

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 24, 2000/Bhadrapada 2, 1922
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at one minute past Eleven
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the sudden and untimely demise of one of our esteemed colleagues Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam.

Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam was a sitting Member of Lok Sabha representing Tiruchirapalli parliamentary constituency of Tamil Nadu. He was also a Member of Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1996, and Twelfth Lok Sabha during 1998-99 representing Salem and Tiruchirapalli parliamentary constituencies of Tamil Nadu.

An able and eminent administrator, Shri Kumaramangalam served as a Minister in the Union Council of Ministers and held various important portfolios. At present, he was holding the position of Minister of Power.

An active parliamentarian, he left no opportunity in giving voice to the problems of common man. He was a Member of Business Advisory Committee in Lok Sabha during 1989-90 and also Parliamentary Pay Committee during 1998. He also served as a Member of Consultative Committee, Ministry of Labour and Welfare.

He evinced keen interest in literature and authored a book. The Student Movement in India and also wrote articles titled. The other side of Gravitation and The Nuances of Directive Principle.

An advocate by profession, he was a well-known trade union leader. He always stood for the cause of welfare of the workers, downtrodden and weaker sections of the society. He also made concerted efforts for employment of educated youth.

Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam died after a brief illness on 23 August, 2000 at New Delhi at the age of 48.

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.

[Translation]

PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, birth is closely associated with death and both have inseparable link. But we never expected his death so sudden. Yesterday we celebrated Janmashtami. Lord Krishna had preached in "Geeta" that we should not lament upon death. Soul transforms from one body to another after death as we discard the old clothes for the new ones. So there should be no reason to lament upon the death. Kumaramangalam was a young politician. Till Yesterday, he was in our midst but today he is no more with us. His passing away did strike us like a bolt from the blue. He was not merely a politician rather he was very much active in politics, whenever required he brought changes as per his thinking. The most outstanding trait of his personality was to take everybody along with a glitter of smile on his face and he felt hesitated in using harsh words against anyone. That Kumaramangalam is no more with us. He was a parliamentarian par excellence, a good orator, an able organiser and an outstanding lawyer as well. He was a multifaceted personality and he had miles to go. But sometimes, some accidents cut short the journey and the companions are compelled to part with before reaching the destination. That is what has happened today.

We pay our humble tribute to him and convey our condolences to the bereaved family. I am sure, Ranga would continue to inspire us in every walk of life.

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rangarajan Kumaramangalam was snatched from our midst when we thought that he had many, many years ahead of him. Now, suddenly, he is no more. This is a grievous loss. It is a reminder of our own mortality. It is a reminder of our vulnerability to forces over which we have no control.

Since our families have known each other for three generations and I myself had known Ranga for many, many years, the loss is a personal loss as well. I grieve for his young wife; I grieve for his young children.

Ranga's warmth of manner will remain the enduring image of him. He had an exceptional ability to reach out with genuine affection and to grasp every outstretched hand. This naturally brought him countless number of friends and therefore my sympathies extend to them as well.

Although Ranga died before he reached the age of 50, he packed into his political and legal career more activities and more achievements than many others. As a student in the Delhi University, he was among the founders

of the NSUI, the student wing of the Congress Party. He was also very active in the trade union movement.

Following in the wake of his distinguished father and grandfather, he entered Parliament 20 years ago. I think, but for one intervening Lok Sabha, he was elected and re-elected to Parliament from Salem and from Trichy. His Parliamentary skills soon attracted notice and brought him high recognition. My husband was particularly fond of him.

I believe Ranga was one of the first few to comprehend Rajiv Gandhi's vision of progress in the 21st century being driven by the new information technology.

As Cabinet Minister of Power in two successive Governments, he distinguished himself as a dynamic Minister, a Minister with innovative and bold ideas. His was a restless mind, constantly in search of new solutions.

It was his inquisitive spirit and his readiness at all times to enter into a democratic debate, which will remain with us as an everlasting memory of a young man who had so much more to offer to the country.

Therefore, we mourn Ranga's passing away. Once again, on behalf of the Congress Party and on my own behalf, I extend my deep-felt condolences to the grieving family and to his large circle of friends and supporters.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is extremely sad and heart-rending that we should be standing here to mourn the passing away of another of our brightest young politician who has left us only yesterday.

In the beginning of this Session, we mourned the passing away of Shri Rajesh Pilot, another young politician, from whom the country expected a lot, as we did from Ranga.

Sir, it is a personal loss to me and to many others, I am sure. He used to always call me his uncle, whenever we met. Particularly during his tenure as the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, he really showed remarkable ability to carry the Opposition with him. I had opportunities of interaction daily, but there was never any occasion when we had any misunderstanding. He could persuade others to go along with him. This and his deep commitment to parliamentary democracy made him so successful.

I remember, a number of years back, when I was actively practising in the Calcutta High Court, I got a telephone call from him, from Chennai. I did not know him then. He said, "You have won a case in Calcutta, where the workers have been given wages for the strike-period, because the Court held that the strike was justified and legal. I have a similar problem here; and so, would you

send me a copy of that judgement?" I asked him, "Who are you?" He gave his identity. Of course, I knew his father very well. That is his commitment to help the workers who are in trouble. He was a well-known trade unionist. Like this, memories are coming back.

Of course, since he was elected to Lok Sabha in 1984, we have had numerous meetings. He used to come to my house very often, because of our personal relationship. Although, belonging to an illustrious family, which had followed a particular path of politics or political ideology, he changed his views recently. But that did not sever the relationship between us or between any one of us in the House or even outside.

I remember, only about a fortnight back, we met. When I was going out from Gate No. 4, I met him and he was a cutting a joke. He said, "Maama, you are still putting on weight." I asked, "What happened to you? You are not seen here these days."

But he did not mention that he was so unwell. A young leader with a tremendous prospect has been snatched away at the prime of his life. I felt-I said this yesterday also-that the country is poorer because our innings is already over and we have to depend on the young people with patience, drive, imagination, commitment, sincerity and transparency to lead this country where we wish to reach. They can deliver the goods to the people of this country who are waiting for us to perform. It is extremely sorry that we have lost him. It is very very difficult to fill the void. I am extremely sorry for the family. His wife, Kitty, is a member of the profession. I particularly convey her and to her children my own and my party's sincere condolences. I am sure, not only Parliament but also the whole country is grieving on the untimely passing away of this young man with a brilliant mind, active and committed to serving the nation and the common people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join you, the hon. Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in conveying my own and my party's sincerest condolences on the tragic event that had happened yesterday.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (Adilabad) : Sir, in a month's time we have lost two very young promising young leaders. This is a big loss for the nation. Kumaramangalam was a dynamic leader of immense potential. He fought many political battles during his career and won most of them. But he could not win the last battle. I feel that we are defeated in his failure to win the last battle. The nation was defeated. When I was Union Minister of State for Power, we drafted a Common Minimum Action Plan for power sector. That was an Action Plan which was endorsed by all Chief Ministers. In that context, I had the occasion to

meet hon. Rangaji on various issues of reforms in the power sector. He had not only vision but also necessary dynamism to achieve things. Sometimes, he looked very controversial. It is because he was a performer. He spoke and acted in the interest of the country. In my opinion, it is only performers who get into controversies. Sir, as Speaker, you have also witnessed that Rangaji was an ever-smiling and able person who made friends cutting across party lines. The demise of Ranga is a loss to Andhra Pradesh in particular and to the nation in general. The best tribute that we can pay to Ranga is to carry forward the momentum of reforms pursued by him.

On behalf of me and on behalf of Telugu Desam Party, I convey my heart felt condolences to the members of the bereaved family and pray God to give them necessary strength to withstand this serious loss.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the death of Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam is a great loss to the nation, to the House and to all of us. He was an able, talented and wise leader. I was not very close to him but I got many opportunities to meet him in the House when he was Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. His amiable nature, instinct and remarkable ability to run the House and taking everybody in his stride helped to lessen the political differences. He was gifted with unique quality. He had the exceptional ability to carry everybody with him and it appeared that this young leader of the country would one day reach dizzy heights in politics. It is a big loss to our country. We are grieved today. I came a little late from Lucknow. During funeral march I noticed that everybody leaving aside the party affiliation, class or section of the society was talking about him and all were distressed. He was being praised in every field. He had miles to go in his political life. Had he been alive, he could have played an important role in the service of the nation. Through you, I, on my own behalf and on the behalf of Samajwadi party, convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Rangrajan Kumaramangalam is no more with us. It is a grievous loss for the entire nation and to the Parliament as well. It is an unbearable loss but as our hon'ble Prime Minister has stated we have no option but to bear it. Shri Kumaramangalam was a young politician. There were great expectations from him in the field of politics and in Parliament. He had carved a niche in the National politics. We had never expected that our hope would fade away so soon. It would be difficult to fill the void created by his death. I pay my homage to his memory and convey my condolences to the bereaved family.

[English]

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura) : Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of my Party and on my own behalf I would like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and other leaders.

Each one of us sitting here in this august House is feeling that we have lost a personal friend. This feeling is prevailing with thousands and thousands of people outside this House. Shri Ranga had tremendous ability to make friends. I knew him as a Trade Union leader. During my tenure as the Labour Minister of this country for seven years I had many occasions to interact with him and to argue with him because he used to come with the problems of the working class. He used to come to my office with a large number of delegations. He had such a persuasive power that most of the time I had no choice but to concede his demands.

