihar-Radhikapur), Mansi-Samastipur, Darbhanga Nirmali, Jhanjharpur-Lokakha rail lines should be undertaken.

In doubling work the rail lines of Sonnagar-Mugal Sarai (Third line) Patna-Parsa Bazar (Patna Gaya phase one), Parsa Bazar, Punpun (Patna Gaya phase two), Punpun Tarangana (Patna Gaya phase three), Tarangana Gaya (Patna Gaya phase four), Sahibganj Naya Farkka Malda, Chhapra, Hajipur, Karpurigram Shiho, Kishanganj, Dalkolha, Kiul Gaya, Kiul Kajra, Baruni Katihar, Kiul Barharwa via Bhagalpur, Muzzafarpur to Gorakhpur, Darbhanga to Narkatiaganj should be taken in hands.

Finally, I would like to conclude after touching the railway over bridges. Construction of rail over bridges at Didarganj on the Patna bypass, Fathuha, Chukti between Mahashkhut and Mansi, east of Bhagalpur railway station, reconstruction and widening of the Chiraiya Tand rail bridge in Patna and construction of rail over bridge at Mithapur in Patna Gaya section, near Hajipur, construction of rail over bridge on the national highway No. 28 in Mortihari, on the both sides of which pillars have been erected for the purpose, only it has to be covered, Panchgathia in Saharsa, Kishanganj and construction of a rail under bridge near Karauta should be undertaken.

I had to say lot of things but if you say to conclude I would cut it short. At the same time I would humbly request to the Hon. Railway Minister, Mamata Bahen that Bihar should not be meted out step motherly treatment and Bihar should get justice. I also represent the same area to which they belong too. A newly introduced Rajdhani Express crosses through Chapra. But my request is that the Delhi bound Rajdhani Express from Guwahati should run via Gorakhpur. I hope my request will be taken care of.

*SHRI RANEN BARMAN (BALURGHAT): Mr Chairman Sir, I shall speak in Bengali.

MR CHAIRMAN : Yes that will do.

SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Railways. Sir, we know that the progress of any civilisation depends on development of railways. Keeping in view the holistic national development, the budgetary allocation for railway has been far from adequate. It is really regrettable. We know that both the Government and the Ministry have failed to sanction sufficient fund for the over all development of railway. According to some report 85 percent of railway lines were laid during the British rule. Only 15 percent of railway lines have been completed after 50 years of independence. It is indeed embarrassing that sufficient attention has not been paid to develop railway connection and transport.

We know that the development of any region depends on the railway connection and mode of transport. It is a matter of shame that even after 52 years of independence so many areas in India have no link with railway lines. I come from Balurghat of South Dinajpur and my region is mainly dominated by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The Government has many schemes and projects for the upliftment of the areas dominated by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But I am sorry to say that there is a vast difference between what the Government says and what it does. The gap is always there between saying and doing.

Sir, you will be surprised to know that after 52 years of independence there is not even a metre long railway line in my area. People have been agitating to have railway connection since long. The survey for Eklakhi Balurghat project was completed in 1984. The length of the railway line to be laid is only 90 kilometres. The survey was done to lay the 90 kilometres railway line in 1984. But the Railway Ministry could not lay the 90 kilometres railway line even after 16 years. It is really something shocking.

A sum of Rs 10 crores was sanctioned when Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was the Railway Minister. Then during the tenure of Shri Nitish Kumar Rs 20 crores were sanctioned. Now our Hon. Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee has sanctioned Rs 50 crores. But the 90 kilometres stretch has not been completed even today. So Sir, I urge upon the Government that if they are really sincere and honest to develop Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes area then the long standing demand of completing the 90 kilometres length of railway line pertaining to Eklakhi Balurghat must be completed by next year. Sufficient fund should also be provided to complete this long pending work.

I also draw the attention of our Hon. Minister to the urgent demand of making the hanging bridge in Radhikapur

fit for use by the local people. This will help the people of that area. The people of North and South Dinajpur have to travel to far off places like Chennai for medical treatment as these areas lack sufficient medical facilities. But sometimes they cannot go even for medical treatment because they fail to get the railway tickets. So I demand that there should be some quota from railway for the smooth travel to other area to get medical treatment. If this demand is sympathetically considered and met, the people of these two districts of Dinajpur will be benefited.

While discussing Railway Budget we cannot forget the importance of safety measures for the passengers. There is an alarming rise in railway accidents. Our Minister knows that there was a serious dacoity in Gaur Express the only train from our area on its way to Sealdah from Malda on 12th December, 2000. These dacoities are happening very often in this train. So effective steps must be taken to combat these dacoities.

There is no pantry car in Farakka Express. If a pantry car is connected in Farakka Express, passengers will be benefited. I must mention about late running of Gaur Express. People travelling by the only train from this area face immense difficulty for late running. I request the authorities to look into it and take some measures so that the train does not run late.

With these demands and once again thanking you, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (BULANDSHAHR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mamataji has moved the proposal regarding Demands for Supplementary Grants (Railways). This is concerning safety. The hon. Minister has given special attention to the issue of safety keeping in view the accidents which took place recently. There is actually need to give special attention to the issue of safety. I believe that rail accidents take place due to the lack of proper maintenance. I would like to request the hon. Minister to give special attention to this matter. Moreover, I would like to request to replace the old rail tracks with new ones so that rail accidents may be avoided.

I do not want to take much time of the hon. Minister on the issue of sanitation, but I would certainly like to say that sanitary system in railways is not upto the mark. Particularly the sanitary work of railway stations is not at all upto the mark. If you go to Kanpur and if your train halts at Kanpur station even for two-to-five minutes, then due to bad smell it becomes difficult to stay in the coach. Similarly, there are so many stations where sanitary conditions are very bad.

Drinking water facility also require improvement. The water tanks meant for supplying water to the common passengers should be cleaned twice in a year. The rich people drink bisleri water. This is an irony for this country that water is costlier here than milk.

There is only one Express train between Delhi and Lucknow. That train takes nine hours to reach Lucknow from Delhi. The Delhi-Lucknow rail line should be doubled soon and this route should also be electrified. The said train is also called the VIP train. The running time of that train between Delhi and Lucknow may be minimised. There are some trains for Bareilly. If you go there either from Lucknow or from Delhi you will reach there around 2 o'clock in the night. So, the Government should start some such trains which reach there either in the morning or in the evening. Even after fifty years of independence there are several places in Uttar Pradesh which are not directly linked with railway service either from Lucknow or from Delhi. There are several district head quarters like Bulandshahar, Bijnore, Nainital, Farrukha, Etah which are not linked with rail services. The area which I represent is only 70 kms. from here. That place is neither linked from Delhi nor from Lucknow directly. If you go to Bulandshahar from Delhi through train it takes 6 hours whereas if you go there by bus or car it takes one and half to two hours. There is no train from Lucknow either. Earlier, some coaches were provided for this place in the Sangam Express which were withdrawn later on. Earlier a passenger train used to run upto there. I would like to suggest that if some coaches from Meerut are brought and connected with Farrukha then in that case Bulandshahar may be linked with Lucknow and Farrukha-Malda, while returning those coaches of the same train should be detached at Khurja junction and those coaches may be attached to passenger train which will take them to Meerut. Such coaches may be easily provided. Earlier there was a shuttle service from Delhi which went upto Khurja junction via Hapur. That train was in operation for a long time but the department withdrew it. The Government is curtailing the facilities instead of increasing them. I have been a Member of Parliament four times. I have observed that for the last 20-25 years no developmental work has been done by the railway department at Bulandshahar junction or in its nearby districts. I would like to request that at least one shuttle train must be started for that place. A demand in this regard was made during the tenure of Paswan ji and I reiterate that a shuttle train should be started so that the distance upto Bulandshahar may be minimised and we may also join the mainstream. When Paswanji was the Rail Minister he had given rupees one crore for conducting a survey. The estimate of Rs. 42 crore has been submitted. I would like to request the hon. Minister to at least make a provision of Rs. 20 crore so that the said scheme may be implemented. This line is only 16.3 km. long.

I hope that the hon. Minister would pay attention towards this matter.

Lastly, I would like to add one thing more. The people of Delhi are facing the problems of overcrowding and environmental hazards. Unless the National Capital of Delhi is provided with suburban rail facility, neither the environment related problems nor the problem of traffic congestion on roads are going to be solved. The suburban areas of Delhi upto 100 kms. should be linked with suburban rail facility. I hope that the hon. Minister will definitely pay attention to may requests.

*SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER (HATHRAS) : Sir, I am thankful to you for providing me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on Demands for Supplementary Grants of Rail Budget for the year 2000-2001. The then Rail Minister Shri Nitish Kumar had in reply to my question on 11.6.1998 stated that the proposal to construct an over bridge at railway crossing No. 95 at Hathras junction was sanctioned in 1996 and that the order to issue tenders for construction of the said bridge had also been passed. He said that the construction of the said bridge would be started soon and that the budget provision for this purpose had also been made. Thereafter the present Minister took over the charge when I reminded her of this through a letter, she replied that Rs. 8 crore 50 lakh were sanctioned for this purpose and that the Union Government had already released the budget amount. But the State Government had not released its share of money and that she had written a letter to the State Government in that regard to release their share of money.

Sir, after receiving the reply from the hon. Minister, I wrote to the State Government. I also wrote a letter to the hon. Minister of Public Works of the State Government. He replied that the share of the State Government would be released soon and the construction work of the said over bridge would be taken up. After some time the share of State Government was also sanctioned. When both the Union and state governments have released their shares of funds why that work is now being delayed.

Through you I would like to say to the hon. Minister of Railways Kumari Mamata Banerjee that the people are facing a lot of difficulties for want of a bridge at the said place because the traffic for Bareilly, Muradabad, Sikandrara to Agra, and also traffic from Khurja, Bulandshahar, Aligarh cross through that road and they are held up at this railway crossing for several hours. The Union Government should instruct the State Government in this regard and the construction of the said bridge should be started soon. If you act fast according to your reputation, we would be really thankful to you.

[SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER]

Sir, the Hathras city is quite far from Hathras junction. There is a railway station at Hathras city and there is also a famous trader's mandi. The traders and the passengers have to face difficulties for want of adequate railway facilities. There are only a few trains from Delhi which run upto Bareilly via Mathura-Hathras. There is also a train upto Muradabad. People have been demanding for years that the EMU which starts from Delhi and reaches to Aligarh at night and terminates there, that EMU train should be terminated at Hathras city and next morning that train should start from Hathras and should reach Delhi via Aligarh. If that is done the people of that area will get much needed relief.

Sir, Barauni Express runs from Delhi to Aligarh and from Aligarh junction it stops at Tundla. People find it convenient if the train stops at Hathras after leaving Aligarh. Orders should be issued to provide stoppage to Barauni Express at Hathras junction in the public interest.

*SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (VADODARA) : Sir, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants and I thank Mamata ji for running the department smoothly and paying additional attention to the improvement and safety aspects in the department.

One of the major reasons for railway accidents is unattended railway level crossings. I thank the hon'ble Minister for taking the most expected decision to deploy chowkidars at 185 railway level crossing through out the country. It will certainly prevent railway accident.

I would like to invite Mamataji's attention towards a regional demand. This demand is being made for the last 12 years in my Parliamentary constituency Vadodara. Siyaji Nagri Express is the only train which runs on time between Vadodara and Mumbai for the working class people. The railway Department has taken a decision to extend it upto Gandhidham. This decision has come as a blow for the commuters of Vadodara city. The city dwellers of Siyajinagar and Vadodara are emotionally attached with one another. Therefore, I make a request and also demand that the matter may be reconsidered and keeping in view the sentiments of people of my Parliamentary Constituency, Siyaji Nagri Express should run between Vadodara and Mumbai only and not be extended upto Gandhidham.

With these words, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants and conclude.

**SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to

speak on the Supplementary Demands of the Ministry of Railways for the year 2000-2001.

Sir, Railways play a vital role in strengthening the economy of any country. The back benchers normally do not get chance to speak. Today you have allowed me to speak. I thank you very much for that.

Indian Railways has its own century old history. During the regime of kings and *Maharajas* also much importance was given to Railways as it plays a very important role in the progress of our country. But unfortunately these days its administration and efficiency is coming down to the lowest ebb. It is incurring losses and people are also put to all kinds of difficulties. The reason for this is the inefficient officers and their lack of interest. Their indiscipline is also responsible for this. This has to be rectified by the NDA Government with immediate effect. Constraint of funds is also one of the reasons. Discipline has to be inculcated among the officials. They have to change their dictatorial attitude and understand the pulses of the common people. They should operate the railway system according to the needs of the people.

I have all respects to Madam Mamataji who is quite efficient and an able administrator. She has to inculcate discipline among the officials and other railway workers.

Vast railway land has been encroached by private parties. Regarding this matter the concerned Committee has already given its Report. C&AG has also given its Report. That is why Railways is incurring huge losses. Now, so many new projects have been taken up. This step is politically motivate. For example in Karnataka 26 new projects have been taken up and they are pending for the last 10 to 15 years. Hassan-Mangalore gauge conversion is still pending. Similarly, Bangalore-Hassan railway line is also pending. Mysore-Styamanagal line is also pending. The Hon'ble Minister should try to complete these ongoing projects instead of inaugurating new projects. Sufficient funds have to be allocated to complete these pending projects.

One joint venture programme was arranged recently in Bangalore to take up four important projects in Karnataka. Hon'ble Minister was kind enough to come to Bangalore and inaugurate the projects. It should not end up in inauguration itself. They should be taken seriously and they must be completed on time. The fruits of these projects should reach the people as early as possible.

There are no doctors in several railway hospitals. The hospitals are there and the patients go there regularly for treatment. But what is the use if there are no doctors in these hospitals. Madam Mamataji should take courage and post doctors to all these railway hospital with immediate effect. Otherwise, people will lose faith in the Railway Ministry itself.

* Laid on the Table

** English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Karnataka has been neglected by the Railways for the last several decades. There were five Railway Ministers at the Centre from Karnataka. Even then, no substantial development has taken place with regard to new lines and gauge conversion in the State. At least now the NDA Government should wake up and complete the pending railway projects in Karnataka. The people of Karnataka are aspiring a lot from Madam Mamata Banerjee. She should rise to the occasion and do justice to the people of Karnataka. I hope and believe that the Hon'ble Minister will not disappoint the people of Karnataka.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity and with these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (NAVADA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Through you, I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister for the efforts being made for the development of Railway Department, I would like to state that there should not be any discrimination while approving the railway projects. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that the projects should be selected on the basis of merits and demerits of the projects and not on the basis of the demands made by big leaders.

Sir, Shri Jha has made an elaborate submission on Bihar. I am not going to discuss that but I would like to say that the Kyul-Gaya rail section in Danapur division dates back to pre-independence time. It has been neglected. Several times in the past, we have stated that the Keyul-Gaya rail section is the citadel of Naxalism in Bihar. Special attention should be paid to Kyul-Gaya rail section. Express trains should be run on this section and the track should be doubled. This will help control naxalism in Central Bihar.