I remember one particular occasion when Shri Ranga came with a delegation of about fifty workers. He had a very long list of demands. We had three hours of marathon negotiations. After three hours of negotiations, arguments and counter-arguments, I was shocked when he asked, 'Mr. Sangma, may I withdraw all my demands? Will you please allow me to take back this memorandum?' In my tenure as the Labour Minister, that was the only occasion when a Trade Union leader withdrew the demands on the spot after three hours of negotiations. Such a reasonable man was Shri Ranga.

He was dynamic, he was young, he had tremendous capacity to articulate his views and in a period of three months' time after Shri Rajesh Pilot left us, the country has lost a very bright young politician. I deeply mourn his demise. On behalf of my Party and on my own behalf I would like to convey through you to the members of the bereaved family our heart-felt condolences.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Mr. Speaker. Sir. I on my own behalf and on behalf of my party rise to express deep sorrow on this occasion. This world is like a train and the travellers do not know as to when and where they would get down.

In the beginning of this session, we condoled the death of Shri Rajesh Pilot and when the session is about to end, we are condoling the death of another young leader Shri Kumaramangalam. Shri Rajesh Pilot had also stated that he has to go long in his political life. Shri Kumaramangalam had also told me the same thing once while we were coming out of the Prime Ministers office

Now we are scared to say that we have a long political life span, we do not know when death will trap us.

He was a talented person and was blessed with the qualities of a gentleman sensibility and wisdom. At times, when questions were asked to him and he had no appropriate reply to those questions, he with his command over the language, with his selective and effective sentences and with his prudence used to come out of the situation smilingly.

I, on my own behalf and on the behalf of my party express our heartfelt condolences. Besides, I would like to tell the hon'ble Prime Minister that there have been various reports in the newspapers about the treatment given to him. I am not much aware of it but if negligence is shown in the treatment of a person of the rank of Cabinet Minister then what will be the fate of a poor patient in this country. I would like the Prime Minister to pay attention towards it and an inquiry should be conducted as to why such a negligence was shown in his treatment. I on my own behalf and on the behalf of my Party request you to convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of myself and AIADMK, I associate myself with the views and sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition and other Party Leaders expressing their grief over the sudden death of our friend, Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam.

I know him for the last 20 years in Chennai High Court. I know his father. Sir, Shri Rangarajan is popularly called as 'Ranga' or 'Rangarajan' in Parliament. But in our legal circle, in Chennai High Court, we used to call him 'Thambu'. He was an able labour lawyer and a fighter for the labour class. He, unitedly with his wife, was fighting for the labour community in the Chennai High Court and other labour courts. When he entered politics, he used to say that one must be clean and steady in one's thinking and in taking decisions.

Sir, he was always smiling. Nobody can forget his smiling face. As a strange coincidence, in 1995, my name and Shri Rangarajan's name were debated by the full Chennai High Court for designation as Senior Advocates and we were designated on the same date. I telephonically contacted Shri Rangarajan from Chennai and told him that he had also been designated as Senior Advocate along with me. Then, he said that he was advocating the cause of the labour community and that he would spend his life, if any, only for the welfare of the depressed and labour class. So, we have lost such a personality at a young age. Destiny has snatched away Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam from the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

He was fast in his movement, thinking and behaviour. He never minced matters and wherever he was, he had no enemy at all.

In 1998, when he was asked to contest from Salem, he said that he preferred to contest from Trichy. My leader conceded to his demand by seeing the smiling face of Shri Rangarajan. Thus, he was able to catch up the mind and affection of everybody. Everybody had adored him. We have lost an able and young administrator, an able parliamentarian and a future leader of the country.

I also mourn his death, along with you, Sir, and other leaders and I express my heart-felt condolences to Shrimati Kitty Kumaramangalam who is also an advocate.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed by you, by leader of the House, leader of the opposition and other leader on the sad demise of Shri Kumaramangalam. Had Shri Kumaramangalam alived, he would have answer the reply to question No. 1 and 2. We often countered with him in the House and today also we would have done so but that opportunity did not come. Kumaramangalam died while fighting with the death. He died yesterday on the day of Janmashtami. It is being stated that proper treatment was not given to him. Even then the hospital authorities are saying that they will submit the papers to Medical council and not to the Government. If the Minister of the Government are treated in such a way then what will be the fate of general public. He has left such issues behind him. I had talked to him regarding the electricity problem of Bihar. I was also a Member of consultative committee with him. He had assured me that he would consult us separately on the issue of providing electricity to Bihar, but that day would never come. He was very much active and concerned to remove the electricity crunch prevailing in our country. Electricity crunch is really a matter of concern. Though hon'ble Prime Minister has stated that death is final and Lord Krishna had also preached that we should not lament upon death but we live in a society and whenever someone is snached away from our midst, we feel sorrow. The whole House is grieved. I request you that condolences on behalf of the House and on behalf of all the parties should be conveyed to the bereaved family so that the family could bear this irrepirable loss and come out of it.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with an unbearable sorrow and a heavy heart, I express my grief over the most unfortunate and untimely demise of our

beloved friend Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam. The very news of his sudden ailment and his struggle for life at the AIIMS did strike us like a thunderbolt from the blue. As the most ebullient and dynamic person who made a remarkable contribution to democracy; an able Parliamentarian who proved his talent and capabilities as a Minister with his marvellous performance, he became the dearest of one and all cutting across party lines. He was a tireless fighter, a dedicated crusader for the cause of the labour, for the cause of the poor and the downtrodden, and for the cause of democracy. For friendship, he was an example to others. He had his own vision. He had his dreams. The success of his outstanding performance was contributed by factors like meticulous planning, clear-cut thinking, perfect wisdom, tireless hard work, commitment to the conviction which he cherished and above all his humanitarian spirit.

He hailed from a family of rich tradition-Kumaramangalam Zamin. His grand-father the late Dr. Subbarayan was a Minister of the then Madras Presidency and also a Minister in Pandit Nehru's Cabinet. His father the late Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam was an outstanding barrister. He served as a Minister in Shrimati Indira Gandhi's Cabinet and his sudden demise in the air crash was a rude shock to the whole country. Had Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam lived, he would have reached some more dizzy heights. But the cruel and merciless hands of death has snatched him away from us.

We all know that life is transient. The great poet Thomas Gray in his poetry "Elegy" written in a Country Churchyard stated: "We are all going but to the grave." So, life is transient. Rabindranath Tagore said: "Life is a tiny bubble before the silence of the Infinite." But when someone, who is near and dear, passes away, we are in tears. Today, the hon. Prime Minister has lost a trusted follower. The BJP has lost a strong lieutenant. My State, the State of Tamil Nadu, has lost a genuine and noble public servant. This Parliament has lost a good Parliamentarian. I have lost a personal bosom friend.

My heart goes to the beloved wife of Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam and his beloved son and daughter. I pay my humble homage and tribute to the young, dynamic leader whose memory will be ever green in our minds.

On behalf of the Marumalarchi DMK and on my own behalf, I express my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of the family.

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

11.41 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance in Power Sector

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

(a) whether the foreign assistance for generation of power has not been utilised properly;

(b) if so, the amount of foreign assistance received during the last three years and the extent to which the same has been utilised; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government for proper utilization of foreign assistance received for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Utilisation of external assistance for power projects in the last three years has been very good. It was 88.4% in 1997-98, 100.2% in 1998-99 and 103.3% in 1999-2000. Funds committed for a project are released in phases depending upon expenditure requirements. The figures for Revised Estimates and Actual Utilisation of external assistance for the last three years are given below:

Year	Revised Estimate (Rs. cr)	Actual Utilisation (Rs. cr)	% Utilisation
1997-98	4372.85	3868.21	88.4
1998-99	4004.00	4012.09	100.2
1999-2000	3138.58	3242.94	103.33

(c) The Government regularly monitors all on-going projects including the ones which receive foreign assistance through various Monitoring Committees including the Empowered Committee and sectoral Task Forces.

Counter Guarantee to 1000 MW Power Project

*422. DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to provide counter-guarantee for the various 1000 Megawatt Power Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Government of India (GOI) announced a policy in 1991 aimed at encouraging the flow of private capital to the power sector. This was due, among other reasons, to insufficient resource generation and dwindling budgetary support in the face of very large investment requirements in the power sector. To instil confidence among the private power developers, GOI considered issuing counter

guarantees to private power projects that were identified as developing rapidly. This counter guarantee was a financial comfort to the investors that, in case the State Electricity Boards, failed to pay for the power purchased from private generators in accordance with the Power purchase Agreement (PPA) and the concerned State Government thereafter did not honour its guarantee, GOI would make payments and deduct the sum from the Central devolution to the State.

The GOI counter-guarantee scheme was developed as a transitory measure to encourage private investment and it was decided in 1994 to extend GOI counter-guarantee to eight initial projects that had been cleared for bringing in foreign investment in the power sector. These include three projects having a capacity of more than 1000 MW. The details of these three projects are given below :

S.No.	Name of the project	Capacity (MW)	Estimated completed cost (as per techno-economic clearance given by CEA)
1.	Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project, Andhra Pradesh	1040	US\$ 943.75 million + Rs 1324.993 crores (@ 1 JS\$=Rs. 35.00)
2.	Mangalore Thermal Power Project, Karnataka.	1013.2	US\$ 7 1.574 million + Rs. 680.89 crores (@ 1 US\$=Rs. 31.50)
3.	Bhadravati Thermal Power Project, Maharashtra.	1082	Rs. 5187 crores.

On 16.5.1998, the Government approved extension of counter-guarantee in the case of the Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) of M/s Hinduja National Power Company Limited (HNPCL) in Andhra Pradesh and the Bhadravati Thermal Power Project (1082 MW) of M/s Central India Power Company (CIPCO) in Maharashtra. GOI counter-guarantee to these projects have been issued in August, 1998. The issue of counter-guarantee of GOI was approved on 22.12.1999 in the case of the Mangalore Thermal Power Project (1013.2 MW) of M/s Cogentrix Energy Inc. in Karnataka.

[English]

Pak Attacks on Defence Establishments

*423. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the army camps and establishments in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere were attacked by the militants after the "Operation Vijay" till date;

(b) the number of Officers and Jawans of the Indian Army killed and injured in these attacks;

(c) the number of militants killed, injured and captured therein; and

(d) the measures taken for tight security of army camps, establishments and installations in border areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There were eight physical attacks on Army/RR camps after OP Vijay, till 19 August, 2000.

(b) Three Officers and 21 Jawans of Indian Army were killed and 1 Officer and 53 Jawans were injured in these attacks.

(c) Nineteen terrorists were killed. No terrorist was apprehended.

(d) Adequate measures have been taken to prevent such attacks on army posts and installations.

Demand and Supply of LPG

*424. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the demand and supply position of LPG by the end of 2001;

(b) whether the present pricing pattern of LPG helps the Government in improving the health of the oil sector undertakings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) demand to be met by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies is estimated to be 8,516 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) for the year 2001-02 while the LPG production from the indigenous sources is estimated to be 7,071 TMT for the year 2001-02. The estimated deficit of 1,445 TMT will be met through imports. Further, Government have permitted private parties to import LPG under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS).

(b) and (c) At present, domestic LPG is a subsidised petroleum product. The current level of subsidy on domestic LPG is Rs. 125/- per cylinder. LPG for commercial use is sold at market determined prices. The Government in November, 1997 decided to dismantle the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in a phased manner which inter-alia stipulated that the subsidy on domestic LPG would be reduced to 15% of its import parity price by the year 2000-01.

Report of Jaswant Singh Commission

*425. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Jaswant Singh Commission had submitted its report to the Government on the setting up of benches of High Courts in different States;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement all the recommendations of the Jaswant Singh Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) In its report dated 30th April, 1985, the Jaswant Singh Commission recommended establishment of a permanent Bench of the Allahabad High Court at Agra and two circuit Benches thereof at Nainital and Dehradun by Parliamentary legislation. The Commission inter alia recommended establishment of circuit Benches of the Madhya Pradesh and Madras High Courts at Raipur and Madurai

respectively by issue of notifications by the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts under section 51 (3) of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 and consideration of their conversion into permanent Benches by Presidential notification under section 51 (2) of the said Act after five years. The Commission also suggested broad principles and criteria to be followed in assessing the expediency and desirability of setting up a Bench of the High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench.

The Chief Justice of the Madras High Court and the Government of Tamil Nadu have since agreed that a permanent Bench of the Madras High Court may be established at Madurai after infrastructural facilities, like court buildings, accommodation for Judges, etc. are provided by the State Government.

No specific, complete proposals have been received in this regard from the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the concerned High Courts. However, provisions have been made in the Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2000 and the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2000, passed by Parliament for creation of separate High Courts for the new States of Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal.

Production of Bio-fertilizers

*426. SHRI RAJO SINGH :
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to boost the production of bio-fertilizers in the country;

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

(c) the names of the States where the bio-fertilizers are being produced alongwith State-wise details thereof;

(d) whether any assistance has been given to encourage the use of bio-fertilizers during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH P. PRABHU) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Government of India, is implementing during 9th plan a continuing central sector scheme entitled 'National Project

on Development and Use of Biofertilizers'. Under the scheme a national centre has been established at Gaziabad with its six regional centres one each at Hissar, Jabalpur, Bangalore, Nagpur, Bhubaneshwar and Imphal. These centres organise training programmes for their extension workers, dealers and farmers. The centres also organise field demonstrations on the use of biofertilizers. The centres maintain improved strains of biofertilizers, for distribution among biofertilizer producers in the country. The literature on the utility of biofertilizers is also prepared and distributed for use by extension workers, biofertilizer producers, dealers and farmers.

Under the scheme, a non-recurring grant-in-aid upto Rs 20 Lakhs is given for equipment to set up biofertilizer production unit of 150 tonnes capacity per annum. Proportionately lower grants are given for the smaller capacity. During 9th plan, a provision of Rs. 6.0 crore has been made for giving grant to set up bio fertilizer units.

(c) As per the industrial policy of the Government, no licence is required for setting up biofertilizer units in the country. Entrepreneurs are free to set up biofertilizer projects anywhere in the country.

A statement indicating state-wise number of biofertilizer production units set-up/being set-up both as those sponsored/financed by Government of India and those established without the grant from the Government of India are given in Statement-I.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Assistance amounting to Rs. 301.00 lakhs have been given for establishment for biofertilizer units in some of the States during last 3 years. The details are given in Statement-II. Besides, the Department of Fertilizers has also given grant-in-aid of Rs. 10.00 lakhs to M/s HFC Ltd. during 1997-98 for strengthening biofertilizer production units at Durgapur, Barauni, Sindri and Namrup.

Statement-I

The Statewise details of biofertiliser production capacities created by GOI and others

S. No.	Name of the State	BF Prodn. Cap./annum (tons)			
		Sponsored by GOI		Others	
		No. of units	Capacity	No. of units	Capacity
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	225	1	70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	75		
3.	Assam	2	300		
4.	Bihar	4	375	1	11
5.	Meghalaya	1	75		
6.	Mizoram	1	75		
7.	Nagaland	1	150		
8.	Orissa	4	525		
9.	West Bengal	3	300	2	234
10.	Haryana	1	75		
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1	75		
12.	Uttar Pradesh	4	225	10	300
13.	Karnataka	8	1050	3	430
14.	Kerala	3	300		
15.	Tamil Nadu	7	600	7	459
16.	Pondicherry	1	75		
17.	Gujarat	6	1200		
18.	Madhya Pradesh	6	1025		

1	2	3	4	5	6
19. Maharashtra	15	1950	20	6048	
20. Rajasthan	2	225	3	1052	
21. Punjab	1	175			
22. Delhi			1	3	
23. Tripura			1	10	
Total	75	9075	49	8617	
Total Biofertiliser production capacity created by GOI and Others			1769		
Total No. of GOI units and others			124		

Statement-II*Grant released during last three years for setting up bio fertilizer production units*

S. No.	Name of State	Year (Rs. in lakhs)			Total
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	
Central Sector Scheme of Deptt. of Agril. and Coop.					
1.	Gujarat	40.00	—	15.00	55.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	20.00	—	—	20.00
3.	Uttar Pradesh	20.00	—	—	20.00
4.	Maharashtra	—	30.00	90.00	120.00
5.	Meghalaya	—	10.00	—	10.00
6.	Tamil Nadu	—	10.00	—	10.00
7.	Karnataka	—	—	42.50	42.50
8.	Kerala	—	—	5.00	5.00
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	5.00	5.00
Total		80.00	50.00	157.50	287.50
Scheme of Deptt. of Fertilizers					
1	Andhra Pradesh	6.50	—	—	6.50
2	Karnataka	7.00	—	—	7.00
Total		13.50	—	—	13.50
Grand Total		93.50	50.00	157.50	301.00

*[Translation]***Impact of Power Shortage on Indian Economy**

*427. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a negative impact on the Indian economy due to power shortage; and

(b) if so, the details of the impact and the efforts made by the Government to solve the power shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Energy is an essential input for economic development and power shortages may have negative impact on Indian economy. However, there has been significant growth in the power sector in the past over fifty years. The installed

generating capacity has increased from about 1350 MW in 1947 to over 99,000 MW as on 31st July, 2000. Similarly, energy generation in the country almost doubled within a span of last 10 years from 245.4 Billion Units (BU) during 1989-90 to 480 BU during 1999-2000. Though the growth in Power Sector has been quite impressive, it has not kept pace with growing demand. Energy shortage during the year 1999-2000 was of the order of 6.2% and peak deficit of 12.4%. Various State Governments impose restrictions and power cuts on industry and agriculture sectors especially during peak hours. In spite of these constraints, Indian Economy as a whole has generally shown positive growth rate. According to Economic Survey 1999-2000, annual average growth of gross domestic product has been positive except in the years 1957-58, 1965-66, 1972-73 and 1979-80.

In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in the country, following short-term and long-term measures have been taken by the Government :-

Short-term Measures

- (i) Facilitating Inter-Regional transfer of power by establishing the necessary transmission network.
- (ii) Renovation and Modernisation and life extension of existing old units of thermal and hydro power stations to maximise generation.
- (iii) Implementation of short-gestation power projects.
- (iv) Demand side Management.
- (v) Reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses by implementing various measures.