The second thing is that Jamalpur was once the biggest railway workshop in Asia where 26,000 employees worked. Today only 4000 employees are working there. Hon'ble Minister, the employees who were dependent on that workshop should not be deprived of the employment opportunity. Keeping in view, the infrastructure of the Jamalpur railway factory and its utility, this factory can be revived and the retrenched staff can be reinstated. The third point is that several schemes have been launched for the weaker sections through railway. Recently 20 persons have been recruited as rail travel agents in Bihar and approx. 734 agents have been recruited all over the country. However, it is a matter of surprise that reservation norms have not been followed for SCST people and women in these appointments. The hon'ble Railway Minister should pay attention to it and should seriously consider the issue of not

providing reservation to weaker sections in the recruitment of rail travel agents. Keeping in view the points given by me in writing, attention should be paid to pending projects in Bihar. It is all right that in the past several Railway Ministers belonged to Bihar, however, the tasks which they failed to perform, will be accomplished by sister Mamataji. I hope the points raised by me will be considered and justice will be done. I am sure that Bihar will march ahead in the matter of railways during her tenure. I place my written speech on the Table of the House.

*Honourable Speaker, Sir, through you I am submitting a few issues before the honorable Minister.

Under your strong and dynamic guidance, your ministry has done many remarkable works of railway development in the neglected areas. You have not given importance to the impractical projects like the former ministers and former Members of Parliament like us with encouragement and hope. I do hope that this time you will accord your approval to the projects not on the basis of influence of the leaders but on the basis of merits and demerits thereof. I have raised the under mentioned issues on a number of occasions through various systems of the Parliament. But the leaders like me having little influence have got very little say in such matters. As such, these main issues have not been taken care of properly. Once again I am raising these issues before you point-wise:-

1. Express train be introduced without any delay in Kiul Gaya Section of Danapur division to Calcutta, Delhi and Guwahati and the rail lines on these routes be doubled.
2. The optical fibre communication in Kiul Gaya rail section be made operational without any delay.
3. Navada Railway station located amidst the Kiul Gaya Rail section be immediately declared as a model station and basic facilities be ensured at that station.
4. The Railway Ministry has adopted the biased attitude for the last five years towards Jamalpur workshop, which is the biggest workshop of Asia. The same should now be changed and in view of the previous infrastructure available there. A diesel and electric engine workshop and Apprentice course be started like before so that 22000 employees, who had worked there, are not deprived of their jobs and their families are not let to suffer.

[DR. SANJAY PASWAN]

5. Guwahati Rajdhani should originate from Samastipur which is a Divisional office of Eastern Railway so that people like you and representatives like us could get better facilities and the Diesel Workshop announced by the former minister be started there without any delay and besides this a train should be introduced from Darbhanga terminal of this division to Guwahati.
6. Whatever beneficial schemes are being implemented under the control of your ministry, weaker sections of the society have been given representation therein but I am extremely sorry to say that no reservation has been provided to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in providing jobs as Rail Yatri Sewa Agents as the honourable Minister of State Shri Digvijay Singh has replied in response to my unstarred question No. 2912 dated 7.12.2000. Madam, it is very serious issue that where 734 agents have been reinstated, these weaker sections have not been allowed to represent. It is an open violation of the Constitutional rules and commitments of the National Democratic Alliance.

Through you I demand that the matter be investigated without any delay and the qualified candidates of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and weaker sections be give suitable representation and all the above issues raised by me be taken seriously and justice should be ensured.

21.51 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the opportunity given to me to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants. I will not repeat the points regarding the passengers' amenities, which a number of other Members have already raised. I would like to bring forth some of the problems the railway sector of the Kerala State is facing.

The Kerala State is trailing far behind when compared to other States as far as the development of the railway sector is concerned. Though the number of people using railway facility in Kerala is increasing day by day, not much effort has been made to develop the railway sector accordingly. Kerala State may be declared as a railway zone in order to meet the needs of the State. This matter was brought to the notice of

the Ministry long ago. Though we were given an assurance by the Railway Ministry that a railway coach factory would be installed in Kerala, it has not yet been fulfilled.

The work on the doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore line has been going at a very slow pace because of inadequate funds. I would request the hon. Minister to allocate sufficient fund for the completion of the doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore line.

The hon. Minister may be kind enough to allocate funds needed for the doubling of Ernakulam-Kottayam-Kayankulam and Alapuzha-Kayankulam lines in the next Budget. The electrification of the Ernakulam-Trivandrum line also should be completed as early as possible. I would request the hon. Minister to give necessary preference to installing Angamali-Erumeli-Sabarimala railway line. A separate corporation, in the same line as in the case of Konkan Railway, may be constituted for this purpose. The work on this line could be expedited only if there is a corporation.

Another proposal is, Angamali-Sabarimala line may be extended and linked to Chennai-Kollam railway line, via Pathanamthitta-Konno-Punalur.

Enough funds should be allocated for the completion of the second stage of gauge conversion of the Chennai-Kollam meter gauge line in the next Budget. If the entire track is converted into broad gauge, the tourism and industrial sector of both Kerala and Tamil Nadu will be benefited.

Work can be started in the proposed Chengannur-Adoor-Kottarakara-Trivandrum line, if necessary funds are allocated in the next Budget.

The survey work of the Chengannur-Adoor-Kottarakara-Trivandrum line has completed long ago. I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly start a Railway out agency at Adoor. Sir, Adoor is my constituency. There is no Railway line or Railway Station there. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to allow, at least, one Railway out agency.

Sir, there is a long pending demand of the people of my Constituency for a passenger train from Kollam to Rameswaram. Rameswaram is a holy place. I hope that the hon. Minister will consider my demand.

Sir, around 5 lakh to 10 lakh Malayalis live outside Kerala. They live all over the places like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, etc. That is why, we are asking for connection from all the State Capitals to Kerala. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal demanded a train from Chandigarh to Trivandrum. Sir, I also demand the following trains, namely, Chandigarh-Trivandrum, Jaipur-Trivandrum, Ahmedabad-Trivandrum, and Howrah-Trivandrum on a daily basis. I

would also like the hon. Minister to introduce daily trains from Chennai-Trivandrum, Trivandrum-Chennai, Bangalore-Trivandrum, and Trivandrum-Bangalore.

[Translation]

*SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH (SIDHI) : Sir, having supported the supplementary demands for grants of the railways, I would like to draw your kind attention towards the problems of my constituency.

1. Sidhi Parliamentary Constituency consists of several parts of the Central Railway and South Eastern Railway. If the proposed rail line between Lalitpur-Singarouli is linked with Madwas, Jowa station, then the distance between Lalitpur to Singarouli would be reduced to 80 kilometer and the said rail line would be linked with Katni-Singarouli rail route.

2. The passenger train running between Chirmiri to Bilaspur under South Eastern Railway reaches Bilaspur in the morning and stay there the whole day. If this train is extended upto Durg via Raipur, the passengers of three districts could be adequately facilitated and direct rail facility would be available from Raipur capital which is not available till now. And in this passenger train, with the reservation of one Coach to Gevra station, the people of Korba Keolanchal would be benefited.

3. There is Boridand junction on the rail lines from Anuppur to Vishrampur. Vishrampur railway line is covered by hills on both sides. During rainy seasons, this rail line is prone to accidents due to falling of big boulders from the hills. If this rail line is linked to Manendragarh-Boridand line near Chaugra Gram, the distance of Manendragarh would be reduced to two kilometers only and chances of accidents would also be over. Besides this, the passengers coming to Manendragarh from Vishrampur would also get relief to a large extent.

4. A Rajdhani express, should be introduced from Katni to Bilaspur, Raipur or Raipur to Delhi via Anuppur so that the passengers may get a better railway facility.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

*SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI) : Sir, there is no difference of opinion that there has been a lot of improvement in Railways under the leadership of Kumari Mamata ji. She has repeated the resolution of implementing a number of new schemes. There has been a lot of progress in the matter of transportation of goods and providing amenities to the passengers. Multi-pronged schemes have

been formulated for safety of railways for the coming ten years for which she deserves congratulations.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards a few problems of my Parliamentary constituency concerning railway and request that the same may be resolved. These problems are as under:-

1. I have been requesting for a long time to provide three railway halt at Mandawali Chander Nagar, Nand Nagri and Dharampur (Gandhi Nagar) in my Parliamentary constituency. But the construction work has been started only in Mandawali Chandra nagar of which the engineering work was to be completed by 31st October which has almost been completed. I would like to submit that the trains may halt there on the first day of the new year i.e. 1st January 2001.
2. Railway halts at Nandnagri and Dharampur should also be constructed expeditiously because these halts are necessary keeping in view the increase in population in trans-Yamuna areas. These would help those passengers who go to New Delhi and old Delhi and congestion would also be reduced.
3. Now-a-days work of construction of Metro railway is going on in Delhi which was being done with the cooperation of Delhi Government and the Government of India in the year 1995. The first phase of work is likely to be completed in the year 2002 with an estimated cost of rupees six thousand crore and first of all the Metro railway would start its operation from Trans-Yamuna. With the result the passengers would be able to travel between Tees Hazari and Shahdara. Special attention should be given to this work so that the work is completed within the scheduled time.
4. The second phase of the Metro railway envisages construction and introducing metro rail between Tees Hazari to Nangloi, Barwala and University to Holambi which should be extended upto Narela. Narela is a grain market and lakhs of passengers would be benefited from it.
5. Likewise a metro rail be introduced from Shahdara to New Delhi Railway station via Anand Vihar National Highway - 24 Nizamuddin Bridge.
6. The main gate of Anand Vihar Railway Station is towards the North therefore one more gate in the Southern direction, i.e. ISBT, Anand Vihar may also be constructed. It may be connected with the Reservation Office and Bus terminals, so that passengers may be benefited by this.

[SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI]

7. Narela and Azadpur Railway stations may also be beautified. Azadpur Railway Station cannot be located from a distance because encroachment (jhuggis) are there on the road which lead to the station. These jhuggis may be shifted somewhere else and the road leading to the station, may be constructed.
8. An overbridge may be constructed at the Bakner Holambi and Bawana Railway crossing as the people have to wait for long hours at the time of arrival of trains.
9. Construction work of a railway bridge had been started in Swatantranagar area of Narela, but due to some unknown reasons, the work was stopped. It may kindly be completed immediately.
10. Railway line from Azadpur Railway Station to Wazirpur Industrial Area and Ashok Vihar, Keshavpuram Dayabasti to old Delhi and New Delhi is double, on which only the goods train ply, passenger trains may also be operated on this line.

*SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR) : Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands of Railway Department. I extend my thanks to the NDA Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and to the hon'ble sister, Mamata Banerjee, for introducing fundamental changes in the Railway Department. Maximum trains are running in time. Number of persons in the waiting list has reduced due to increase in the number of bogies in Express and Mail trains. The most important change is that number of wagons for carrying the goods has increased.

Hon. Mamata Ji, despite fundamental changes in the Railway Department, more improvement are required to be made in a country of 100 crore people. On the one hand Supplementary Demands have been put forth to lay new railway lines but I feel sad to say that in my constituency Kanpur Metropolis from Anwarganj Railway station a passenger train operates on meter gauge line and goes to Vithoor (Brahmavart) but the Railway Department is planning to discontinue this train (Brahmavart) is located at the banks of river Ganges just 25 kilometers away from Kanpur. On the Kanpur-Farrukhabad meter gauge line, a line was laid from Mandhna Junction to Vithoor due to its mythological, religious and historical importance by the Britishers. The queen of Jhansi Rani Laxmibai's childhood days were spent in Vithoor. The war between the Rani of Jhansi and the British, which happens to be the first war of independence, was conducted from Vithoor only. Vithoor was the home of

Tatya Tope and Nanarao Peshwa. Dhruva had practised meditation in Vithoor. His place of meditation, even today, is known as Dhruvtola. There is an ashram of Maharshi Valmiki where Ma Sita had given birth to Luv and Kush. The Gangasnan (bathing in Ganga) fair is held every year on the poomima (full moon day) of Kartik maas (according to the Indian calendar), wherein around two lakh devotees of river Ganges take part. I request sister Mamata not to discontinue the Vithoor-Kanpur train on the basis of incurring losses keeping in mind the mythological, religious and historical importance of Vithoor. I suggest that if the timings of the train are changed, then the loss can be converted into profits.

Kanpur is an important industrial and trading two of North India. There is no direct train for Delhi, Jammu, Bangalore, Mumbai and Chennai. I urge that a direct train from Kanpur to Jammu may kindly be introduced, so that the pilgrims going to have a darshan (glimpse) of Vaishno mata could be benefited. Direct trains may be introduced for New Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Chennai so that trade may grow and Uttar Pradesh could develop. And till the new trains are started, one three tier bogie, one general bogie, one bogie of AC III tier and one bogie of AC II tier may be attached from Kanpur to a few trains viz Gorakhpur-Cochin Express, Pushpaka Express from Gorakhpur to Mumbai and Awadh Express. Oonchahar Express going from Allahabad to Ambala via Kanpur, may be extended upto Jammu and four bogies each of above classes may be attached.

Kindly Dehat is a newly created Janpad with headquarters at Mati. There is no railway line over there. The nearest railway station is Roorah. Roorah may be made the main railway station of Kanpur Dehat and may be developed accordingly. There is no train in the morning from Roorah between 9.00 to 10.00 a.m. for Kanpur Denizens here have launched several movements in this regard. Assurance has also been given by DRM Allahabad during the recent movement. So Moori Express may be given a halt of two minutes at Roorah. One intercity train goes from Kanpur Metropolis to Tundla every morning. I request you to kindly start an intercity train from Tundla to Kanpur metropolis, which may reach there by 10.00 a.m.

The population of Kanpur metropolis is 40 lakhs, but there is only one railway station. I therefore, request that Panki may be developed as a sub urban railway station of Kanpur.

I extend my thanks to the Railway Department for according approval to the construction of an overbridge. There is a need to construct overbridge at Kalyanpur CODGT crossing and Shyamnagar crossing in view of the increasing population and expansion of Kanpur. Similarly there is a need to widen the bridges constructed for

connecting the southern portion of Kanpur and for constructing three new bridges.

Land of the Railway Department is lying vacant in Kanpur city, which may either be given on lease or may be sold to the Kanpur Development Authority because this land is located in the midst of the city and is lying unutilised and nor is expected to be utilised in future. Similarly a lot of land is lying vacant in Chaubepur, Shivrajpur and Bilhaur on G.T. Road. Shopkeepers may be given permits to give a fillip to the road traffic.

At the end, I support the Supplementary Demands and hope that the hon. Minister of Railways may especially consider the aforesaid demands and implement them.

*SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE (SEONI) : Sir, I support the Supplementary Demands for grants of the Railway Minister Mamataji has done a lot of work with regard to railways in the entire country. Many new trains were started and speed of many trains was increased and the administration was also streamlined. Plans for laying down new railway lines are also being formulated, but unfortunately, Madhya Pradesh has been ignored by the hon. Minister of Railways. Madhya Pradesh is located at the centre of the country and as it is surrounded by seven states, all international traffic passes through Madhya Pradesh. This state from geographical point of view is the largest, but the density of Railway lines is very low. Mahakaushal area of Madhya Pradesh is very backward from the point of view of railway facilities. Due to the meter gauge lines laid during the British rule, the development of entire Mahakaushal is getting obstructed.