Long-term Measures

- (i) Promoting private sector participation in power sector.
- (ii) Formulation of Hydel policy in August, 1998 for exploitation of hydro-potential at a faster pace, and promoting small and mini hydel projects.
- (iii) Strengthening of transmission and distribution system and improving reliability of the system.
- (iv) Reforms and restructuring of the power sector.
- (v) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation.
- (vi) Formulation of revised guidelines in November, 1998 for setting up of Mega Power Projects to facilitate setting up of large sized generation plants in the country.

[English]

Import/Export of Silk

*428. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the total quantity and value of raw silk imported and exported during each of the last three years and current year, country-wise;
- (b) the steps taken to boost the export of silk;
- (c) whether some silk industries represented to curtail/stop the silk export;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government have imposed anti-dumping duties on the imported silk; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) A statement is attached indicating the country-wise and year-wise import of raw silk from 97-98 to 2000-2001 (April-May). Raw silk is not exported from the country.

(b) The main steps taken to increase the exports of silk products are :-

- (i) Government is providing market development assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for undertaking various export promotion activities such as participation in international fairs, organizing generic promotion stalls in domestic fairs like Tex Styles India, Publicity in foreign trade magazines, publication of magazine "Silk India" and colour forecast card for domestic silk manufacturers, dissemination of overseas trade information among exporters, etc.
- (ii) Government has rationalized value addition/ Input-output norms specified under the Exim Policy; extended to exporters the facility of duty free import of raw material under the Advance Licensing Scheme; permitted import of capital goods at concessional rate of duty for export products etc.
- (iii) For technological up-gradation, loan at 5% point less than applicable rate, under the Technological

Up-gradation Fund Scheme for the Textiles sector is also available to silk sector.

(c) and (d) This Ministry has not received representation to curtail/stop silk export. However, this Ministry has received representations from Spun Silk Mills stating that availability of silk waste has come down and asking for curtailment/ban on export of silk waste. Silk reelers and

exporters have also been sending representations that exports should not be curtailed/banned.

A meeting of reelers, exporters and Spun Silk Mills has been held at the highest level in the Ministry to hear the difficulties and view point of both sides.

(e) and (f) No anti-dumping duties have been imposed on the import of silk.

Statement

Import of Raw Silk

(Value in Rs. Lakhs, Qty. in tonne's)

Country	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (Prov.)		2000-01 April-May (Prov.)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Australia	—	—	—	—	13	100.53	—	—
Austria	—	—	—	—	8	67.79	—	—
Brazil	71	776.84	170	1737.23	130	1015.35	21	62.67
Bulgaria	—	—	4	33.58	—	—	—	—
Chile	3	34.08	—	—	1	12.55	31	268.39
Chinese Taipei	61	535.57	94	785.49	39	321.99	2	4.47
China PRP	1795	16932.85	2203	20327.03	6409	38205.81	594	4927.33
Colombia	19	184.86	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	1	11.77	—	—	4	22.37	—	—
Hongkong	180	1491.51	144	1319.00	2	12.66	38	311.03
Honduras	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7.4
Italy	Neg.	1.24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Japan	—	—	2	14.55	189	1273.98	—	—
Kazakasthan	—	—	—	—	2	23.41	—	—
Korea DPR	7	63.46	4	30.15	2	10.69	—	—
Kuwait	1	8.93	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kyrgyzstan	—	—	—	—	10	60.33	1	4.05
Korea RP	38	284.93	98	780.08	1	6.79	4	35.66
Malaysia	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	68.82
Nepal	1	9.21	2	21.40	63	363.94	—	—
Paraguay	9	91.98	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russia	21	169.53	5	44.74	10	83.09	—	—
Singapore	31	294.88	28	273.84	1	6.63	—	—
South Africa	—	—	—	—	4	36.44	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sri Lanka	—	—	5	52.30	1	12.19	—	—
Switzerland	—	—	—	—	3	24.03	—	—
Turkey	7	58.55	6	51.84	2	17.32	—	—
UAE	35	283.19	14	104.66	—	—	3	23.83
UK	6	51.08	4	40.37	4	26.78	—	—
USA	8	50.09	12	115.48	1	4.41	—	—
Uzbekistan	62	457.02	21	141.06	27	201.68	—	—
Vietnam Soc Rep.	5	45.59	8	63.62	10	68.05	—	—
Total	2361	21833.16	2824	25936.42	6936	41984.83	702	5713.65

Fuel Linkage to Bhadrawati Power Project

*429. SHRIMATI JAYABEN. B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is likely to discuss with the Ministry of Coal, the issue of fuel linkage for 1.2 billion dollar fast track Bhadravati Power Project from which French company Electric De France (EDF) withdrew, very recently, on the ground of delays; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction on an high risk premium for supply of coal to the project site by the Coal India Ltd. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The issues relating to supply of coal to the 1082 MW Bhadrawati power project of M/s Central India Power Company Ltd. (CIPCO) were discussed in a meeting convened at Mumbai on 5th August, 2000 in which representatives from the Government of India (Ministry of Power and Department of Coal), Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB), M/s Coal India Ltd. (CIL), M/s Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) and CIPCO etc., were present.

(b) The issues relating to supply of coal, including pricing and risk premium, were discussed at the said meeting and the matter is still under consideration.

Railway Projects

*430. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many important railway projects are being delayed on the ground of non-availability of

resources and on the contrary hundreds of crores of rupees are being spent on projects which are not needed at all; and

(b) the steps taken to execute the pending railway works from that amount ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) No, Sir. Railway projects are, generally, taken up to meet the operational requirements of the system. However, there are many projects which are regarded as socially desirable, though not financially remunerative. Allocation of funds to the various projects is done judiciously keeping in view their priority.

(b) There are a large number of New Line and Gauge Conversion projects with a huge throw-forward shelf of Rs. 22,000 Crore and Rs. 9,000 Crore respectively. Railways have prioritised the New Line and Gauge Conversion projects on the basis of their physical progress, operational importance, national and strategic significance and their social purpose, to assist in judicious allocation of resources.

Situation on Indo-Pak Border

*431. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Pakistani activities currently noticed by Indian Armed Forces on various places of Indo-Pak border;

(b) the details of places where Pakistani Forces resorted to fire on various points of Line of Control during the recent past;

(c) the details of casualties suffered on both sides amongst civilians and jawans of Armed Forces in each of the above firing incidents; and

(d) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard the national security?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Pakistani activities along the Indo-Pak border include artillery and small arms firing, infiltration of terrorists and attempted raids on isolated vulnerable posts along the Line of Control. In addition, there are also reports of Pakistan army reserve formations having moved opposite J&K as also Pakistan army formations conducting training opposite J&K.

Firing along the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL), Line of Control (LOC) and International Boundary (IB) in J&K is a regular phenomenon. Pakistani troops resort to unprovoked firing in order to facilitate infiltration with the aim of perpetuating militancy in J&K and projecting J&K as the flash point to the international community.

During the period from 1st January, 2000 to 30th June, 2000, 47 army personnel have been killed on our side due to exchange of fire on the Line of Control. On Pakistan side 502 soldiers are reported to have been killed/wounded. Civilian casualties on Pak side are not known. Civilian casualties on our side are being ascertained.

Identification of Surplus Railway Land for Commercial use

*432. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways, as a part of measures to increase resources, had decided to use surplus land and air space for commercial purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government would consider to build commercial complexes at Palani, Dindigul, Oddanchattram, Udumalpet, Pollachi, Coimbatore and Madurai; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Railways have decided to utilise air space over its ind/stations for commercial use, to garner resources for its developmental schemes. Of the 69 potential sites for property development, identified by an Expert Committee appointed a few years back, Railways have taken up 24 sites in Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad, in first phase.

(c) and (d) Commercial development of Railway land/ air space at other sites will be taken up in phases, after gaining experience on the sites taken up in the First Phase.

Production and use of Banned Pesticides

*433. SHRI C.P. RADHA KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the fertilizers and pesticides have been continuously polluting the rivers, ocean and underground water;

(b) if so, the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to continue the production and use of the pesticides banned by many other countries;

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

(e) If so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the production and use of banned pesticides in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) Government is aware that excessive use of fertilizers may cause pollution of groundwater, however, the present level of fertilizer consumption in India is still lower than many developing countries and cannot be termed as excessive. Use of pesticides in the agricultural sector has inherent water run off problems which may lead to pollution of rivers, ocean and underground water. Keeping in view the global concern about the harmful impact of pesticides on environment, Government of India has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in the over-all crop production programme wherein emphasis is laid on non-chemical and bio-pesticides. By promoting the concept of IPM, Government of India is promoting an eco-friendly approach with minimal use of pesticides in the agricultural sector which is not likely to pose any problem of polluting the rivers, ocean and underground water.

(c) to (e) In India, production of pesticides is possible only after they are registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968. The Registration Committee ensures that the pesticides which are banned in other countries are not registered normally except for some very specific molecules that do not pose any negative toxicological or environmental hazards under India agro-climatic conditions. In respect of ban on pesticides by other countries after they have been registered in India, the Government constitutes Expert Committees to review the same for taking corrective action.

[Translation]

**National Policy for Power Supply
to Rural Areas**

*434. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased state :

(a) whether the Government have contemplated to formulate any national policy for power supply in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Power has been contemplating a new legislation i.e. Electricity Bill, 2000 which, inter-alia, proposes that supply of electricity will be ensured to all areas including villages and hamlets for which a national policy would be formulated by the Central Government after consultations with the State Governments. The draft of the proposed Bill which is presently under consideration also envisages the national policy to provide for bulk purchase of power and management of local distribution in rural areas through Users Associations, Co-operatives, Franchisees or Panchayat Institutions. It is also envisaged that the policy would permit non-conventional stand alone energy systems for rural areas.

The Ministry of Power has also held consultations with various experts in the energy sector to have on holistic approach to the problem of un-electrified villages. During the course of discussions, the following issues have emerged:-

- (i) inclusion of Rural Electrification as part of Basic Minimum Service as it may not always be economically viable for the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) at the current rates of tariff and cost of funds.
- (ii) special emphasis to Dalit Bastis and Tribal villages for achieving 100% village electrification.
- (iii) encouragement to non-governmental participation in Rural Electrification programme.
- (iv) allowing private players to generate/buy and sell electricity to consumers as it may be difficult for SEBs alone to ensure quality electricity supply to rural areas.

- (v) non-conventional sources for the villages located in remote and difficult areas, where extension of grid would not be feasible.
- (vi) Need to address total energy requirements rather than electricity requirements alone in rural areas in a convenient and cost effective manner.
- (vii) metering and full accounting of the supply of electricity to rural areas.
- (viii) providing subsidies, but in an explicit and focussed manner, particularly for remote and inaccessible villages, Dalit-Bastis and Tribal Areas.

These and other related issues are being considered by a Group of Ministers constituted by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. The Group has been constituted to review the existing schemes relating to electrification of Dalit Bastis and Tribal villages and benefitting other weaker sections and suggest modifications for accelerating the pace of electrification, so that they enjoy the benefits of electrification to the same extent as other areas/sections of the population.

[English]

Militancy in J&K

*435. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no decline in militant activities in J&K after Kargil conflict;

(b) the quantum of RDX, other explosives, arms and ammunitions seized from various militant groups operating in J&K during the last year till date; and

(c) the extent of success achieved by the defence forces in containing the militancy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) There has been no decline in the militant activities in J&K after the Kargil conflict.

2. The quantum of RDX/other explosives/arms and ammunition seized from the various militant groups operating in J&K during the year 1999 and from January, 2000 to 16th August, 2000 is as follows :-

	1999		2000 (January-16 August)
	1		2
RDX	1161 kgs	RDX	1263 kgs
Other explosives	1644 kgs	Other explosives	1376 kgs

1		2	
Rockets	836	Rockets	470
Pika Guns	31	Pika Guns	24
Mortars	74	Mortars	98
Rocket Launchers	195	Rocket Launchers	129
Grenade Launchers	235	Grenade Launchers	79
AK Rifles	1365	AK Rifles	855
Ammunition	258471	Ammunition	148198

3. Appropriate measures have been taken by the security forces to contain militancy in the State, and their success is evident from the large number of terrorists killed and apprehended during this period. During these operations, 1857 terrorists have been killed and 438 have been apprehended in the period from January 1999 to 16th August, 2000.

Defence Policy

*436. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Experts are of the view that a reactive defence policy being followed by the Indian Army poses a military disadvantage and the country should adopt an offensive defence policy;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered these proposals; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A number of suggestions/recommendations have been received from various quarters including expert bodies such as the Kargil Review Committee for evolving a more effective system of managing National Security. Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) on 17th April 2000 to review the National Security system in its entirety and in particular, to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation. The GOM has set up four Task Forces; one each in the areas of intelligence apparatus, internal security, border management and defence management. The GOM is expected to submit its report in a period of six months from the date of its constitution.

Increase in Urea Subsidy

*437. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of increase in urea subsidy during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the increase in subsidy on account of increase of feed-stock prices and on account of increased production, during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) The quantum of increase in subsidy on indigenous urea during the last three years is as follows :

Year	Quantum of increase in the amount of subsidy on indigenous urea, as compared to the subsidy paid during the preceding year
1997-98	Rs. 1823 crore
1998-99	Rs. 1050 crore
1999-2000	Rs. 1101 crore

(b) The details of quantum of increase in subsidy on account of various factors such as increase in the cost of feed stock, increase in production etc. are not separately maintained. Increase in production and sharp rise in prices of feedstocks are, however, the main reasons for the increase in the quantum of subsidy.

Shortfall in the Output of Crude Oil during Ninth Plan

*438. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to mid-term review paper of Planning Commission, the output of crude oil during the Ninth Plan is likely to fall short of the target by 15 million tonnes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the target fixed and likely to be achieved during the Ninth Plan;

(d) whether gas production is also likely to fall short of the target by 12 per cent;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) During the Mid-Term appraisal by Planning Commission of the Ninth Plan, it has emerged that output of crude oil during the Plan period is likely to be 169.78 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) as against the original target of 180.82 MMT.

The reasons for the likely shortfall in crude oil are :-

- (i) The major oil fields including Mumbai High, are in the natural declining phase with age.
- (ii) No significant or major oil field has been discovered for the last several years.
- (iii) Continued environment problems in North-Eastern Region and its cascading effect has resulted in less base potential due to subdued drilling and work over activities.
- (iv) Delay in commissioning of Enhanced Oil Recovery schemes in the heavy oil belt of North Gujarat.
- (v) Major downward revision of producible reserves of Neelam field.
- (d) The Mid-term appraisal indicates that the gas production is likely to fall short of the target by about 5%.
- (e) The reasons for shortfall in production of natural gas are :-
 - (i) Closure of high 'Gas Oil Ratio' (GOR) wells in Mumbai High
 - (ii) Irregular offtake of gas by consumers, in addition to the less offtake during turnaround of their plants.
 - (iii) Shut down for hooking up of new facilities in Vasai and Mumbai High fields.
 - (iv) Less associated gas production due to corresponding lower production of crude oil.
 - (f) Various steps taken to increase the production of crude oil and natural gas are:-
 - (i) Optimizing production from existing fields through better reservoir management, 3-D seismic surveys, infill drilling, pressure maintenance, installation/optimisation of artificial lift system and use of advanced and cost effective technologies and improvement in recovery factor.
 - (ii) Faster development of newly discovered oilfields.
 - (iii) Finding new hydrocarbon reserves through intensified exploration activities such as-
 - Exploration at greater depths in existing fields.
 - Extending exploration activities to deep waters and frontier areas.

- Increased private participation in exploration activities through implementation of New Exploration Licensing Policy.

Losses Incurred by I.P.C.L.

*439. SHRI S.D.N.R.WADIYAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) since when the Indian Petrochemical Corporation Limited has been running into losses along with reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of the losses incurred during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited has posted net profits in the last few years, including the three years from 1997-98 to 1999-2000, as well as for the Quarter ending June 30, 2000 in the current financial year.

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

Railway Reforms Commission

*440. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a Railway Reforms Commission to go into the problems of Indian Railways with a view to suggesting remedial measures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Hon'ble President in his address to the joint sitting of the Parliament on 25.10.99 has, *inter alia*, announced that "a Railway Reforms Commission will be set up to evolve a new resource mobilisation strategy, rationalise tariff, prioritise the project portfolio, and urgently fulfill the unmet needs of Railway safety".

In the meanwhile, a Railway Expert Group headed by Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Director-General, National Council of Applied Economic Research, comprising members from financial institutions, industry, economic research centres has been constituted by the Ministry of Railways to examine the financing requirements, identify sources of funding of the estimated investments and to study models of structure and ownership of rail transport facilities, etc., to optimise the use of rail transport. The Railway Expert Group is expected to submit its report by the end of September, 2000. A view on the terms of reference of the

proposed Railway Reforms Commission will be taken only after the report of the Expert Group has been received.

[Translation]

Production of Fertilizers Through L.N.G.

4687. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to cancel the scheme to increase fertilizer production through imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the report of Awasthi Committee has been examined in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The pre-feasibility report on the import of LNG for manufacture of fertilizers, submitted by the Core Group headed by Shri U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), has been examined by the Government. The Core Group in its report had recommended setting up of a 7 million tonne per annum LNG Project, basically for fertilizer feedstock but which could also serve complementary sectors like

power, domestic gas etc., to be implemented in two phases in a period of 7 1/2 years at an estimated cost of Rs. 21832 crore.

(e) To address the issue relating to possible decline in the supply of natural gas in the coming year, Government have directed the Core Group for fertilizer companies to prepare a detailed feasibility report for setting up of an integrated chain of LNG supply in the country.

[English]

Employment as Retainers/Consultants in HFC/FCI

4688. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the employees who have been employed as Retainers/Consultants after superannuation in HFC/FCI during 1999-2000;

(b) the emoluments received by them per month;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on them during the above period; and

(d) the details of the assignment given to them which cannot be performed by the existing employees of HFC/FCI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) :

(a) to (d) The details of employment of Retainers/Consultants in HFC/FCI are given in Statement I and II.

Statement-I

Details of Employment of Retainers/Consultants in HFC

Sl. No	Names of employees detained as consultants during 1999-2000	Monthly emoluments	Total expenditure incurred	Details of assignment given to them
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Shri J.P. Katakai	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 30,000/-	Shri Katakai was functioning as Incharge, Personnel Department of Namrup Unit.
2.	Shri A. Talukdar	Rs. 6,500/-	Rs. 59,400/-	Shri Talukdar was in the operation of equipment like crane and others in the Namrup Revamp Project.
3.	Shri N.G. Roy Choudhary	Rs. 10,390/-	Rs. 1,15,817/-	Shri Roy Choudhary was engaged as a Retainer for preparation of statements and reports.