The demand for conversion of meter gauge line from Nagpur to Nainpur into broad gauge line is pending for a long time. Survey has been conducted thrice but the work of gauge conversion is not taking off due to paucity of funds. I very well know that the Railways can work within its limited resources only but due to continuous ignorance of this area, the people here are becoming restless and are agitating for the last one year and a half. I request that if Chhindwara to Seoni meter gauge line on the Nagpur-Chhindwara-Nainpur railway line is converted into broad gauge then one more important district of Mahakaushal area would be connected with broad gauge line. The primary survey work of gauge conversion from Ramtek to Goregaon has been completed. It is an important railway track of the country. The distance between North and South would be reduced by 350 Km. With the construction of this broad gauge and many backward areas would be connected with the railways. Please allocate budget for this purpose. Since long, a

demand is being made to construct a direct rail link between Jabalpur and Delhi. Twenty one railway lines were proposed by the Madhya Pradesh Administration in the fifth five year plan. A direct railway link connecting the seat of Union Government with Jabalpur was also included in it. Construction of this track would save time and reduce distance. Jabalpur is an important city located in the centre of the country and is the biggest educational centre of the country and many ordnance factories are located there.

Work of gauge-conversion of Gondia-Jabalpur line is going on at a slow pace. Gondia-Balaghat was sanctioned in the Budget but the work is progressing at slow pace. Kindly get the survey work of Balaghat to Jabalpur line completed immediately and accelerate the pace of work. The survey work of this line was started in 1976 and since then it is lying incomplete. If the gauge conversion work of this line goes on with this tardy pace it will not be completed even in the next hundred years. Therefore, there is need to pay attention towards this.

I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister of Railways on behalf of the Gujarati brethren living in Jabalpur for running the Rajkot Express from Jabalpur and request you to kindly provide a five minutes halt for this train at Goregaon. Goregaon falls under my Parliamentary constituency. The Paramhansi Ashram of Dwaraka Peeth Shankaracharya Jagat Guru Swami Swarupanand is situated twelve kilometres from here and a large number of pilgrims from Gujarat visit this Ashram because a large number of followers of Maharaj-ji are living in Gujarat. I have written to you in this regard earlier also.

Though an announcement has been made regarding Jabalpur Railway Zone but it has not been decided so far as to which areas would fall under it. This work was supposed to be completed by the year 2000. The post of the officer on Special Duty (OSD) at Jabalpur under the Western Central Railway is lying vacant for the last six months. Shri R.K. Ghuppal was transferred to Kolkata in July and this post is lying vacant since then.

There is a single rail bridge on the rivers Rod and Wagra Tawa between Jabalpur and Itarasi. There is a need to double the said rail bridge.

The demand for providing computerised reservation facility in my Parliamentary constituency Seoni (Madhya Pradesh) is lying pending with your ministry for years. I request the hon'ble Minister to kindly fulfil this long standing demand. The Mahakaushal region is rich in natural and mineral wealth but it is a most backward region from the development point of view. I hope she will definitely pay attention towards the development of this region because it is not possible to develop any region in the absence of proper rail facility.

*SHRI SUBODH ROY (BHAGALPUR) : Sir, I demand that proper arrangements for sanitation should be made on all the major railway stations particularly the railway stations connected with the places of pilgrimage and on which there is rush of devotees. On such railway stations special arrangements for sanitation should be made.

Seeing the dirty condition of the Ajmer railway station complex it appears that the railway management is least concerned about the health of the passengers. Same is the condition of Gaya station in Bihar.

This supplementary demand also reflect the total indifferent attitude of the Minister of Railways and the Government towards Bihar. There is only a mention of Chiraiyat and bridge (Patna) whereas there is an urgent need for laying new rail lines in various areas and construction and repairing of bridges at different places and renovation of railway stations in regard to which no mention has been made.

The eastern Bihar once again has been neglected. After the last devastating floods the most useful train for the common passengers running from Sealdah to Mughalsarai is being run from Sahebganj upto Jamalpur only.

I demand that the DMU trains between Sahebganj and Kiul should be run in time and the number of trains should be increased. The Jamalpur-Howrah Superfast Express should be reverted back to the earlier time schedule for the convenience of the common passengers. The recent change in the time schedule has created more difficulties to the people. Besides timely running of Magadh Express be ensured and stoppage should be provided again to the Bhagalpur Intercity Express at Akbarnagar station and to Brahmaputra mail at Sultanganj railway station. In addition to this the Rajdhani Express to Sealdah and Howrah should be run via Bhagalpur twice in a week.

*SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL (BETUL) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Hon. Minister towards the stoppage of the trains at railway stations under my Parliamentary constituency Betul Harda. There are eight Assembly segments in my Parliamentary constituency and out of these six Assembly segments are connected by trains. Most of the population of these areas is dependent on trains for travelling and a large number of railway stations fall under my Parliamentary constituency. I have written a number of letters to the Ministry of Railways regarding providing stoppages of trains but nothing have been done. The railway stations falling under my Parliamentary constituency for which providing a stoppage of trains the attention of the Ministry of Railways has been drawn include Timrani, Harda

and Khirkia and are under the Bhopal Railway Division and the railway stations on the Mumbai Itarsi route include Ghodadongri and Multai and falls under the Nagpur Railway Division. The names of the trains stoppage of which has been demanded are as under :-

Nagpur Railway Division –

Ghodadongri Railway Station-

1. 2407-2408 Mahamaya Express : Hazrat Nizamuddin -Bilaspur Nagpur – Hazrat Nizamuddin
2. 5011-5012 Cochin Gorakhpur Express
5021-5022 Cochin Barauni Express
5089-5090 Secunderabad Gorakhpur Express
5091-5092 Bangalore-Gorakhpur Express
7081-7082 Trivandrum-Indore Express.

This is the one train which runs on different names but the timings are same, 8225-8226 Mahanadi Express Bhopal-Bilaspur-Bhopal.

Multai Railway Station-

- 6031-6032 Chennai-Jammu, Chennai Jayanti Andaman Express.
6093-6094 Lucknow-Chennai-Lucknow Express
9767-9768 Jaipur-Chennai-Jaipur Express
7091-7092 Secunderabad Wara Secunderabad Express.

Bhopal Railway Division

Harda Railway Station-

- 5217-5218 Kuria-Muzaffarpur Kural Pawan Express
5219-5220 Lokmany Tilak Darbhanga Express.
1071-1072 Lokmany Tilak Varanasi Kamayani Express
Timrani Railway Station
9045-9046 Surat Varanasi Rapti Ganga Express
9047-9048 Surat Patna Surat Tapti Ganga Express
5217-5218 Lokmany Tilak Muzaffarpur Express

Therefore, I want that the Minister of Railways should consider about these trains.

Betul station is a major railway station. Its revenue generation has gone Rs. 3 crores. Computerised tickets are being issued at this railway station but computerised

reservation facility is not available at this railway station. Earlier it was included in the list of the stations which were to issue computerised reservation tickets but I do not know the reasons due to which action was not taken thereon subsequently. Betul railway station between Nagpur and Itarsi is the maximum revenue generating station and it is the district headquarters as well. Therefore, I request you to kindly provide computerised reservation facility at this station.

Betul, Ghodadongri, Amala, Multai and Harda are the major railway stations under my Parliamentary constituency. STD facility is not available at these stations due to which the passengers suffer a lot. Therefore, STD booths should be started at all these stations.

Sir, through you I again request that my suggestions should be considered seriously and arrangements should be made to provide stoppage of trains at the places mentioned by me.

With these few words I support the supplementary demands of Railways.

*SHRI BAHADUR SINGH (BAYANA) : Sir, there is a narrow gauge line from Dahulpur to Sarmathura in my Parliamentary constituency. Gauge conversion should be carried out upto Gangapur because Badi and Karauli are on this route where stone market and India's famous religious place, the temple of Karauli Mata are located. Twice in a year almost 20 lakh devotees from India and abroad congregate there. Visitors have to face many problems in reaching there through agro goods carrier and buses as there is no facility of railways. If this place is linked with railways then the department will earn revenue and local stone trade will also prosper. Common people will also get benefited. Lakhs of devotees from Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra come daily to this place to worship the goddess. Therefore, I request you to get this work done immediately.

There are no means of transportation for the traders and daily commuters of Bayana area for commuting to Delhi. Bayana area is a very big commercial centre for stone trade and it has direct link with the market in Delhi. A large number of traders commute to this place daily. But they have to face great inconvenience as there is no facility of trains. A large number of devotees come to the famous temple near the Kela Devi Lake in Bayana area.

1. There is a daily EMU Mathura Shuttle from Delhi which starts at 17.30 hours and reaches Mathura Junction at 20.30 hours and has night halt there. It should be extended upto Bayana junction via

Bharatpur junction with a night halt at Bayana Junction. During this time there is no mail or passenger trains for Bayana. The distance of this route is about 75 kms.

2. This EMU train could leave Bayana at 4 o'clock and reach Mathura to leave for Delhi on scheduled time. There is no train on the Bayana-Mathura track.
3. EMU passenger will reduce the pressure on Paschim Express.
4. Platform is available for EMU Trains at Bayana and Bharatpur.
5. If the EMU passenger train is extended upto Bayana junction then it will solve a big problem of the people of Bharatpur and Bayana area and the department will also earn revenue. Therefore, I request you to issue orders to extend the EMU passenger train upto Bayana in view of the above mentioned suggestions. I shall be grateful to you.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you a lot for giving me a chance to speak at such a time when most of the speeches are being laid on the Table of the House. First of all, I want to congratulate the hon'ble Minister of Railways for bringing improvement in the field of goods freight and passengers amenities, ever since she has assumed the charge of the Ministry. The increase in the target set for goods freight is reflective of this. Therefore, I rise to support the Demands for Supplementary Grants moved today by the Railways Minister. Many things are still to be done because even today majority of the people of this country travel by railways. Railways is the most suitable mean of transport from every angle, be it cheap fare, safety or environmental angle. While supporting the proposals moved by the hon'ble Railways Minister, I would like to submit that I belong to that area of Uttar Pradesh where no development has taken place after independence. I have been elected from Gorakhpur constituency. You will be surprised to know that the headquarters of North Eastern Railways is in Gorakhpur. ... (Interruptions) In 1986, after it became the headquarters of the North Eastern Railways, a rail coach factory was sanctioned to be set up there.

22.00 hrs.

But it was shifted to other place from Gorakhpur due to political discrimination and acrimony. Later on, a part of the Zonal Headquarters, Gorakhpur was shifted to Bihar in 1996-97 and nothing has been done in the name of development in Gorakhpur so far.

[YOGI ADITYA NATH]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit through you that the Gauge conversion work was carried out on Gorakhpur-Narkatiaganj route in the year 1998-99. Prior to that a passenger train was running on that route which was discontinued on the assurance that it would be restored after the gauge conversion. Thousands of employees were commuting by it from Ramkola and Piprayee townships. This train used to arrive in the morning and depart in the evening. This passengers train has been discontinued.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : When did it happen?

YOGI ADITYA NATH : It was discontinued in the year 1998-99 with the assurance that it could be restored after the gauge conversion. But it has not been restored. I want to request the hon'ble Minister that keeping the larger interest of the public in view said passenger train should be restored. Traders as well as employees of the rail factory commute by this train and, therefore, it should be restored in their interest.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, along with this, there has been a demand for many years for construction of an over bridge in Dharmshala Bazar, Gorakhpur. The Uttar Pradesh Government have informed me that they have sanctioned Rs. 3 crore for the over bridge and sent a proposal to the Ministry of Railways. Madam, if this proposal has come to you, you should also sanction the railways' share in it and lay the foundation stone with your own hands for that over bridge in Gorakhpur so that some work should be done in Gorakhpur also in the name of development.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, apart from that, there is an important demand which was articulated earlier by the Member who spoke before me that Vaishali Express is the only train for Delhi from Gorakhpur which comes from Bihar. As you know, people do not purchase tickets in Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not say like that.

YOGI ADITYA NATH : This train is always over crowded and as a result of this we do not get seats when it reaches Gorakhpur. I would like to tell you the incident of last week, we travelled by that train. Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Jaunpur, Shri Chinmayanand Swami was also with me. When we reached the station, we could not get a berth in the train. It created some confusion and later on some persons were found travelling as MPs but they were imposters. At least such tendency should be curbed so that only MPs should travel on MP coupon. To ensure this TTE or concerned railway officials could check the Identity card of the MP. Other persons are travelling as MPs and real ones are deprived of berths. The same thing happened with us. I want to tell the hon'ble Minister that a very good message

has gone among the people that you listen to public grievances. There is waiting list of two months for the Vaishali Express. Therefore a proposal has come to the Railway Ministry to run a duplicate Vaishali Express. There is an urgent need to introduce a new train from Gorakhpur to New Delhi, so that we could be saved from this trouble which face at present. Therefore, I request you to introduce another train like Vaishali Express for New Delhi from Gorakhpur. It was proposed during a meeting of ZRUCC in Gorakhpur and it was decided that there would be four stoppages for this train i.e. Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Kanpur and Delhi. I request the hon'ble Minister to accord her approval to introduce this train. I congratulate you for the efforts you have made in the field of railways and its safety and I support the Demands for Grants.

*SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (GOBICHETTIPALAYAM)

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, at the outset I would like to thank Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi our leader and the General Secretary of AIADMK who enabled me to represent the people of my constituency in this august House. I also thank the Chair for the opportunity you had given me to participate in this discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Railways and the accompanying Appropriation Bill, 2000-2001.

Sir, through you I would like to bring to Hon. Minister's kind notice the mismanagement and inefficiency in the maintenance of cleanliness and sanitation in both passenger platforms of Railway Stations and Goods Yards that handle freight wagons. The situation goes from bad to worse during the monsoon season. Erode Junction and Goods Yard situated in the commercially and historically important Erode town is not maintained properly. Erode was the hometown of the great rationalist leader Thanthai EVR Periyar. But the poor maintenance both in the Railway Station and the Goods Yard calls for an active intervention of the authorities concerned. I had visited the place myself and had seen for myself the extent of rat menace there. Abundant rat population there has given rise to large number of rat holes in and around the platform area and especially on the tracks of the Goods Yard. This gives rise to unhygienic conditions and becomes hot bed of disease spreading whirlpools during the monsoon. The tracks may lose support due to the countless holes dug by these rats and some day soon we may hear of accidents due to derailments as the poorly maintained railway tracks may give in easily. The rat menace has to be contained on a war footing. It has become the root cause of a rat related viral fever that has spread to Bangalore also. Local papers and also the dailies from Bangalore connected by rail with Erode have extensively reported about this spread of viral fever. The rat menace has

* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

resulted in the damages caused to the freight movement of garments and grains from Erode.

In the public interest, especially in the interest of hygiene and health, apart from economic loss that may accrue, Railways must ensure cleanliness, sanitation and hygienic maintenance of Railway Stations, its platforms and Goods Yards. I urge upon the Railways to pay attention to this aspect both from public and economic health of the people in general and the passengers in particular.

In my Gobichettipalayam constituency, near Ooththukuli a railway bridge needs to be constructed. I had drawn the attention of the Hon. Railway Minister to complete this project. But it is pending for long. This has to be speeded up. Salthi-Samraj Nagar rail link project has been cleared but the works to implement the scheme have not commenced still. I urge upon the Hon. Minister to take necessary steps to inaugurate it as early as you can because it is a far cry of the people of my constituency and the adjoining areas even from the neighbouring State. I had listed out a set of demands pertaining to Railways concerning my constituency and gave it to the Minister six months ago. They need to be attended as yet. The Hon. Minister's attention was also drawn to the plight of a pregnant monsoon at Erode. In public interest Railways must have attended to her delivery. They must adequately compensate the inconvenience caused due to inadequate facilities over there. Railways must come forward to set apart certain funds to attend to these kinds of exigencies and social obligations.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kaliappan, you must conclude now. I am calling the next member Smt. Jayashri Banerjee. Please sit.

SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN: Sir, Railways must ensure proper health and medical facilities in Railway Stations even for attending to deliveries.

With this, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (JABALPUR)
Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, supporting the supplementary budget I would first of all like to congratulate Hon'ble Minister for Sanskar Dhani for the job she has done in Rajkot. One thing is still remaining in Rajkot and my request is to kindly extend it to Katani-Damoh-Sagar. Two more Members hail from there and if this job is done we would be grateful to you.

I wish to submit that the railway zone which was supposed to be created on the recommendations of Sareen Committee could not be created due to lack of funds. I would like the hon'ble Minister to pay attention on this and to

increase the amount for gauge conversion till Godia-Nayan-Jabalpur. Survey has been conducted there and land has been acquired. Mandla Tribal region would also be benefited with the completion of this work.

My demands are that the railway lines of the Itarasi-Jabalpur-Allahabad section should be doubled and electrified because in the absence of which lot of problems are being faced in the movement of Amarkantak Express Bhopal Durg to be run daily via Jabalpur. 1449-1450 Jabalpur-Hazarat Nizamuddin to be run upto Jammu for three days and upto Pathankot for the remaining three days. People coming from that area and Satna face a lot of problems while coming to Delhi. Therefore, it is my request that if this job is done people will be highly obliged. Shipra Express 9305, Howrah-Ujjain Express should be run upto Itarasi via Jabalpur because there is no train except Bombay mail from Jabalpur to Howrah as had been promised by you earlier and I hope this demand may be fulfilled this time. There is a demand to increase the coaches in the Cochin-Hyderabad Express 7092 in which people even from Bangalore travel from North to South. Certain problems are being faced there. There is no pantry car in 7090 Varanasi-Cochin train. Such a big train plying from Varanasi to Cochin does not have even A.C.III and even the bogies are not internally connected because of which there is lot of problem. In absence of a pantry car passenger remain without food or drink. Therefore, a pantry car be provided for the benefit of the passengers travelling from North to South.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the quota of 124 seats allotted to Jabalpur in the Ganga-Cauvery Express has been given to Itarasi. This is my request that it should be shifted back to Jabalpur so that facilities can be extended to the public.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Smt. Banerjee you may speak about the supplementary demands otherwise you may lay your speech on the Table of the House.

SMT. JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude by saying only a few more words. I want that Superfast Express, Godwana Superfast Express Mahakaushal and Chitrakoot Express be started from Madan Mahal station. People from Itarasi, Jabalpur and Katani have to travel daily up and down and in absence of a facility have to face a lot of problems. Therefore, the first passenger should be extended upto Katani. A fast train to started from Jabalpur to Nagpur.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a huge land belonging to Indian Oil Corporation is lying unused in Jabalpur because the depot of IOC has been shifted to Bhatani. Railways can utilise that land. There are lot of lacunae in the railway sector in Madhya Pradesh. Jabalpur is a backward area, being in the centre it

[SMT. JAYASHREE BANERJEE]

links all the big cities. World famous tourist places like Bheraghat, Kanha forest are located there. There are lot of defence factories which will be benefited by increasing the Railway services. Even earlier, certain demands have been placed in regard to Madhya Pradesh. Adding my demands with those I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to fulfil our demands.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, supporting the schemes mentioned by the hon'ble Member Shri Raghunath Jha in regard to the supplementary demands of Railways I would like the hon'ble Minister to implement all these schemes. I will not repeat whatever has been said. I support all the demands regarding laying of new railway lines, broad gauge conversions and bringing improvements.

Mr. Chairman, an estimate has been made according to which Railways was given Rs. 3600 crore as budgetary support and Bihar, which constitute one tenth of the population of the country should have been allocated Rs. 360 crore whereas only Rs. 40 crore i.e. approximately one tenth of Rs. 360 crore were given.

Mr. Chairman, the Hajipur-Vaishali-Sugauti railway line which could connect the entire country with Buddhist circuit has not been laid so far. Vaishali is the birthplace of Lord Mahavir and in 2001 we will be celebrating his 126 anniversary and the hon'ble Prime Minister has announced to spend Rs. 100 crore on this occasion. I request hon'ble Railway Minister Kumari Mamata ji that Vaishali the birth place of Lord Mahavir be connected on this occasion with the railway services and a new train bearing Lord Mahavir's name be started.

Mr. Chairman, it was announced that Hajipur will be made the headquarters of the zonal office of railways, but it appears that certain changes are made by applying some pulls and pressures. If this happens, it will not be tolerated and I warn that a big agitation would be organised. Therefore, it is my request that Hajipur be made zonal office headquarters.

Mr. Chairman, whenever we raise any question in regard to the welfare of the railway coolies we are always told to raise this question at the time of discussion on railway budget or grants. I want to tell you that there are seven-eight lakh coolies in the country who are all downtrodden, backward and belong to scheduled castes or scheduled tribes and do hard work. They protect the dignity of high and mighty and extend help to the people who are not able to or, who hesitate to carry their luggage.

This time when I went to Patna, porters told me that no one raised their demands in Parliament and requested me to raise their demands. I promised them that next time I would definitely raise their demands in Parliament. My submission is that porters should be given the class four status so that they can earn better livelihood. We support this demand of porters and request Mamataji to accept this justified demand of porters immediately. Otherwise also, Mamataji's heart weeps for the poor. Therefore, this demand of the porters should be accepted. I have another request that since there is no rest house for porters, arrangement should be made to construct rest houses in which facilities like drinking water and other facilities should be provided. Similarly, there is the issue of sending parcels. At some places, porters are doing this work and at some places contractors are doing this work. This contract system is illegal. Therefore, I would like to say that the contract system for sending parcels should be abolished. All over the country the railway porters should be given this useful task. The porters had raised these two issues. I am raising their demands here because they are down-trodden people. At present I am raising their demands in a very light manner but when Railway Budget is introduced at that time, I will see how much work has been done in this direction. Besides this, issue of Bihar, issue of connecting new railway line to Vaishali and the issue of Hajipur Zone is very important. Similarly, we request that Priority should be given to the questions which hon. Raghunath Jha has raised.

In Bihar all people vote to hon. Mamataji. If she does not do all these things then I will tell the people of Bihar that she is not doing anything for Bihar.(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You are not giving any help instead we are giving help....(Interruptions)

Dr. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Whatever question we have raised, we request you to take special interest in that.

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN (POLLACHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak in the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Railways for the year 2000-2001. Since I am a member belonging to the *Marumalarchchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam*, founded and headed by my beloved leader *Puratchi Puyal*, Shri Vajiko, there is no doubt that I am speaking in favour and support of the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Railways.

Sir, I would like to make only one humble request to the hon. Railway Minister on behalf of the common man of my constituency. About a year ago, that is, during the month of December last year, I had requested the hon. Minister to

convert the Coimbatore-Dindigul railway line via Pollachi, from metre gauge to broad gauge. This conversion will earn good revenue for the Railways and the people of southern part of Tamil Nadu will have an easy link to other parts of Tamil Nadu.

Sir, we have a very important pilgrimage centre, Palani in that area. Then, the Topslip Wildlife Sanctuary is a very big tourist attraction centre. There are many dams in my constituency like Thirumurthi Dam, Amaravati Dam etc. They are all very important tourist centres. So, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to convert the railway line from Pothanur in Coimbatore District to Dindigul from metre gauge to broad gauge.

Then, broad gauge railway line may be laid from Palghat also. In this regard, I have received a reply about nine months ago stating that the project will be shortly taken up, a survey will be conducted and it will be considered favourably. So, I would request the hon. Railway Minister again to take up the project of conversion of Coimbatore-Dindigul railway line from metre gauge to broad gauge immediately so as to satisfy the longstanding demand of the people of my constituency.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. I rise to speak in favour of Demands for Supplementary Grants (Railways). I have been representing the Varanasi Parliamentary constituency in 11th, 12th and 13th Lok Sabha. As per my experience, I can say that the works done by hon. Mamataji are laudable. She has provided jobs to 450 apprentices who had been waiting for appointment for two to ten years. I express my gratitude and thank her a lot. Whatever letter I have written whether it relates to corruption or railways, she not only replied these letters but also took action in regard thereto and informed me. For this, I thank her on behalf of the people of Varanasi. Varanasi is a religious place, a trading centre and is connected to Samath. From such a place, there is no direct train to Delhi. I have drawn the attention of the Government towards this five times during zero hour, under matter 377. I request the hon. Mamataji to introduce a direct night train from Delhi to Varanasi and vice versa. The people of Kashi will remain grateful to her for this act of magnanimity.

[English]

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (COIMBATORE) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I really congratulate Kumari Mamata Banerjee for showing her good achievements as a Minister of Railways. She proved herself a Minister with a difference. I thank her for introducing a 'new millennium train' called 'Kongu Express' from Coimbatore to Nizamuddin. It is a 'new millennium train' without any new coaches. All the coaches are so old that there are no proper pipe connections. The water is pouring inside the coaches. When it is raining, we do not know whether we are sitting on a platform without roof or inside a bogie. There is no pantry car with that train. I do not understand how it has been called 'a new millennium train'. It looks like 'an old millennium train'. Kindly take care of this aspect.

As has been put forward by my colleague, Dr. C. Krishnan, I would request you to provide a broad-gauge line from Coimbatore to Dindigul at the earliest. I want to bring to your kind attention that the double-lining has not taken place from Irgur to Potthanur, Potthanur to Coimbatore and from Coimbatore to Irugur in spite of our taking it up vigorously with the Minister of Railways. The double line has not been provided only for this triangular section.

A Container Terminal is coming up at Irgur. A big depot of the Indian Oil Corporation is also there. But there is no double line only for a small portion. During the first year, they allocated Rs. 1,000. In the second year, they had allocated Rs. 1 lakh. Last year, the allocation was Rs. 1 crore. But we have been told by the General Manager that the double-lining would be over by 2002. The hon. Minister should take care of this request. We do not want to see her here as the Minister of Railways during April next year. But we want to see her as the Chief Minister of West Bengal. Before she goes out, being the Minister of Railways, I would request her to kindly consider our demand. There is no proper lighting at the Coimbatore railway junction which is a very famous place for textiles.

A lot of terrorist activities are taking place there. The railway canteen is run there by the terrorists and it is a hiding place for them. I have brought that to the notice of the former General Manager of the Southern Railway several times. But they are not taking care of it. The same group is still running it. I do not know whether the validity period of their licence is over or not. But my request to her is to kindly look into this matter urgently.

I would request for release of the emergency quota for the trains getting terminated at Coimbatore junction. Even that small request has not been granted by the General Manager.

I also request that the long-pending demand of my area for a new railway line between Chamraj Nagar-Sathi-Gobi-Tirpur-Dharapuram-Palani should be speeded up and completed at the earliest.

[SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN]

Two or three road overbridges are also pending in my constituency. Irugur has been divided. It looks like an island because there is no of the railway line. Kindly take up these road overbridge projects at the earliest. With these words, I thank all of you.

[Translation]

*SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON) : Sir, my constituency, Malegaon has a population of 15 lakh. There is a large market. Manmad railway station is at a distance of about 35 kms. Every day a large number of passengers commute from this station. More time and money has to be spent. It is therefore, requested that a ticket counter should be opened in Malegaon city. Survey work of Manmad, Malegaon, Dhule and Jardana has already been completed. Therefore, laying of new railway lines on this route should be undertaken. Similarly survey work of Pune-Nasik rail line has also been completed. Therefore new rail line should be laid on this route also.

Kumbh Mela will be held in Nasik in year 2003. Due to this the number of commuters would increase considerably. Therefore, the condition of Nasik Road railway station should be improved. There is a Rashtriya High School in Manmad which is 105 years old and for which land has been demanded from the Railways. I would request hon. Minister that railway land should be provided for this purpose. When 2000 people undertook fast under the leadership of Shri Yadav Rao Deshmukhji then at that time the Railway officials of Hyderabad had given an assurance to provide railway crossing in Kusmadi Tehsil. This should be provided as soon as possible.

A train runs between Mumbai and Deogiri but it remains over crowded. There are only two general compartments in this train. It should be increased to three compartments. Nagpur-Mumbai Vidarbha train should be provided stoppage at Nyay-Dongra Tehsil-Nandgaon. Manmad city having a population of 50,000 is a very big station. There is only one overbridge on it. Keeping in view the increasing population and crowd, one more overbridge should be constructed there.

Nasik city is an ancient, religious and industrial city. There is an aircraft manufacturing factory and several other large industries are also there. There is only one train Mumbai-Nasik-Panchvati for this city. A new train should be introduced for Nasik.

Nasik is a big station but reservation facility of AC-II class in Punjab Mail and other Mail trains is not available here. Therefore, this reservation facility should also be provided. Manmad is a big station. Punjab Mail, Karnataka, Goa and other trains also pass through this station but there is no reservation facility for AC-II tier, AC-III tier, second class in these trains at this station. This facility should also be provided.

Almost 105 years have passed since this line was laid. Earlier, the traffic and the population were less but now both have increased. Old railway crossings need repair and improvement. While constructing a railway line its economic feasibility should also be kept in mind but the construction of new rail lines improves the railway system.

There is a famous rail factory at Manmad which require to be preserved.

Sir, I am grateful that you have given me time to speak.

[English]

*SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU (JHARGRAM) : Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on Supplementary Demands on Railway Budget.

Mr Chairman Sir, I come from an area of *adivasis* and I am an MP from Jhargram. I draw the attention of our Hon. Railway Minister and the Central Government to the long pending rail-related demands of Scheduled Tribes of my region. I hope that our Hon. Railway Minister will sympathetically consider the just demands of the *adivasis* area and try to fulfil the demands.

The first demand from this area is construction of a flyover bridge. The flyover bridge is to be constructed at the level crossing on the main road of Jhargram. Every year 3 or 4 people die while crossing the level crossing. I have raised this demand in the 10th Lok Sabha and in several meetings and Committee convened by the Railway Minister. The construction of this flyover bridge has been a long standing demand of the people of Jhargram. This flyover bridge is very much necessary for the safe crossing of the people. I feel the construction of this bridge should not run into rough weather as per railway policy the State Government have agreed to share half the cost of the construction and the State Government has also sent a letter relating to the issue. I hope that the Hon. Minister will consider sympathetically this important demand and see that the flyover bridge is constructed.

I also demand to start local train for Tata Kharagpur and Kharagpur Tata. If the train from Kharagpur leaves between 5 or 5.30 and from Tata 6.30 to 7 in the morning then about 4/5 thousand daily passengers will be benefited. This will help them to reach office in time in Calcutta and will be able to return back home also timely. The daily passengers include State and Central Government employees, teachers, students and many lady commuters also. Keeping in view the urgency of the people, I hope the demand for starting the local trains will be sympathetically considered.

Sir, I also demand to have stoppage at Jhargram because Puri-New Delhi Neelanchal Express pass through Jhargram. Many people commute in these trains for travelling to Delhi. But they have to board the train at Kharagpur for both up and down journey. If the trains stop at Jhargram just for a few minutes then people of this area can travel easily and face less difficulty for boarding the trains.