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Shri I.S. Kanwar	Rs. 11,540/-	Rs. 52,231/-	Shri Kanwar was engaged as retainer in Technical Deptt.
5.	Shri S.P. De	Rs. 12,000/-	Rs. 53,667/-	Shri De was engaged as a Retainer for completing certain specific task like proposals of Marketing Division, etc.
6.	Shri B.C. Pandey	Rs. 11,940/-	Rs. 32,938/-	Shri Pandey was the only experienced hand in CMDs Secretariat for making constant liaisoning and contacts with the senior officials.
7.	Shri D. Prasad	Rs. 10,675/-	Rs. 64,050/-	He was engaged as Retainer for a period of six months in the interest of the Barauni

Statement-II*Details of Employment of Retainers/Consultants in FCIL*

Sl. No	Names of employees detained as consultants during 1999-2000	Monthly emoluments	Total expenditure incurred	Details of assignment given to them
1.	Shri J.S. Das	Rs. 10,200/-	Rs. 28,105/-	Shri Das's services were utilized for various important jobs like transfer of Ammonia from Talcher to Sindri.
2.	Shri O.P. Sharma	Rs. 4,800/-	Rs. 1,15,200/-	Shri Sharma has been working FCIL in Budget with a computer aided software system.
3.	Shri S.P. Verma	Rs. 75,00/-	Rs. 14,700/-	Shri Verma has been engaged to finalize the long pending claims of FCIL on Railways.
4.	Dr. K.N. Singh	Rs. 5,300/-	Rs. 45,741/-	Dr. Singh engaged as consultant doctor in FCIL Hospital.

Protection of Small Investors

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

4689. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to protect small depositors against refusal of financial institutions and other bodies to refund the deposit money and interest after the date of maturity and insistence of renewal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the Companies Act accordingly; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Powers have been given to the Company Law Board under section 45 QA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 where there is default by the Non-Banking Finance Companies in repayment of deposits and under section 58 A of the Companies Act, 1956 in case of default by Non-Banking Non-Finance Companies. The Company Law Board can direct the Company to make repayment of such deposits or part thereof or within such time and subject to such conditions as may be specified in the order.

Noncompliance of the Company Law Board's order entails punishment with imprisonment upto three years and also fine.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1956 by inserting a new section regarding small depositors. This would put onus on the company to intimate the Company Law Board of any default made by it in repayment of deposits or part thereof or any interest thereupon within 60 days from the date of default. The Company Law Board on receipt of intimation is to pass an appropriate order within a period of 30 days from the date of receipt of such intimation. It would also not be necessary for a small depositor to be present at the hearing of the proceedings. It is also proposed to make the offence connected with or arising out of acceptance of deposits under section 58 A or section 58 AA cognizable offence under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Production of Ammunition for Howltzers

4690. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production capacity of the Ordnance factories for the basic howitzer ammunition which are used in artillery units;

(b) whether the said capacity is being fully utilised to keep Army units for battle field ready always; and

(c) if so, the reasons to why these ordnance factories are unable in timely supply of shells as ordered by Army Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (c) Ordnance factories are supplying 155 mm howitzer ammunition of different types viz HE, M 107, 77B, HEER and Smoke shells as per annual targets given by the Army. A maximum capacity of 1.2 lakh rounds is possible to be achieved by adjustment within various types of ammunition. Ordnance Factories have been able to meet the annual requirements of armed forces including the higher targets given in 1999-2000 during the Kargil operations.

Transfer of Gymkhana and Bison Polo Grounds to Andhra Pradesh

4691. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Defence Ministry to speed up the transfer of the Gymkhana and Bison Polo grounds in Hyderabad on long lease and also permit the construction of stadia

in view of the national games to be hosted by the twin cities in 2002; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal for lease of defence land comprising Gymkhana grounds and Bison Polo ground, in Secunderabad, for construction of a stadium complex for National Games 2002. No decision has been taken by the Government so far on the proposal.

[Translation]

Corruption Charges Against NFL Officers

4692. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding corruption against some officers of National Fertilizers Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) 7 complaints have been received since March, 1999 against various officers of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL). Preliminary investigations in most of these have been completed and the cases are at different stages of consideration/action in the Government as well as in NFL.

[English]

Investors Education and Protection Fund

4693. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have finalised the guidelines and rules of Investors' Protection Fund.

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Department of Company Affairs is considering the package and proposals for investors' education and awareness;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) Whether the said Department will start encouraging the Investors' Association and its functioning; and

(f) The time by which the Investors Education and Protection Fund likely to be made effective.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In exercise of powers conferred by sub section (4) of Section 205 C of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956), the Central Government has constituted a Committee to administer the Investors Education and Protection Fund and to maintain separate Accounts and other relevant records in relation to that fund in such forms as may be prescribed in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

In pursuance to decision taken by the Committee on Investor Education and Protection Fund, the Investor Protection Fund Rules, 1999 have been framed and sent to Comptroller and Auditor General of India for their approval. The matter is still under their consideration.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The draft Investor Protection Fund Rules, 1999 provides for that the committee on Investor Education and Protection Fund Rules shall recognize from time to time various Associations/Chamber of Commerce/Institutes/Organizations/Persons engaged in activities relating to Investors awareness Education and Protection who will be provided funds for conducting direct education programs; organizing seminar symposiums; conducting specific projects for Investor Protection including research activities and providing legal assistance to genuine Investor litigants.

(f) The Investor Education and Protection Fund will be effective after the Investor Education and Protection Rules are finalized in consultation with Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Indo U.S. Pact on Power

4694. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a pact has been signed between United States and India for 4 billion dollars in power sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it is likely proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Government of India had signed two Joint Statements with the Government of United States of America, one during October, 1999 at the time of visit of Mr. Bill Richardson, U.S. Energy Secretary and the second at the time of the

visit of Mr. Bill Clinton, U.S. President in March, 2000. Both statements envisage cooperation between the two countries in the areas of conventional energy projects, renewable energy, clean coal technology, energy efficiency and related environmental aspects. The statement of March, 2000 also envisages setting-up of a Joint Consultative Group on Clean Energy and Environment, Government to Government dialogue and further encouragement to be given to public and private sector cooperation in these sectors. The Joint Consultative Group will amongst other things, ensure an institutional framework between the two countries to identify, initiate and monitor public and private collaborative projects in research, development, transfer, demonstration and deployment of appropriate technologies and review areas of clean energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency and power sector reform. The Joint Statements do not mention any specific financial commitment.

Closure of Thermal Power Plant in Assam

4695. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to close down any Thermal Power Plant in Assam;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the Chandrapur Power Plant in Assam has been forced to reduce its operational capacity to less than half of its size due to shortage of supply of coal and high cost of fuel; and

(c) If so, the steps being taken to tide over the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Chandrapur Thermal Power Station in Assam has been temporarily closed down for more than one year.

(b) Chandrapur Power Plant in Assam is being run on liquid fuel and not on coal. Two units of this Plant (2 x 30 MW) are shut down as generation has become uneconomical due to high cost of liquid fuel.

(c) The shortage of power in Assam is being met from other hydro and gas based power stations and import from the Eastern Region.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur Rail Line

4696. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided for conversion of Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur meter/gauge rail line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) the funds allocated during each of the last three years and the current year along with the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

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

(e) whether the Government have also decided to connect Pushkar with Ajmer by constructing new rail line; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) This work has been taken up in phases. Earthwork and construction of bridges is in progress on first phase work between Chittaurgarh and Udaipur. Work on 2nd phase between Ajmer and Chittaurgarh will be taken up in the coming years.

(c) The position regarding amount allocated and spent in the last three years and the current year is as under :—

Year	Amount Allocated (Rs. in Crores)	Amount Spent (Rs. in Crores)
1997-98	05.00	0.50
1998-99	20.00	2.47
1999-2000	25.00	6.21
2000-01	10.00	01.05 Upto June 2000

(d) No target date has yet been fixed.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Construction of new rail line from Ajmer to Pushkar has been included in the Budget 2000-01. Final location survey has been taken up. This will be followed by land acquisition and work would be taken up once the land becomes available.

[English]

Backlog Vacancies Reserved for SCs/STs

4697. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended to fill the backlog of vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and results achieved thereof;

(c) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs were lying vacant as on January 1, 1993 in Class I, II, III and IV category under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and its autonomous/statutory/attached offices; and

(d) the details of backlog of vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Class I, II, III and IV categories as on August 29, 1997?

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

(b) The vacancies were duly intimated to DOP and T and results were positive.

(c) The position as on 1.1.1993 was as under:

Class I	—	Nil
Class II (Gaz)	—	1
Class II (Non-Gaz)	—	3
Class III	—	1
Class IV	—	3
(d) Class I	—	Nil
Class II (Gaz)	—	Nil
Class II (Non-Gaz)	—	1
Class III	—	1
Class IV	—	Nil

Inquiry Into Office of Handloom Development Commissioner

4698. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to inquire into the activities of the office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Calcutta, especially of the activities of the Deputy Director, weaver's service centre for delivery of inferior raw materials, equipments and machinery to the societies and compelling to sign for supply of full quantity sanctioned without actual full quota supply;

(b) if so, whether false bills/vouchers on behalf of societies are furnished in Delhi office for sanction, which he draws;

(c) if so, whether allegations of collecting money from all societies illegally are proposed to be inquired for punishing the guilty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. No such complaint has been received regarding the activities of the Weavers' Service Centre, Calcutta.

[Translation]

Ownership of Internal Rail Structure

4699.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways propose to take the operation and ownership of internal railway structure in major ports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof port-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The issue of merger of the Port Railway System with the Indian Railways' network is under discussion between Ministry of Surface Transport and Ministry of Railways. It has been decided to undertake a study by a consultant to suggest the modalities of the proposed merger before any final decision is taken.

[English]

Field Trials of Transgenic Cotton

4700.SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to permit large scale fields Trials of Transgenic Cotton; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Government has permitted M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company (MAHYCO) to undertake field trials and generate environmental safety data on transgenic cotton

in various agro-climatic regions of the country. The firm has been permitted to undertake large-scale field trials only in 85 hectares of land and seed production in 150 hectares, however, seeds so produced shall not be used for commercial sale. Field trials on transgenic crops have already been conducted in 45 countries. Transgenic cotton has already been commercialised in countries like USA, China, Australia, South Africa and Argentina. However, it has been felt that new technology can be allowed only after bio-safety and environmental issues are fully addressed. Important traits for which the crops have been genetically manipulated are herbicide tolerance, insect resistance, product quality and viral resistance besides fungal and agronomic priorities.

Company Law Tribunal

4701.SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Company Law Tribunal;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The entire matter regarding setting up of Company Law Tribunal is under active consideration of the Government. A final decision on either setting up of a Company Law Tribunal or strengthening the present Company Law Board will be taken after eliciting and evaluating the views of all concerned through presentations/discussions/debate.

Extension of Talcher Super Thermal Power Plant

4702.SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been made to identify the advantages of having the extension of Talcher Super Thermal Power Plant by NTPC at the Pit Head over the sites in the States of electricity consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the per unit cost of electricity; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Talcher Super Thermal Power Project (TSTPP) was conceived by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) with an ultimate capacity of 3000 MW to be implemented in two stages. Stage-I (2×500 MW) of the project is already under commercial operation for the benefit of the Eastern Region States.

Considering the various advantages the feasibility report for Stage-II of the project (4×500 MW) for supply of the entire power to Southern Region was examined by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and the project accorded techno-economic clearance in October, 1997.

The IInd Stage (2000 MW) project is in an advanced stage of implementation. The main plant package has been awarded to M/s BHEL. The first unit of 500 MW is expected to be commissioned during early 10th Plan.

Based on the project cost (at 3rd quarter 1997 price level) cleared by CEA, per unit cost of electricity for Stage-II works out to about 184.05 paise.

Engaging of Consultants

4703. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the South Eastern Railway has planned to appoint a consultant for conducting a thorough study of passenger traffic pattern to rationalize the train services especially mail/express trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. South Eastern Railway proposes to conduct a thorough study of passenger traffic pattern including demand and compliance as well as unfulfilled demand in various routes and to rationalise coaching services so as to provide the best possible services to the passengers in meeting their demand. The broad features of the scheme proposed is to rationalise the train services both in number of trains as well as in their compositions to fulfill the demands, especially in the case of Mail/Express trains. It is proposed to base the study mainly on data available in Passenger Reservation System. Since it is not possible for South Eastern Railway on their own to do this comprehensive study satisfactorily, it is proposed to engage reputed consultant for this purpose. However, no consultancy contract has yet been awarded.

[Translation]

Monitoring Tower on Indo-Pak Border

4704. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make some changes in the monitoring tower installed at the Indo-Pak border adjoining Jaisalmer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which these changes are likely to be helpful in checking the increasing activities of the Pakistani rangers ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Production Capacity of NTC Mills

4705. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the installed production capacity of National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills in the country, particularly in Maharashtra, mill-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether installed production capacity of these mills is sufficient to meet the demand;

(c) if not, the required installed capacity to meet the demand and funds required for this purpose; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) As far as National Textile Corporation (NTC) Group of Companies are concerned, the state-wise installed and commissioned capacities of each mill, including the mills in Maharashtra, for the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The total demand for cloth (including export demand) is met by the mills in public and private sector, powerlooms and handlooms.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Statement

National Textile Corporation Limited

S.No.	Name of the State/Mills	Installed Capacity					Commissioned Capacity							
		Spindles		Looms			Spindles		Looms					
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Punjab														
1	Dayalbagh Spg. and WVG. Mills	18360	18360	18360	0	0	0	18360	18360	18360	0	0	0	0
2	Kharar Textile Mills	25220	25220	25220	0	0	0	25220	25220	25220	0	0	0	0
3	Paripat Woollen Mills	5600	5600	5600	48	48	48	4400	3800	3800	48	48	48	48
4	Suraj Textile Mills	19696	19696	19696	0	0	0	19696	19696	19696	0	0	0	0
Rajasthan														
5	*Edward Mills	19080	19080	19080	0	0	0	14196	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Mahalakshmi Mills	15640	15640	15640	56	56	56	13400	13400	14200	0	0	0	0
7	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	22172	22172	22172	0	0	0	16720	16720	16720	0	0	0	0
8	Udaipur Cotton Mills	25180	25180	25180	0	0	0	25180	25180	25180	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh														
9	*Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills	28232	28232	28232	360	360	360	28232	28232	28232	360	360	360	360
10	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	7040	7040	7040	244	244	244	7040	7040	7040	244	244	244	244
11	*Hira Mills	18000	18000	18000	0	0	0	18000	14000	14000	0	0	0	0
12	*Indore Malwa United Mills	17432	17432	17432	336	336	336	17432	17432	17432	336	336	336	336
13	*Kalyanmal Mills	19888	19888	19888	340	340	340	14096	14096	14096	340	340	340	340
14	New Bhopal Textile Mills	25592	25592	25592	84	84	84	19536	19536	19536	84	84	84	84
15	*Swadeshi Textile Mills	14000	14000	14000	108	108	108	11200	11200	11200	108	108	108	108

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Uttar Pradesh													
16	*Atherton Mills	39680	39680	39680	898	898	898	31528	31528	31528	697	697	697
17	*Bijli Cotton Mills	24800	24800	24800	0	0	0	7920	7920	7920	0	0	0
18	*Laxmirattan Cotton Mills	60756	60756	60756	1125	1125	1125	40616	40616	40616	819	819	819
19	*Lord Krishna Textile Mills	44392	44392	44392	307	307	307	44392	44392	44392	307	307	307
20	*Muir Mills	43376	43376	43376	1106	1106	1106	37136	37136	37136	1106	1106	1106
21	*New Victoria Mills	30272	30272	30272	792	792	792	30272	30272	30272	756	756	756
22	*Raebareli Textile Mills	11900	11900	11900	0	0	0	9996	9996	9996	0	0	0
23	*Shri Vikram Cotton Mills	13648	13648	13648	0	0	0	13648	13648	13648	0	0	0
24	*Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Mau	20000	20000	20000	0	0	0	20000	20000	20000	0	0	0
25	*Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	34580	34580	34580	864	864	864	34580	34580	34580	864	864	864
26	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naiini	64620	64620	64620	0	0	0	44524	44524	44524	0	0	0
Maharashtra													
27	Apoko Textile Mills	37852	37852	37852	220	200	200	37852	36472	38472	140	133	133
28	Aurangabad Textile Mills	21656	216548	21656	0	0	0	16560	16560	11040	-	-	-
29	Bakshi Textile Mills	21440	21440	21440	0	0	0	19520	19616	19616	-	-	-
30	Bharat Textile Mills	41584	41584	41584	456	456	456	37984	37984	31736	144	144	96
31	Chakrapan Textile Mills	25864	25864	25864	302	302	302	24840	24840	21808	160	160	160
32	Dhule Textile Mills	40708	40708	40708	491	491	491	35864	35864	26792	181	181	155
33	Digvijay Textile Mills	31572	31572	31572	524	524	524	31572	31572	22200	524	336	336
34	Elphinstone Spg. and WVG. Mills	54648	54648	54648	935	935	935	20148	18654	18654	338	343	343
35	Finlay Mills	72668	72668	72668	958	958	958	27240	27240	27324	491	341	341
36	Gold Mohur Mills	66652	66652	66652	1142	1142	1142	36104	36104	36104	354	352	256