I also demand to start Railway Health Unit in Jhargram for the benefit of more than 1000/1500 railway employees residing in Jhargram.

Sir, the survey for Jbargram Purulia rail line has also been completed. The demand for railway line between Jhargram and Purulia must be fulfilled because it is a just demand of the *adivasis* of this area. So fund should be provided at the earliest so that the people here get the benefit of railway connection. I request our Didi the Hon. Railway Minister to consider sympathetically the just demand of Scheduled Tribes of my area and fulfil their demand.

Sir, I also draw the attention of the lion. Railway Minister to a very important fact. Nimpur is a halt station in Tata-Kharagpur line. But there is no ticket counter in the station. People in this area are forced to travel often without tickets because of non availability of tickets. It is a punishable offence. If a ticket counter starts functioning immediately here then the railway gets its revenue and the people will also have smooth and less hazardous journey.

With these demands to our Hon. Railway Minister, and thanking you once again for giving me an opportunity to speak, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (DAMOH) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I support the demands for grants of the Railways.

I extend my thanks to sister Mamata ji for the efforts, she made in the interest of poor people by continuing with the same railway fare without any increase and increasing

revenue by giving relief in rail freight and encouraging goods transportation. An overbridge has been constructed in my area. It is the result of active and perfect administrative capability of Mamataji. I invite her to visit the site after two months to inaugurate this bridge. Hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had laid the foundation stone of Lalitpur-Singrauli railway line in my area. I request that this work should be done by providing sufficient funds, so that people of Bundelkhand are benefited by this. I have listed a number of demands of that area in my written speech. I lay it on the Table of the House.

*Sir, the construction work of an overbridge is in progress. It will be completed within two months. Its inauguration will be done by the hon. Minister. Similarly, the survey work of railway line from Jabalpur to Panna via Damoh in my constituency is also in progress.

Sir, the hon. Minister may kindly take into account the work of construction of Lalitpur-Singrauli railway line, the foundation stone of which was laid by the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I, therefore, request her to provide sufficient funds to complete the work of Lalitpur-Singrauli railway line and thus extend her cooperation in the development of Bundelkhand.

There are very meagre railway facilities in my area. Most of the trains are goods trains. I, therefore request that following trains may be introduced for the convenience of railway commuters :

1. Rajkot express makes a halt at Bhopal, it should be run from Bhopal to Katni via Bina Sagar, Damoh.

2. Mahamaya superfast Express runs half from Jabalpur and half from Nagpur, it should be run exclusively from Jabalpur to Delhi.

3. The Sambhalpur-Hirakund Express runs thrice a week. It should be run daily.

4. Indore-Howrah Kshipra Express runs on Bhopal Bina Katni line thrice a week. So Kshipra Express should also be run daily.

5. It is understood that a new train from Ahmedabad to Howrah is going to be introduced in future. I, alongwith all the people of Bundelkhand, very humbly, request that Howrah Express should be run from Ahmedabad to Bhopal via Bina-Sagar-Damoh-Katni. It is very necessary to provide a stoppage to Mahamaya Express at Pathriya. Similarly, Mamataji has really made a good effort by restoring the facility of godown (rail plant) at Damoh railway station. I request her to establish it permanently over there.

[DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA]

Sir, platform No.2 at Damoh Railway station may be extended and seating facilities and facilities for drinking water provided there. There is a dire need to provide a VIP room at Damoh station.

Areas falling in my constituency viz Pathria, Aslana, Sagauni Ghatesh may be provided modern facilities. STD/PCO facilities should be provided at Damoh and Pathria stations.

Inauguration of laying a new railway line from Lalitpur to Singrauli has already been done by hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, but the said work has not been started so far. This may kindly be started soon.

Approval for one Railway Zonal Office each in Jabaipur of Madhya Pradesh and Bilaspur of Chhatisgarh has been given, but the work in this regard has not been started. The said work may kindly be started soon and gauge conversion of Jabalpur Gondia metre gauge line should be completed soon.

Budget provision has been made for gauge conversion of metre gauge line between Neemuch and Ratlam (Western Railways) but no work worth the name has been started so far. I request that this work of gauge conversion should be done immediately by making adequate budget provision for this purpose.

A target has been fixed to complete the work of Guna Itawa railway line by 2003, but for want of finance the work is not being done as per the fixed target. Kindly get the aforesaid work done immediately by making sufficient budget provisions for this purpose.

Approval has been given to Raoghat railway line. Money has been deposited in Department of Railways by the Cell. Kindly start this work immediately.

Approval for the survey work of following railway lines has been given by the Department of Railways. But either works have not been started, or are being done at a slow pace, or the report after completion of the work, has reached the Ministry of Railways or the Railway Board. But no action has been taken, viz : -

1. Survey work has been approved for railway line from Raipur to Baloda Bazaar Sargarh Jharaskuda. The work needs to be taken up.

2. First survey work from Ramtek to Gotegaon has been completed, kindly start the work after taking further action.

3. First survey has been conducted for railway line from Jabalpur to Panna via Damoh Panna railway line.

Further action needs to be taken. Kindly take immediate action.

4. The hon'ble Prime Minister had made an announcement in the year 1998 with regard to railway line for Bhind, Urai, Mahoba via Radh. Sanction for the survey work of the above railway line has already been given. Work should start immediately.

5. Survey work for converting Gwalior-Shyampur metre gauge into broadgauge has been sanctioned. The said work should be started.

6. Survey work for railway line from Bilaspur to Mandala is on. The said work should be completed expeditiously and further action should be taken in this regard. Necessary clearance for laying the railway line should be given and work started.

7. Survey work for Indore-Budhani line has been sanctioned. Work should be started soon.

8. Survey work for railway line from Salamatpur, Raisen, Begumganj to Sagar has been sanctioned. It should be completed and next course of action taken up.

9. Survey work for new rail line from Ujjain to Ramganj Mandi is complete. Report has reached the Railway Ministry and Railway Board. Further action for according sanction should be taken up immediately.

10. Similarly laying of new rail line between Devari, Kareli, Nagpur is very necessary. Necessary orders should be issued in this regard.

11. Necessary orders for conversion of metre gauge between Nainpur and Nagpur into broad gauge should be issued.

12. Railway line from Ujjain to Indore should be electrified immediately.

13. The reservation quota for Gwalior has been cancelled it should be restored.

14. A night express train should be run from Gwalior to Indore via Guna.

15. An announcement had been made during the last year's budget speech that a local train would be run between Bilaspur and Raipur but the train has not yet started its journey. It should be introduced immediately.

16. A local train between Bhopal and Beena should be introduced.

17. An inter-city train between Gwalior and Bhopal should be introduced.

18. The Ahmedabad-Howrah train should be run via Bhopal, Vidisha, Beena, Katni.

19. A MEMU train should be introduced from Kota to Nagada Ratlam.

I hope that necessary action would be taken for solving the problems and meeting the demands of the people of Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (BETTIAH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude for the opportunity you gave me for speaking. I support the Supplementary demands for grants of Railway for the year 2000-2001. I would especially like to congratulate Mamataji for her action to send some of the senior officers on leave following the railway accident in Punjab. It was an unprecedented step. She sent 7 officers on leave. In the case of earlier accidents, only Junior employees were suspended, but senior officials went scot free. She should be congratulated for her taking action against senior officers.

IRCON is one of the departments of the Railways. I don't know who is its M.D., but action should also be taken against him. He was given Rs. 22 crores to complete the bridge construction work at Bogaha-Chhitauni in the budget of 1996-97. The work was to be completed by March, 2000 and IRCON invited tenders for it. It has 14 spines, but during last three years only one spine has been erected. If this is the pace of work, nobody knows how much time will it take to complete. Who is going to bear the loss that the railways and IRCON would suffer due to this delay. Therefore, the said official should be held responsible for the lapse and the amount should be recovered from his salary because prices of everything is increasing. Therefore, action should be taken against this official.

The railway line between Narkatiaganj and Muzaffarpur has been converted into Broad gauge and I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of Railways for this. On that line, a passenger train leaves for Muzaffarpur at 0810 hours and the next train leaves at 1800 hrs. There is no train in the intervening time of 10 hours. The people of my constituency ask me why I can't start a train when my party is in Government and the Minister belongs to my party. What answer can I give to this. I have been a Member of 11th, 12th and 13th Lok Sabha. I request that one express train which passes through the area in the intervening hours be converted into a passenger train for five stations. It will provide immense relief to my constituents.

During the year 1997-98, Rs. 25 crores were sanctioned for connecting Muzaffarpur to Gorakhpur via Narkatiaganj. Railway is moving very slow. Just like the slow speed bulletin. Even in today's age of technology, work is yet to start, even though it was sanctioned in the budget of 1997-98. No tower has been constructed nor any civil work has

been undertaken. The distance from Muzaffarpur to Gorakhpur via Narkatiaganj and via Siwan is equal. At present, 22 pairs of express trains are running via Siwan while not a single pair is running via Narkatiaganj. Goods trains are running on the new railway line. I do not say that goods train should not be run. They should run because they are an important source of revenue for railway but attention should be paid to this aspect also.

Level crossing and railway crossings have been constructed at all places. But not a single place of N.E. Railway figures in it. In the absence of level crossing, 17 persons were killed while travelling in a trolley in Sheetalpur Dhal in my constituency. I am ready to provide Rs. 10 lakhs from my Member of Parliament Local Area Development Fund but a crossing at Sheetalpur Dhal has not been sanctioned. I request that sanction for the same should be given. I am ready to provide Rs. 10 lakh for this work.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is delivering his maiden speech. But due to time constraint, he is allowed for two minutes only.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI (BIKANER) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you gave me for speaking on the Supplementary demands for grants for Railways. A number of Members have presented their views on the Supplementary demands. I have been elected from Bikaner Lok Sabha Constituency. I belong to Bikaner which is a divisional headquarters as well as a very backward area. Earlier, when coal engines were in operation, Bikaner had a coal engine workshop. Hundreds of employees used to work there. With the closure of that workshop, they have been rendered jobless. My demand is that the coal engine workshop be converted into a diesel workshop. Secondly, the traders from Bikaner who live in Chennai and Guwahati in Assam, have no direct train for these cities from Bikaner. I request that a direct train between Bikaner and Guwahati be started. In my view, that will be very beneficial for the traders and other employees of Bikaner district. I request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to give special consideration to it. Another new train between Bikaner and Chennai should also be started.

Last time, a new train was started between Jodhpur and Ahmedabad. This train should be extended upto Bikaner or four five coaches should be attached to this train from Bikaner so that a direct rail link with Ahmedabad could be established. An inter-city train runs between Bikaner and Jaipur. Recently, hon'ble Minister for Railways Shri Digvijay Singh had come to Bikaner. When he was told that the inter-

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city leaves at 5.00 O'clock and reaches Jaipur at 12.30 p.m. Another intercity which leaves for Jodhpur at 5.30 a.m. reaches Jaipur at 10.30 a.m. The two trains cross each other near Medhata. At the time of his visit, Shri Digvijay Singh had answered that within 15 days he would ensure that intercity reaches its destination by 10.30. But nothing has been done in this regard. There are more rural areas in my constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I permit you to lay your speech on the table of the House.

SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are 1500 villages here which have a population of 15000. Though railway tracks have been laid in the area crossings there are no unmanned crossings there.

35-40 unmanned railway crossings should be installed in my Lok Sabha Constituency which will give a lot of relief to the public there. My main demand is the conversion of Bikaner-Rewari rail line into broad gauge which has been sanctioned far back. But no provision for it has been made in the budget. Though some allocation was made for this purpose in the past but the funds were utilised for some other purpose. Hence you are requested to undertake the gauge conversion of Bikaner-Rewari rail line at the earliest so that the people may get relief and the trade in the area could get impetus. It is what I want to submit before the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can lay your remaining speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI : With these words I conclude and place my written speech on the Table of the House.

*Sir, Deshnok is famous for its nice temple and Namkeen not only in the country but also throughout the world but perhaps the hon. Minister of Railways is not aware as to where Bikaner is located on the map of India for every time. She is reminded about the rail problems being faced by the region set comes the reply that no budgetary provision can be made for the same owing to financial constraint while she is paying full attention towards the development of her own region even while there is no budgetary allocation to undertake these projects. This way the hon. Minister is giving the stepmotherly treatment with the people of our constituency. There should be a uniform division and allocation of budget in the country.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Speaker and hon. Minister of Railways towards the following problems being faced by the people in my constituency. Firstly no work is being allocated to the Bikaner rail workshop due to which it is on the verge of closure. The works regarding the meter gauge have come to a naught due to the gauge conversion on this line. Earlier, all the work related to the maintenance and repair of coal engines and bogie was done in the workshop but now the Government is being forced to close down these workshops owing to the coal engines becoming out of use. The better option would be to retain the services of those trained mechanics who have been rendering their valuable services to the railways for years for the maintenance and repair of diesel engines and the bogies of the trains running on broad gauge lines. This will not only ensure that the Government gets the efficient services of these trained and experienced mechanics but also the utilisation of railway property worth billions of rupees. Hence, I submit before you to start the work of maintenance and repair of the diesel engines and railway bogies.

The Bikaner-Howrah train starting from Jodhpur should be started from Bikaner instead of Jodhpur because this train boards more passengers from Bikaner and the traffic volume is greater in Bikaner. Guwahati-North coach should be added in this train so that the passenger could catch any superfast train.

A large number of people from Bikaner and its vicinity reside in Guwahati from their trade and employment. As a result the people in large number travel to and fro between these places everyday. They have to face a lot of problem in not having any train between these places. Hence, you are requested to start Bikaner-Guwahati train immediately. Similarly, the Jodhpur-Chennai train which runs once a week from Jodhpur should be started from Bikaner.

The train No.9 1-BSL and 2-BSL should be extended up to Medta road in the evening from its present terminal of Bikaner. No train running between Medta road and Bikaner reaches Bikaner in the morning. The bus facility is at least 10 kilometre away from the village and several villages do not even have the access to the roads. A lot of students, traders and government employees of the region travel in trains between these two places. This train remain stranded at the Bikaner railway station throughout the night after reaching there in the evening. Hence, you are requested to extend this train up to Medta Road from Bikaner.

New trains should be started from Anupgarh linking the newly developed Indira Gandhi Canal Project at Anupgarh to Mandia, Dhadsona, Raovala, Chhattargarh and Khajanwala. Similarly trains connecting Anupgarh to Jaisalmer, Bikaner

and Delhi so that ten other places namely Mohangarh, Nachna, Dentoora, Bajju etc. may also be connected to the rail service. Being located on the Pak border the people of these market places are facing a lot of problems due to the lack of rail facility at these places. Besides, these station falling under army and cantonment area, will also prove beneficial for the army personnels. A rail bus service should be started between the stretch of 90 kilometers from Anupgarh to Suratgarh. A rail bus service on the same pattern should also be started between Bikaner and Nokha, a stretch of 65 kilometers. An intercity train should also be started between Bikaner and Delhi. A train between Nokha and Jaipur via Seeker should also be started.

Railway Crossing Gate :

The personnel affiliated with emergency medical relief service, school children and other officials have been facing a lot of problem due to 5-6 hours closure of 5 to 6 railway crossing gates in the Bikaner city. In order to avoid the problem railway constructed a station with the name Bikaner halt at Bikaner Delhi Highway. A proposal to lay down outside rail line from Lalgah to Bikaner halt was also passed during the regime of Mister Bhansale, former DRM of Bikaner but the proposal is yet to be implemented. Under the proposal, goods rake of broad gauge and the trains Bikaner-Howrah, Bikaner-Bandra, Intercity Jodhpur-Kalka and Jodhpur-Jammu Tawi were proposed to be diverted to bypass Lalgah via the outside line to reduce the traffic volume of the main line so that the rail crossing could remain closed for minimum deviation.

There are no railway crossing at the three sites namely (1) Fojuwala (2) Mohan Nagar (3) 12 T.K. of the newly developed market Raisinghnagar despite these points being very busy from traffic point of view. Hence, there is a great likelihood of an accident taking place. Hence I request you to construct rail crossing at these places.

Bikaner Intercity Train : Bikaner-Jaipur intercity train starts at 5.00 a.m. in the morning from Bikaner and reaches Jaipur at 12.30 while Jodhpur-Jaipur intercity starts at 5.45 in the morning from Jodhpur and reaches Jaipur at 10.30 O'clock. Why there is such a time difference between these two trains. There is a need to run only one train after reaching the common point 'Medta More' which will result in the serving of both the time and money.

Rail line conversion from metre gauge in broad gauge : Though the sanction has been given for the conversion of Bikaner-Rewari metre gauge line into broadgauge, this has remained confined to the papers alone due to not releasing of funds for the same. Hence you are requested to immediately make arrangement for converting

this rail line from metre gauge into broad gauge so that the common man could get relief and the traders who hire the rail service for the transport of these goods could also be benefited from it. This gauge conversion will result in the earnings of crore of rupees to the railways.

Kolayat-Fadole Broad gauge line : Though the survey of Kolayat – Fadole route was conducted and the MOD had also given the sanction for its modernisation but Ministry of Railways did not give its approval for the same.

Railway Reservation Facility should also be started at the Talgrah railway station. The facility of reservation is presently available at the Bikaner railway station only. While the facility has yet not been started in the Lalgah railway station which has been built at a cost of several crores. Such facility can also be provided at the Lalgah railway station. Though large colonies of Bikaner areas have developed around Lalgah railway station, this station is being used as a road side station only hence you are requested to provide the reservation facility at the Lalgah railway station.

Bikaner goods traffic : Though all the Bikaner bound broad gauge trains start from Lalgah yet the charts, pressings etc. are displayed at the Bikaner railway stations alone. If all these trains are carried up to Bikaner halt from Railway pass then it will prove to be highly beneficial.

Canal loop line : A broad gauge canal loop line should be laid down from Sawroopsar (Raisingh Nagar) to Sriganga Nagar.

Railway over and under bridge : The approval for the construction of railway over bridge and under bridge in Bikaner town has given. The construction work for the said bridges have not been started due to the non-release of funds. Therefore, construction work should be started soon.

Railway Colony : The railway colony having two storey flats for railway staff constructed near Bikaner Lalgah railway station will become useful once the railway traffic from Lalgah railway station and Bikaner halt are restored. The businessmen daily transport their goods from Anupgarh to South Kon. However, due to the absence of goods wagon the businessmen and the railway both have to face difficulties. So the number of goods wagon may be increased. Though there is shed at the railway godown in Anupgarh but there is no any sitting arrangement for the officers and staff of railway in the godown. So the arrangement should be made for sitting of officers and officials there.

There should be stoppage of Bikaner-Bandra Super fast express at Deshnok. There is stoppage of superfast trains like Howrah - Bikaner and Bikaner-Jaipur at Deshnok railway

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station. However, there is no stoppage of Bikaner-Bandra train though it is an express train. The railway receives a revenue of Rs.2 lakh per month from Deshnok Railway station. The reservation quota in Bikaner - Howrah and Bikaner - Kalka express having a halt at Deshnok station remain full.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (MONGHYR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the supplementary demand for grants regarding the Budget for the year 2000-2001 moved in the House by the hon. Minister of Railways.

Sir, I support the view presented by the hon. Members Shri Raghunath Jha, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Shri Sanjayji about Bihar. Along with this I would like to tell about the construction of a bridge over Ganga river in Monghyr. A provision of Rs.600 crore was made in the budget of 1997-98 for the construction of the bridge and Rs.2 crore was allocated for the survey works but I am sorry to say hon. Mamataji that 15 per cent cut has been made in the allocation of Rs.2 crore.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: No, there is no cut in the development project.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: The survey work of the bridge is going for the last seven years and the works of even Rs.2 crore have not been done. If the cost of this project is Rs.600 crore and if the share of the Ministry of Surface Transport amounting to Rs.300 or 600 crore is added to it then the total cost of the project would be to the tune of Rs. 1200 crore and if in last seven year even Rs.2 crore have not been spent then no body knows how much time will be taken for the construction of the bridge. So I request hon. Mamataji that the work should be speeded up. Wherever there are hurdle, it should be removed so that the construction of the bridge may be completed maximum in 10 years. I would like to tell one more thing. If the construction work will go on in such a slow pace, it cause damage in the sense that the cost of the project keeps on increasing. It is not applicable only in the case of Monghyr Project but other projects too. Apart from the corruption keeps on increasing with the increase in the cost of the project the time of the House is also wasted in that. That is why it is essential in the national interest that the project should be completed within the stipulated time period. The project should be completed within the period fixed by the Planning Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Brahma Nand Mandalji, you are requested to complete your speech in brief.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am already expressing my views in brief. Hon. Minister

should pay attention to it. Besides this, please initiate the process of approval of the project by the Cabinet Committee on economic affairs. The Jabalpur factory was the most important factory in Asia. 22000 workers were employed there. That was initially a repairing workshop where repairing work of steam engine was carried on. Thereafter the repairing work of diesel engine was introduced. There every month one lakh break block were manufactured but not even 25000 blocks are manufactured now. Earlier one thousand workers were working in that workshop but now there are only 300 workers in the factory. The manpower of the Jabalpur Factory have reduced to eight to nine thousand workers. This year 900 workers are being retrenched. In 1998-99 budget the repairing work of box wagon was done and for POH work budget provision was made in Railways. There every month 910 wagons were to be repaired, but the year is coming to an end and now even hundred box wagons are not being repaired, there though this number should have been increased to 900 within two years. If that figure would have reached to 900 the labourers would not have been retrenched. Its manpower is continuously decreasing. As the factory is heading towards closure, the Jabalpur city is becoming deserted. I would like to request Mamataji that the work should be started soon as there is provision in the budget. There is provision of POH of 900 box wagons.

The third point is that only 17-18 km of the doubling work of railway track from Kajra to Kiul is left. So it is creating problem there. Whether it is DMU, or passenger train or a mail train, they have to wait for hours at Kiul station and it takes three hours to cover only 40-45 km. distance. So my request is that the line doubling works should be completed soon. Mamataji knows Sahebganj Kiul is a loopline and the electrification work from Howrah and Sitarampur to Danapur via Kiul is about to be completed or has been completed. It is also essential to electrify the route that connects Sahebganj to Kiul via loop line. Electric engines may be required to be repaired at Jabalpur factory. Therefore the electrification work should be completed as soon as possible.

Sir, I extend my thanks that you gave me time to speak and with these words, I conclude and once again request Mamataji that she should get the construction of bridge over Ganga in Monghyr done as soon as possible. The work can be completed surely if she pays special attention ... (Interruptions). It is your responsibility to get clearance and not mine ... (Interruptions). You please discuss it with the Cabinet.

*SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR) : I rise to express my views on the supplementary demands of railways.

* Laid on the Table.

1. First of all, approval has been given by the Ministry of Railways for establishing a new North West Zone in Jaipur. Its headquarter is proposed to be established in Jaipur. Inauguration of this zonal office has already been done by former Prime Minister of India Shri Devegowda in 'Ganapati' town of Jaipur. For establishing the head office of this zone the Railways had requested for allotment of land near Jawahar Circle. The State Government has agreed to provide land on a very cheap rate for this purpose. Proposals of rates of the land have been sent to the Railways by Local Self Government Department. The Railways has sent proposal to the Railway Board. I request the Railway Board to accord its approval to this proposal so that the North-West Zone could be established in Jaipur.

2. 17.44 hectares of land is proposed to be acquired in Jaipur for residential scheme of North-West Zone. The process for land acquisition is in progress and no problem is being faced in this regard.

3. The work of Gauge-Conversion of Agra-Bandikui railway line has been started on 2.4.99, but it is going on at a very slow pace. The gauge-conversion of 159 Kms. of railway line is to take place and the total cost on this work is 150 crore rupees. This year only 9 crore rupees have been sanctioned for the work of the said gauge-conversion, which is very meagre amount. Inaugurations of this gauge conversion work has been done by a number of Union Ministers. In the absence of such a broad gauge line, tourists and passengers have to travel 159 Kms. in addition, which results in wastage of time and money. Department of Railways is also incurring a loss of 50 lakh rupees per day. This project should be completed in Rajasthan on priority basis.

4. Gandhinagar is the most important sub-urban Railway Station of Jaipur and around three lakh people live in more than 1161 colonies situated around the city. Due to non-stoppage of Delhi-Ahmedabad, Ashram, Jammu-Tawi Express, Rajdhani Express, Ajmer-New Delhi Shatabdi Express trains, people of these colonies face a lot of problems, despite the fact that this station has got computerized reservation facility. If all trains are given a halt here, not only pressure of passengers at Jaipur Railway Station will be reduced but it will benefit people living there.

Durgapur is an important sub-urban railway station of Jaipur Station on Jaipur to Sawai Madhopur, Kota, Mumbai line. The station, wherefrom trains viz, Jaipur-Mumbai Superfast and all other trains used to originate, has no stoppage of an Express train today, despite the fact that there is so much of population in its periphery with a huge traffic. In addition to that all facilities relating to railways are available there. I, therefore, request you to make

arrangements for the stoppage of Jaipur-Mumbai Superfast and Jaipur-Madras Express trains at Durgapur urgently.

On the occasion of inauguration of computerized Reservation Centre at Durgapur Station, hon. Minister of Railways Shri Digvijay Singh had announced for providing stoppage of the trains at the aforesaid two Railway Stations. I request you to fulfil this assurance soon. I hope that appropriate orders would be issued by the Government in this regard without delay.

Besides, arrangements for announcement of the arrival and departure of trains at Jagatpur Railway Station, which is an important part of Jaipur and comprises of a huge population, be made.

Subject : Regarding the stoppage of trains at Bassi Station of Jaipur Lok Sabha Constituency.

1. That, there was a stoppage of a total of twelve trains including four trains each for Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Ahmedabad and Jodhpur-Jaisalmer at Tehsil Headquarters Bassi Railway Station which has a meter gauge line. Six of these were Express trains.

2. That, after the gauge-conversion, only two trains stop at the station. Due to this, the old links of a big market of this area with the Mandis of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi has severed and along with this, the facility of travel for around twenty thousand labourers of this area working in Delhi and other places has also affected.

3. The situation has deteriorated so much that people of this area get train for Jaipur either at 8.00 O'clock in the morning or at 10.30 P.M. in the night and even while coming back, they either get train at 4.00 O'clock early in the morning or at 7.00 O'clock in the evening. Due to this, more than two thousand daily commuters travelling for various purposes are also being devoid of these essential facilities, although Express trains have a stoppage at small stations like Bawal and Basava.

I, therefore, request you to kindly issue orders for providing the stoppage of at least two trains viz., Jodhpur-Delhi via Jaipur Intercity Express and Jodhpur-Varanasi Express at Bassi Railway Stations so that the link of the biggest market of the area with mandis of U.P. and Delhi is restored and thousands of labourers and daily passengers could get trains for Jaipur at day time itself.

Subject : Regarding provision of a stoppage of Delhi-Ahmedabad rail broad gauge train 9105 and 9106 at Naraina.

Naraina Nagar is an important religious place, which is a holy place for Dadupanthis followers of Swami Dadu Dayalji Maharaj. Dadupanthis come to this place throughout the

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year. A Gurudwara in the memory of Guru Govind Singhji has also been made by the Sikh Community and Sikhs from all-over the country visit this place throughout the year. This is also a prominent religious place of Jain religion. Many rare and ancient idols pertaining to the Jain religion, which were excavated here are there in Jain temples here and Jain people from all-over the country come here to have a glimpse of these idols. An ancient temple of Shri Ran Singhji Maharaj, a disciple of Shri Ramdevji Maharaj, being worshipped by the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people is also present here and who ever visits the temple of Baba Ramdev at Maruchina, certainly visits this temple and that is why people of this community visit this place throughout the year.

Besides this, many Industries are running here. This town is also an old trading Mandi and that is why, it is necessary to provide a stoppage to train number 9105 and 9106 running between Delhi and Ahmedabad at Naraina Railway Station.

Vanasthali Vidyapeeth is an important centre of education. Girls from all over India come here for education. Their guardians have to regularly come here. Therefore, a stoppage of train at Vanasthali Station is very much required.

Connecting Bhiwadi with the Railway line:-

Bhiwadi is amongst the speedily developing industrial townships in the National Capital region. It is located at a distance of 5 Kms. from Dharuheda, 25 Kms. from Rewari and 75 Kms. from Delhi. More than one thousand industrial units have been established at Bhiwadi. A lot of people are residing in its surrounding areas. The State Government, keeping in view the possibility of its future development, has decided to develop it into a big township. It may be noted that the Rajasthan Government has decided to relocate the industrial units which are being closed by the Government in Delhi, at Bhiwadi only and action in this regard is also being taken. Moreover, an inland Container Depot has also been approved for Bhiwadi and there is possibility of obtaining permission from the Government of India for establishing an Export Promotion Industrial Park here. Presently, Bhiwadi is not on the map of the railway route but keeping in view its present position and future possibilities of development, it is very much necessary to connect it with the Railway lines.

Proposed Railway Over-bridge:-

1. The Sikar-Jhunjhunu by-Pass is complete, but the road by-Pass is not being operated due to the absence of an over-bridge at Jaipur-Ganganagar meter gauge line.

Therefore, a bridge is proposed to be constructed by the Railway Board on this line.

2. A bridge is proposed to be constructed by the NHI, NHAI and Railway Board near Shivdaspura and Newai located near Sitapur Industrial Area on Kota Road in Jaipur-Kota National Highway which would facilitate smooth operation of traffic.

Train going from Jaipur to Haridwar reaches Jaipur at 3.30 O'clock in the night and that too once in a week. It is therefore requested to change the time of arrival of this train at Jaipur. The train should depart from Jaipur in the evening or in the night at 10 O'clock and reach Haridwar in the morning. Kindly change the time and the frequency of trains should be increased to thrice a week. Hon. Shri Digvijay Singh had given assurance regarding this train.

At the end, I would make request that kindly provide direct train service from Jaipur to Gorakhpur, Guwahati, Trivendrum and Chandigarh.

I hope that the hon. Minister of Railways would surely fulfil the aforesaid demands and pay heed towards the strong demands of the people of my Constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Girdhari Lalji, if you want to lay your speech, you can do it.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Sir, it is fifty minutes past ten and we are discussing the supplementary demand for grants for Railways. About railways, I have to say that it is a poor man's transport and more than 90 per cent of poor people use it. We also have to consider the number of people who purchase tickets. Since Ms. Mamata Banerjee has taken over the charge of Railway Ministry, she has been trying to bring about improvements in it. But railways will not improve inspite of the many announcements of the hon. Minister unless and until the corruption there is rooted out and management works in a proper manner.

My request is that class IV employees of railways, who play a key role in strengthening railways, should be made permanent after three years. At present they remain temporary for 10-15 years. They need to be made permanent. I mean to say that as long as Miss Mamataji is in charge of the Railway Ministry, the Government of Shri Atalji would continue to run and as soon as Ms. Mamataji goes out of Railway Ministry, the Government of Atalji would cease to be effective. It is true that I have great respect for Ms. Mamataji. And Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would continue to speak as long as you do not ring the bell ... (Interruptions). My demand is that the issue of class IV employees should be considered seriously. Similarly, a bullet train should be

introduced between Mumbai and Delhi which runs at 300 kms. per hour. It will enable us to reach Delhi from Mumbai in 5-6 hours. You need to think about bullet trains. The world is moving at a very high speed and we also should move fast. Such a train should enable people's movement in a comfortable manner.

You had sanctioned Rs.225 crores for my constituency Pandharpur-Kurwadi for the purpose of converting metre gauge into broad gauge. The work has been completed and you have to come there for its inauguration in March. You should announce Rs.500 crore for Pandharpur - Latur and Pandharpur Meerut and only on that condition we would allow you to ... *(Interruptions)*. As per my information, that train will go upto Ayodhya, therefore, I do not want to discuss it. I wanted to tell Shri Atalji that he had betrayed Shri Advaniji more. This is the right time to remove him*(Interruptions)*. The train to Ayodhya should be extended further by building a bridge over Saryu river. If it is done, the problem will be solved. I hope that Ms. Mamataji would try to improve the condition of railways.

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR, H.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude to the hon. Minister of Railways because she has given due attention to the hilly areas since she assumed the charge of Railway Ministry. In 53 years following independence, Himachal Pradesh has been grossly ignored with regard to the expansion of railways. Whatever railway lines were laid, was during the British period, only track after independence was operational in 1973. In 25 years, only 16 kms of track length has been constructed. 80 kms. of railway tracks are yet to be constructed. 16 kms have been constructed in 25 years. So, I am apprehensive whether a century would elapse before the remaining track length is completed. On that line, track has been completed from Una to Talwada. Provision of more funds is required there. Work is proceeding there at a slow rate. More funds should be provided to expedite the work.

Repeated demands have been made for running a train between Una and Haridwar. No attention was paid to it even after the completion of a couple of surveys. This demand is being made for a long time. Because of the absence of railway expansion in Himachal Pradesh, the transportation facilities are severely restricted there. Because of the absence of trains, the people of Himachal Pradesh feel ignored. With a small adjustment, a train from Una to Haridwar could be started. It will provide great relief to the people of Himachal Pradesh. An A.C. coach could be added to the Himachal express, which is the only train linking Una to Delhi. Himachal Pradesh has a reservation quota of 50 seats from there. This quota should be increased. It will provide relief to the local people. The hon. Minister of Railways should provide attention to it. Another survey was

conducted for Bilaspur near Nangal. Plan is to form a corporation and construct a broad gauge track through it. It should be constructed by the Ministry of Railways. It will prove to be a very fruitful track. About 20 lakh metric tonnes of cement is transported from there. It results in the movement of about thousand truck daily. It has no rail track at present. That track should be constructed by Railways on priority basis. With the construction of this track from Bhanupalli to Bilaspur, the movement of people will be facilitated and the traffic of cement will be facilitated. Finally I conclude with once again extending support to the demands.

*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (SAGAR) : Thank you, Sir, I have risen to speak in support of the supplementary demands for grants for Railways. First of all, I would like to thank hon. Minister for providing stoppage of Hirkud and Kurla express in Khurai station of my parliamentary constituency and of Habibganj Nizamuddin Bhopal Express at Bina station. She has also provided stoppage of Rewanchal Express at Mandibamora station. The construction work of railway over bridge of Rahatgarh railway crossing in Sagar has also been started. Hon. Minister is requested that on the one hand Railway has completed its share of the work but on the other hand, the State Government has not started the work on approach roads on both sides of the over bridge which is their responsibility. Therefore, the necessary instructions should immediately be issued to the State Government to start work immediately.

The train from Bhopal to Rajkot via Itarsi is presently being run three days in a week. This trains should also run for three days via Jabalpur, Katani, Damoh, Sagar, Bina, Bhopal, Rajkot.

Mahamaya Express which runs from Jabalpur to Nizamuddin, is given a link to Bina while people of Katani, Damoh, Sagar and Khurai are not able to board this train. At present, Mahamaya Express should be run wholly from Jabalpur only. The stoppage of Pathankot Express at Karonda station, Utkal Express at Shahpur Station and Sadan Express at Nandi Bamora Station should be provided. All the three stations are in my constituency. The construction of one more platform at Bina junction is required. The raising of platforms at Jaruwa Kheda, Naryawali and Shahpur stations and construction of sheds there should be done without delay.

An EMU train between Bina and Damoh should be introduced in the interests of daily commuters of Damoh, Sagar and Bina. The construction of an over bridge is necessary at Shahpur station to facilitate movement from one platform to another. Passenger trains halt at Dangidpur

[SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR]

station but there is no ticket booking counter. It should be opened. A new railway line needs to be laid between Sagar and Nagpur via Deori.

I have following suggestions for the betterment of my Parliamentary constituency:

The passenger train between Bhopal and Bilaspur should be extended upto Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh. The train between Bina and Katani should be extended till Jabalpur so that the people of Sagar could go to Jabalpur in a day train.

The frequency of Indore-Howrah Shipra Express and Nizamuddin-Sambhalpur Hirakund Express should be increased to daily. Time of the train running between Bina-Iltarasi should be changed. It should start at 5.00 hrs. for Bina so that passenger going to Bina from Sagar can travel by it. Bhopal-Durg Amarkantak Express should run thrice a week via Sagar. A new Rajdhani Express between Raipur-New Delhi via Bilaspur-Katani-Sagar-Bina should be introduced. The route of proposed Ahmedabad-Howrah Train should be changed to Ahmedabad-Baroda-Bina-Sagar-Katni-Satna-Howrah.

*SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE (SHAHDOL) : Sir, the demands of people of my parliamentary constituency are:

1. Chandia station should be modernised and stoppage of Samath Express be provided.
2. Sambhalpur Express be provided a halt at Domariya Railway Station and reservation quota should also be provided.
3. Level of Narojabad railway station be raised and an over bridge should be constructed for use by the pedestrians.
4. Level of passenger railway station be raised and Saarath Express should be provided halt at Pali and reservation quota for Pali should be provide.
5. Shaktipunj Express should be provided halt at Damoh and Vijaysalota station and condition of railway station should be improved.
6. Beuhari, station should be modernised.
7. Computer reservation facility be provided at Shahdol station and reservation quota of all passenger train should be increased.
8. Stoppage of Samath Express should be provided at Budhar Station.

9. A new passenger train should be introduced between Raipur and Gorakhpur.
10. An overbridge be constructed at Anoopur and Kotama.
11. A pedestrian Railover bridge be constructed at Bijuni to facilitate movement of passengers.
12. With a view of provide rail transport facilities to tribal people stoppage of Utkal Express be provided at Jaithani station.
13. Railway track on certain stretches of Anoopur-Bilaspur line should be doubled where it could not be done earlier.

Keeping above demands in view the Railways should make provision for proposed works subject to availability of resources and Shahdol Parliamentary constituency be connected with Calcutta and Mumbai metros.

[English]

*DR. N. VENKATASWAMY (TIRUPATI) : Sir, the Hon'ble Minister who is known for her concern for the common people which was abundantly reflected in the Budget of 2000-2001 presented during February this year. She has given many things to so many States but I am sorry to mention that her benevolence has not reached fully to Andhra Pradesh in general and Rayalaseema in particular. Sir, Rayalaseema is very backward region in all respects and that has been neglected by the successive Governments. There are no perennial rivers flowing in the region, hence there are no irrigation projects. In spite of the fact that this has valuable minerals and mines in abundance like marble byrates, granites, lime other ores, there are no major industries established. For the development of any region communication and transportation are necessary. Keeping in view the gauge conversion from Tirupati to Katpadi was thought of. In order to open the region with the other States like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Pondicherry, the gauge conversion from Tirupati to Katpadi was thought of. In order to open the region with the other States like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Pondicherry, the gauge conversion from Tirupati to Katpadi is an essential infrastructure. Not only that, Tirupati is one of the pilgrim centres and everyday thousands of devotees visit Tirupati to have darshan of Lord Venkateswara popularly known as Balaji, in other parts of the country. It is not only a pilgrim centre but also an educational centre. There are three universities in Tirupati. Many students are prosecuting their studies in Tirupati, coming from villages daily.

Keeping all these facts in view, the gauge conversion from Tirupati to Katpadi was thought of 30 years back. Technical clearance was given in 1980 and the execution of the work was started in 1992-93. The year-wise budget provision was shown. In 1998-99 – Rs. 30 crores, 1999-2000 – Rs. 20 crores and 2000-2001 - only Rs. 12 crores. Gauge conversion projects taken up after 1992-93 namely Hospet to Gadag, to Castle Rock. Nandyala to Guntakul Trichi to Kanchipuram have been completed. But the gauge conversion taken up in 1992-93 from Tirupati to Katpadi is still in the initial stage. This is a sad story. Gauge conversion from Tirupati to Katpadi may kindly be completed at least end by December, 2001. Another important project of gauge conversion is between Dharmavaram to Pakala has to be taken up early and completed as early as possible. Coming to doubling of railway lines, the decade old project from Guntakal to Renigunta, granites will be exported easily and all these are export earning items. There is a huge production of cement at Errakuntla. This will help the industry, the people and the railways also. Another doubling from Gudur to Renigunta has to be completed early. In view of the backwardness of the Rayalaseema, there is imperative need to have a new railway line from Annapur to Ernakuntala in Cuddapah district. There is a need to introduce EMU from Arkkonam to Renigunta and from Chennai to Gudur as early as possible. There is a need to stop Nav Jeevan Express at Sullurpet Railway Station as Sriharikota Satellite Launching Centre is 12 kms. from this place. Scientists from all over India, particularly from the North are working at SHAR, Sullurpet which is located between the Gudur and Chennai. To come to SHAR, scientists have to get down either at Gudur and travel 60 kms. Or to get down at Chennai and to travel 70 kms. Hence, there is a need for stoppage of Nav Jeevan Express at Sullurpet Railway Station. Coach repairing Shop at Tirupati should be strengthened to the sanctioned level of 100 coaches.

[Translation]

*PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : I convey my gratitude to hon'ble Mamataji who, through her towering personality and earnest zeal and untiring efforts and perseverance has made efforts to make a very large Department such as the Railways a success. She has achieved unprecedented success in ensuring safety, security, punctuality and redressal of public grievances. Though the people expect a lot from her yet in the absence of adequate budgetary support and financial constraints she finds herself unable to do anything substantial.

I fully support the Supplementary Demands for Grants presented by her. Sir, railway is the life line of the country integrating the nation.

In this Supplementary Budget the provision for converting unmanned railway crossings into manned railway crossings and construction of over bridges at congested places and several other very important works have been included. I strongly support all these efforts. Conversion of all unmanned railway crossings into manned crossings is essential for preventing accidents.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Railway Minister towards the decision taken earlier regarding establishment of uniform broadgauge or unigauge system in whole country. However, it appears that though we have the intention of completing such task but resource constraint prevents us from completing these projects. Therefore, it is necessary to consider it afresh whether to adopt unigauge pattern for entire country or not, so that it poses no problematic situation.

Sir, Delhi-Ahemadabad via Jaipur-Ajmer Broadgauge line should be doubled so that speed of trains running on this line can be increased and journey time can be reduced and more trains can be run on this line. You have done a tremendous job by providing new trains from Bangalore and Calcutta (Sealdah) for Ajmer Sharief, famous for communal harmony. You deserve thanks for this.

You have provided useful facility to long distance passengers by introducing Delhi-Ahemadabad Rajdhani Express via Jaipur, Ajmer; Express train for Haridwar via Ajmer-Jaipur, Bareilly-Gandhidham and Delhi-Jaipur-Ajmer Express. I urge upon you to increase frequency of these trains. These trains have more reserved coaches. Therefore, more general bogies may please be provided in these trains.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards following problem too:

Ajmer-Puskar railroute should be completed expeditiously. I AC Coach should be added to Delhi-Ahemadabad Mail, 9001 Up and 9002 down. Earlier there used to be AC I class coach in Metergauge train 9903 Up and 9904 Dn Delhi-Ahemadabad Metergauge train should now be reintroduced on broadgauge. This train is very important. Delhi-Ajmer, Ajmer-Mehsana passenger Metergauge trains should now be reintroduced on Broad gauge. These should be provided halt at all the stations so that the common man may travel by these trains.

It is very unfortunate that Bandi Kui-Agra Fort Broadgauge line could not be completed so far. Sir, work relating to gauge conversion should be completed expeditiously and train similar to previously running Ahemadabad-Agra Fort via Ajmer-Jaipur, known as Local Express, should be introduced so that it can provide a direct link to Ajmer from Western Uttar Pradesh.

[PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT]

A new Railway Zone namely North Western Railway was created with headquarters at Jaipur. But it has not started functioning so far. Even land could not be provided at Jaipur. Railways have surplus land at Ajmer which is suitable in all the respects and it would be in the centre of the Zone.

Capacity of Loco and carriage workshops at Ajmer be enhanced and these should be updated according to the needs of broadgauge.

Ajmer-Bhilwara-Chittor-Udaipur line should be converted into broadgauge with no further delay. Action plan should also be prepared for conversion of Udaipur-Veeramgaon-Ahemadabad line and it should be included in next year's Budget. There is an urgent need for converting Phulera Ringus-Rewari metergauge line into broadgauge line. A survey should be undertaken for connecting Merta Road with Puskar. A survey should be undertaken for connecting Ajmer to Kota via Kekadi-Devli-Bundi.

Survey be undertaken for providing rail link to Beawar-Jawana-Bhim-Devgarh. Rail Yatri Niwas should be constructed at Ajmer. Beawar and Kishangarh railway station should be further developed. A broadgauge train is urgently required between Ajmer and Hyderabad. Ajmer-Mumbai Holiday Express is earning large profits. It should be made regular and permanent. Ashram Express and other long distance trains should be provided halt at Kishangarh and Beawar. These are important cities from industry and business point of view. At least halt of two minutes each be provided.

Earlier, several trains used to halt at Tilonia in district Ajmer, but after conversion into broadgauge now fewer trains halt at this station. Hence ordinary Passenger Trains must stop at this station. The provision of rail over Bridge at Rupangarh Road near Railway station in Kishanganj is necessary.

The construction of rail over bridge is extremely necessary on the railway lines of Jausganj and gulabbari in Ajmer and Krishna mile road in Beawar. The arrangements of watchman for 24 hours should be made at the railway level crossings of Lamana, Makreda, Dantanyara, Rajouri, Muhami etc. of Ajmer constituency so that the rural people can be saved from the inconvenience caused by travelling at night. The surplus land of Railways in Ajmer should be utilised for commercial purposes. Illegal encroachment should be removed. Jammu Tavi - Jaipur railway track should be extended up to Ajmer. Ajmer station should be connected with railway line to Amritsar, Hardwar and Chennai. The D.S. office of Railways is more than 100 year old and it is equivalent to our national heritage therefore, not

only its maintenance is necessary but its historic importance should also be maintained. The repair of staff quarters in railway colonies and the construction of roads and drains is also necessary.

The improvement of loco and carriage maintenance sites is also necessary. The cleaning facility in trains and to provide necessary facilities at railway stations is necessary. The present work of Railways Public Service Commission have improved a lot and the present Chairman of the Commission had succeeded in controlling the irregularities there. This trend should continue.

The quota of Ajmer Beawar, Kishangarh, Vinayanagar should be increased. The improvement in the condition of railway hospital and railway schools is also necessary.

23.00 hrs.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, through you I would like to thank hon. Members for giving some very good suggestions. They have talked about their constituency, about their States, about the country, about safety and security, about Railway lines, projects and along that they have talked about the condition of Railways. Sir, I do not want to reply in detail about the points raised individually about stations, projects and lines. Since it will take a lot of time because every State, district and constituency have different problems. I do not want to say much but *[English]* I want to cover some important points *[Translation]* Hon. Muniyappaji had initiated this discussion. *[English]* If I remember correctly, you mentioned about the Late Lal Bahadur Shastri and Shri Madhav Rao Scindia.

[Translation]

It is a fact that our country became independent in 1947. Since then till date we had 33 Ministers of Railways in our country and out of these only 5-6 Ministers have received the opportunity to serve for 4-5 years in the office. Shri Jagjivan Ram had the opportunity to serve for 6 years, Jaffer Sharifji, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastriji and Shri Ponachaji had also got the opportunity. But all the rest of Ministers had earlier got the opportunity to serve for two or three years. Scindiaji had got the opportunity to serve for three years and Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji for two years. The tenure of remaining Ministers lasted either for 10 months or one or one and a half year. In such condition nobody is able to draft a policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today why we are thinking about safety. It is a matter of distress. Criticising others is very easy. But whether we have ever given it a thought that today I am a Minister and I should do something which could provide some facilities to the people in future. But we have never given it a thought. If we had done so then the condition of Indian Railways today have been for more better. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was a great personality. He gave the slogan

of Jai Jawan Jai Kisan. He did a lot of work for the country. He also sacrificed for the country. But in his time an accident occurred after he completed four years in the office. Almost hundred fifty people were died in that accident. We people are Member of Parliament. We talk about States, Nation, we have the responsibility of public representative. That is the reason why Shri Lal Bahadur Shastriji had resigned at that time. Later on he became the Prime Minister. I do not want to say, but you have raised this therefore I am saying this that can you name any Minister who have resigned after the death of 40 people. If you can do this then I do not want to stay here for a second. I do not drive a rail. An operation is undertaken to drive a rail. Rail is run by drivers and guards, signalman and gangman. They all are on duty there. Station Master, Safety mechanical and electrical engineer are also included in the entire operation. In the period of Scindiaji you ad said that, his was the happiest time in the history of railways but when I come in this office then it became a time of crisis. After becoming Minister when I first met Scindiaji he asked me not to take over this Ministry on this particular year because in this year, one has to fight a lot. Just now, Paswanji had said after referring the Railway Convention Committee report that the department is facing shortage of funds to the tune of Rs. 1400 crore. Do you know what happened after the enforcement of the Fifth Pay Commission Report. Each State Government along with Union Government is facing troubles. Railway have 16 lakh employees. After the enforcement of the report of Fifth Pay Commission, the Railway had to pay more than Rs.7.5 thousand crore. When I took the charge of Railway it was almost bankrupt. Its funds were running in credit but during the last five months, we have been able to save Rs.250 crore through observing austerity. No other department have been able to achieve such distinction. 517 people were killed in a major rail accident at the time of Scindiaji at that time also Scindiaji had tried to work. There is no fault of Minister. No a single Member asked for the resignation of Scindiaji. Nobody had asked me either. [English] I am thankful to all the Members across the party lines. They did not ask me. [Translation] because what I had thought. I think that everyday how 13500 trains runs in this country. We feel bad whenever a minor accident occurs but every year 75000 people die in road accidents. The intensity of a railway accident is bigger therefore 200-300 people die in rail accidents. Nowadays, people keenly observe accident reports. Earlier, the zonal railway never used to give the information of small accidents to Railway board but after resuming office, when I saw the CAG Report, I ordered the authorities that every report should be registered whether it is as minor as derailing a bogie. Therefore, the number of accidents appear more now. The number of accidents shown in CAG Report are 13000-14000 because they have included all the minor accidents. Now, we have to see that what our

priorities are. Our priority is about safety and security. I do not mind whenever a demand for a new rail arise intact, I am happy to give them a new train but the problem is we have to complete the project which is pending since a long time. We have to finish a project first then either it is a new project, project of doubling or of electrification or the Ganga bridge of Munger. Altogether Rs.5000 crore are needed for these projects. We have cleared 11 projects in our time. I had provided a project to my State. Much is being said against me that I am doing everything for my State. I had given a project to Bengal, whereas 2 projects were given to Andhra Pradesh and two to Tamil Nadu. Whether the projects of Sultangarh, Devgarh are not the projects of Bihar? Which I had provided them. I do not have any intention to deprive any State.

23.07 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN in the Chair)

I respect Raghuvanshji a lot although he shouts but he talks in favour of State. I respect what Raghunath Jhaji had said but it is not true that we have not provided anything to Bihar. We had a Minister of Railway from Bihar also and he also provided one thing or the other for Bihar. If we compare with the time of Nitish Kumarji then at his time Bihar was provided Rs.255.242 crore whereas we have provided 255.33 crore to it. We have increased the provision. This is quite clear from the datas. If I am wrong then you can bring privilege but I am talking about data. We do not have an intention to observe a cut there.

I know that some States have been neglected but we will settle them next time. Some Member said that we have cut funds by 10 per cent. I am making it clear that we have a railway board. They do have cut off 10 per cent to adjust plan expenditure for financial terms but I have told them that no cut will be undertaken in any development project and in safety measures. If the cut undertaken in plan expenditure is for adjustment then it is fine but we do not want to cut in development projects. It is a fact and I agree with you that some laxity is undertaken in the work of railway. I had explained you the reasons for this. Earlier the rail budget used to be passed in February-March but now it is passed in the month of May. In June it reaches to zonal railways and afterwards the tender are given. Three months times is needed for tenders. Tenders are opened in November after that how many days remain to start work. We get only three months for the work.

Finance budget has no problem since no construction work is involved in it but Railway has to be involved in construction activities. Therefore, it has to change its functioning. If budget is presented in February, it should be passed in February itself, only then you could get time for working. Doing the requisite work is not possible in three months and work so done is sub-standard.

[KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also seen funds being diverted. I do not have any hesitation in telling the truth. When we have got only three months to work, diversion of funds becomes necessary. I want this practice to end. I have no objection to whatever projects you have demanded but first you have to rectify the efforts which have been compounding for last 50-55 years. A system of review and policy decisions should be put in place. If you want the completion of one or two projects in a State, I am ready. It is possible to complete one or two projects in a year but for that we need the cooperation of yourself, the State Government, the public sector and also of private sector.

Hon. Member Shri Pawan Bansalji is not present here. He ought to know that our plan is to connect Chandigarh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh through trains of electric engine. Our engineers are so efficient that they can do in nine months what is normally done in two years. We can work more fast, but for that clear cut policy on the part of Railway is needed. There have been many cases of negligence on the part of Railways. Mr. Chairman, Sir, Railway should accord highest priority to the safety aspect. I am aware of it. That is why I had taken up 686 unmanned level crossings in 1999-2000 budget and 602 more in 2000-01 budget. Now, 185 more have been taken up, but you should have considered why the matter of 22346 unmanned railway crossings went unnoticed during the last 50-55 years. Why these were not accorded priority? You are demanding new coaches, but why orders were not placed for them earlier? Before my assuming the charge, Railway had started importing even coaches and engines. But I discontinued it. I want these to be constructed in our own country. I want that workers in our factories should get jobs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I started the measures of economic austerity. Last year we had saved Rs.850 crore and this year we have a target of saving Rs.865 crore. It is still some time to go before March, but we have already saved Rs.300 crores in passenger and freight earning and that too, in the areas where both tracks and coaches are very old. We do not get support of even Rs. one thousand crores. We have saved more than Rs. 1500 crores and that too in conditions wherein bridges as well as signals are very old. From day one, I have been crying for safety and security.

[English]

I set up a Task Force Committee so that security aspect is not neglected.

[Translation]

I have set up Task Force Committee in each State wherein Chief Secretary and Home Secretary are members.

[English]

Sir, law and order is a State subject. We cannot interfere in a State's affairs in this regard.

[Translation]

The report of Task Force on improving security is expected soon and we plan to lay it before the Parliament and will work as per the suggestions of hon. M.Ps.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an arduous task to manage rail tracks, which are about 62,800 kms. long. Even the fencing of borders takes a lot of time. The importance Railway should get is not being given to it. Road transport is getting more importance, but still railways are the cheapest means used by 12 crore people daily. there are 7000 stations. It is a vast network. It is second largest network in the world, still it is the cheapest. Railway is environment friendly, and if the Railway comes to a halt, the life of whole country will come to a halt. When the poor used to travel without ticket on train, they were caught by TTE. I used to be saddened by it. Therefore, when I become the Minister of Railways, I reduced the lowest rate of season ticket at Rs. 15 per month, so that even the poor could boast of having train tickets. Therefore, I will continue whatever I have started. I am not ready to withdraw it.

[English]

It will continue for the benefit of the poor passengers.

[Translation]

One of my colleagues said that we do not work according to the reports of the Commission, it is not true. After Independence, three Commissions were set up - Kunjru Commission, Sikri Commission and one more Commission. Three Commissions had been set up. Recently, we have received the report of Khanna Committee. As far as I know, it has given 150 recommendations. Out of those, we have accepted 103 recommendations, partially accepted 28 recommendations and only 19 recommendations we have not accepted. It is reviewed by the Rail Safety Committee after the accident which reports on the accident also. We have also received nine recommendations of the CRC. Out of those, we have accepted 8 recommendations. We did not accept one recommendation. Why we did that? That recommendation was about automatic fluorescent light. We had a meeting on that issue also and we have sent the resolution to RDSO. We would also accept that recommendation.

Have you ever thought that Indian Railway had no safety plan? I asked about the reasons for not having the safety plan. There is a safety plan at the zonal level but not at national level.

[English]

There was no Member (Safety) on the Board. This is the first time I gave charge to the Chairman. Railway Board to take charge of safety. This is the first time it has happened in the railway history of the country.

[Translation]

Nobody was aware of the need of safety. We had a meeting of full Railway Board and asked for the formulation of new safety plan. You must see that we have provided mobile radio, walkman and walkie-talkie in all the trains. Besides, we are going to introduce them at the stations also. We have sanctioned them for the station master on 'out of turn' basis. It will cost Rs.22 crores but still it has to be done since,

[English]

we should not compromise on safety.

[Translation]

Another colleague was saying about trains. We are going to present our budget in the near future. It will reflect our line of thought and also our plans for the next decade. We have started implementing innovative ideas. We also have made some progress in the commercial utilisation of land but pace is slow because of certain legal and financial sections. Even then, we have made a lot of progress in this regard.

Besides, I had also mentioned about Rail Tel Corporation and also about optical fibre cables. You would be pleased to know about our achievements in this direction. If we are to send the proposal for Rail Tel Corporation to the Ministry of Finance, or to Planning Commission or to Prime Minister or to the I.T. Department or to Communication Department, it will take at least one year. Therefore, we have set up a task force consisting of one Member from each department. We have already registered our Rail Tel Corporation and it is ready to provide us business plans. It will benefit the Railways in the sense that modernisation of signals would be done and the villages, which still are out of Railway network, will become part of it. We are doing it not for a small area but for 62800 kms. We have done that to care for the backward areas and the interior areas because everyone is interested just in the potential areas. If the villages are brought into network, our telephone system, our signal system will get modernised. The use of optical fibres will revolutionise the Railways and our view point will also become business like. I want to say that the Railways is not just a commercial Organisation. It also has to serve some social obligations. If a poor is unable to go elsewhere for treatment we come forward to help him. We also come forward for help at the time of natural disaster as we did during the super cyclone of Orissa. Similarly, we also helped

during floods and droughts in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. We helped when my region was ravaged by floods, whenever something happens.

[English]

The Railways is the first communication line of this country and it always extends its full co-operation.

[Translation]

If sometimes there are some deficiencies in our service, I regret it but it is true that incident of derailment are increasing. There are numerous reasons for this increase.

One of my colleagues said that there was some defect in the steel supplied to us by Bhilai Steel Plant. Therefore, I held a meeting with the Minister of Steel to sort out the matter. I said that it is better to run trains a little bit late than to endanger the lives of the passengers. During winter season, due to cold conditions, the railway track shrinks and during summer season it expands. It leads to some defect in the track. It is the reason behind high cases of line fracture in these two-three months. I have instructed for limiting the speed of the train because our foremost duty is to save the lives of the people.

I am grateful for the suggestions given by the hon. Members. But on behalf of Railways, I would like to say that it is important to give attention to the safety of the Railways. Indian Railway has its own network. The present position cannot be allowed to continue for long when one becomes old.

[English]

I have to take care of my health.

[Translation]

If somebody suffers a heart-attack, he needs to be given full care. Care is also necessary for the people of old age. I do not know from where are we to get coaches and tracks, but still we have increased the outlay for track renewal by 37 per cent for signalling communication by 26 per cent. Khanna Committee has recommended a one time grant of Rs. 15000 crores to Railways. It has warned that in the absence of grant, the very existence of Railways will be threatened. British railways is in private sector but last time when there was an accident, the British Government extended an assistance of Rs.21000 crore in rupee terms. I am not quarrelling with anybody. I will be happy if the national highways, state highways and village roads are in good condition but the 1.2 crore persons working in the railways are like my heart. For their care

[English]

I will request all the hon. Members to give us support.

[KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE]

[Translation]

It is not important whether I am in charge of the Ministry or not. I can only work. I cannot personally drive the train. Formulation of long term plans is necessary to remove the bottlenecks in train running.

With these words, I would like to congratulate everybody. Regarding individual questions, which I would not reply [English] I will send all the replies to the hon. Members individually ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Muniyappa, She would send the replies in writing. Please sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the resolution regarding approval of recommendations made in the First Report of the Railway Convention Committee, 1999 moved by Kumari Mamata Banerjee to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House approves the recommendations made in paragraphs 115, 116, 117, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123 and 124 contained in the First Report of the Railway Convention Committee, 1999 appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented to Lok Sabha on 22 August, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Supplementary Demand for Grant (Railways) for 2000-2001 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2001, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No.16."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Supplementary Demand for Grant (Railways) for 2000-2001 is passed.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 5 BILL*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the

Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2000-2001 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN) : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2000-2001 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I introduce the Bill."

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2000-2001 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2000-2001 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

23.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 21, 2000/Agrahayana 30, 1922(Saka).

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** Introduced/moved with the recommendation of the president.

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