Note:- (*) Mills having NIL Activity during March' 2000.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
37	Jupiter Textile Mills	59644	59644	59644	824	824	824	30699	25963	25963	32	32	32
38	Mumbai Textile Mills	39152	39152	39152	649	649	649	20972	20972	20972	198	25	25
39	Nanded Textile Mills	40712	40712	40712	192	192	192	34172	20620	20620	128	90	96
40	New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills	56260	56260	56260	623	623	623	47176	46184	38728	324	260	231
41	New Hind Textile Mills	38024	33496	33496	441	441	441	24784	24784	24784	164	164	164
42	Podar Processors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	Shree Madhusudan Mills	95412	95412	95412	1534	1534	1534	23472	23472	23472	48	48	48
44	India United Mills No.1	38304	36000	36000	538	510	510	38304	36000	36000	538	502	502
45	India United Mills No.2	24336	24336	24336	512	416	416	24336	24336	24336	512	416	416
46 & 47	India United Mills No.3 and 4	30496	30496	30496	523	523	523	30496	30496	30496	523	522	522
48	India United Mills No.5	25364	25364	25364	282	245	245	25364	25364	25364	282	222	222
49	India United Mills Dye Works	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Jam Mfg. Mills	52000	52000	52000	1072	1072	1072	27880	27880	27880	80	48	48
51, 52 & 53	2 & 3*Kohinoor Mills No. 1, 2 and 3	130000	130000	130000	1608	1608	1608	28216	28216	28216	192	192	192
54	Podar Mills	50000	50000	50000	240	200	200	45116	35000	35000	240	200	200
55	Model Mills	30128	30128	30128	446	446	446	30128	30128	30128	446	446	446
56	R.B.B.A. Mills	23184	23184	23184	144	144	144	23184	23184	23184	144	120	120
57	R.S.R.G. Mills	13120	13120	13120	260	260	260	13120	13120	13120	260	260	260
58	Savatram Ram Prasad Mills	14464	14464	14464	164	164	164	14464	14464	14464	164	164	164
59	Shri Sitaram Mills	62000	62000	62000	960	960	960	19592	19592	19592	0	0	0
60	Tata Mills	92000	92000	92000	1939	1939	1939	28600	28600	28600	348	348	348
61	Vidharbha Mills	19000	19000	19000	120	120	120	19000	19000	19000	120	120	120

Note:- (*) Mills having NIL Activity during March' 2000.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Gujarat												
62	*Ahmedabad Jupiter Textile Mills	41664	41664	41664	696	696	696	41664	41664	41664	696	696	696
63	Ahmedabad New Textile Mills	33616	33616	33616	792	792	792	33616	33616	33616	792	792	792
64	Himadri Textile Mills	16640	16640	16640	384	384	384	16640	16640	16640	384	384	384
65	*Jehangir Textile Mills	30612	30612	30612	560	560	560	30612	30612	30612	560	560	560
66	*Mahalaxmi Textile Mills	28616	28616	28616	624	624	624	28616	28616	28616	624	624	624
67	*New Manekchowk Textile Mills	32552	32552	32552	450	450	450	32552	32552	32552	450	450	450
68	*Pellad Textile Mills	19240	19240	19240	441	441	441	19240	19240	19240	441	441	441
69	*Rajkot Textile Mills	16160	16160	16160	268	268	268	16160	16160	16160	268	268	268
70 & 71	(2)*Rajnagar Textile Mills 1 & 2	50268	50268	50268	1096	1096	1096	50268	50268	50268	1096	1096	1096
72	*Virangam Textile Mills	22980	22980	22980	512	512	512	22980	22980	22980	512	512	512
	Andhra Pradesh												
73	*Adoni Cotton Mills	20800	20800	20800	0	0	0	20800	20800	20800	0	0	0
74	*Anathapur Cotton Mills	29596	29596	29596	0	0	0	29596	29596	29596	0	0	0
75	*Azam Jahi Mills	34688	34688	34688	192	192	192	34688	34688	34688	192	192	192
76	*Natraj Spinning Mills	17620	17620	17620	0	0	0	17620	17620	17620	0	0	0
77	*Natha Spinning and Weaving Mills	16112	16112	16112	0	0	0	16112	16112	16112	0	0	0
78	*Tirupati Cotton Mills	27860	27860	27860	0	0	0	27860	27860	27860	0	0	0
	Karnataka												
79	*M.S.K. Mills	18280	18280	18280	96	96	96	18280	18280	18280	96	96	96
80	Minerva Mills	32540	32540	32540	219	219	219	32540	32540	32540	219	219	219
81	*Mysore Spg. and Mfg. Mills	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
82	Sree Yallamma Cotton Mills	29264	29264	29264	0	0	0	29264	29264	29264	0	0	0

Note:- (*) Mills having NIL Activity during March' 2000.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Kerala													
83	Alagappa Textile Mills	44480	44480	44480	0	0	0	44480	42752	42752	0	0	0
84	Cannanore SPG. and WVG. Mills	24800	24800	24800	0	0	0	24800	24800	24800	0	0	0
85	Kerala Lakshmi Mills	41328	41328	41328	0	0	0	41328	41328	41328	0	0	0
86	Parvathi Mills	25400	25400	25400	180	180	180	25400	25400	25400	180	180	180
87	Vijaymohini Mills	28796	28796	28796	0	0	0	28796	28796	28796	0	0	0
Pondicherry													
88	Cannanore SPG. and WVG. Mills, Mahe	30240	30240	30240	0	0	0	30240	30240	30240	0	0	0
89	Swadeshi Cotton Mills	19840	19840	19840	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
90	Sri Bharati Mills	17000	17000	17000	0	0	0	17000	17000	17000	48	0	0
Tamil Nadu													
91	Belaramavarma Textile Mills	25376	25376	25376	0	0	0	25376	25376	25376	0	0	0
92	Cambodia Mills	40704	40704	40704	0	0	0	40704	40704	40704	0	0	0
93	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	22800	16000	16000	120	120	120	22800	16000	16000	0	0	0
94	Krishnaveni Textile Mills	25148	25148	25148	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
95	Om Parasakthi Mills	25448	25448	25448	0	0	0	25448	25448	25448	0	0	0
96	Pankaja Mills	29800	29800	29800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
97	Pioneer Spinners Mills	24624	24624	24624	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
98	Sri Rangavilas S. and W. Mills	42608	42608	42608	0	0	0	42608	42608	42608	0	0	0
99	Somasundaram Mills	25744	21000	21000	112	112	112	25744	21000	21000	0	0	0
100	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit	37664	37664	37664	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
101	Sri Sarda Mills	27560	27560	27560	0	0	0	27560	27560	27560	0	0	0
102	Coimbatore SPG. and WVG. Mills	34576	34576	34576	48	0	0	34576	34576	34576	48	0	0

Note:- (*) Mills having NIL Activity during March' 2000.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
103	Kaleswarar Mills 'A' Unit Assam	31472	31472	16000	0	0	0	31472	31472	16000	0	0	0
104	Associated Industries Bihar	20984	20984	20984	0	0	0	20984	20984	20984	0	0	0
105	*Bihar Co-Op. Weavers Spg. Mills	13200	13200	13200	0	0	0	12400	12400	12400	0	0	0
106	*Gaya Cotton and Jute Mills	17600	17600	17600	0	0	0	17600	17600	17600	0	0	0
	Orissa												
107	*Orissa Cotton Mills West Bengal	24668	24668	24668	0	0	0	21364	21364	21364	0	0	0
108	Arati Cotton Mills	20044	20044	20044	0	0	0	16044	16044	16044	0	0	0
109	*Bangasri Cotton Mills	16704	16704	16704	396	396	396	10800	10800	10800	0	0	0
110	Bengal Fine S. and W. Mills No. I	27720	27720	27720	0	0	0	24920	24920	24920	0	0	0
111	*Bengal Fine S. and W. Mills No. II	12960	12960	12960	0	0	0	12960	12960	12960	0	0	0
112	Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills	33012	30516	30516	451	451	451	10416	8480	8480	0	0	0
113	*Manindra B.T. Mills	19076	19076	19076	180	180	180	12680	12680	12680	0	0	0
114	*Jyoti WVG. Factory	0	0	0	160	160	160	0	0	0	40	40	40
115	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills	29132	29132	29132	0	0	0	18068	18068	18068	0	0	0
116	Rampoorla Cotton Mills	21280	21280	21280	298	298	298	16240	16240	16240	192	192	192
117	*Central Cotton Mills	35464	35464	35464	416	416	416	18200	18200	18200	0	0	0
118	*Shree Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills	15640	15640	15640	300	300	300	11676	11676	11676	0	0	0
119	Sodepur Cotton Mills	11508	11508	11508	0	0	0	11508	11508	11508	0	0	0

Note:- (*) Mills having NIL Activity during March' 2000

Compensation to Discharged Personnel of Army

4706.SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala High Court has in recent past directed the Union Government to give compensation to military persons discharged from service;

(b) if so, the facts thereof along with the amount of compensation proposed for them;

(c) whether the Government are aware of similar cases where eighty discharged persons filed a case in the Kerala High Court; and

(d) if so, the action taken to compensate them in the light of the High Court's decision at (a) above?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) As per extant policy of Government since 1968, candidates from Kerala were recruited to Defence Services subject to satisfactory special verification of character and antecedents. A number of Servicemen from Kerala who were recruited on this basis were discharged from Services on the special reports not being satisfactory. The Supreme Court of India in a judgement in 1986 declared such special verification discriminatory and without jurisdiction.

2. In pursuance of the above judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, discharged Servicemen Association of Kerala and 79 others filed a case in the Kerala High Court in 1996 against their discharge and praying for reinstatement in service and compensation. There were 13 other similar petitions filed by discharged servicemen either individually or collectively in the same High Court. Disposing these petitions, the Hon'ble High Court directed Government to consider their fresh representations to be filed by them detailing grievances. There was no order by the Court for grant of compensation to the discharged Servicemen. These representations were accordingly considered by the Government. Government found no case made out in any of the representations for reinstatement or compensation. The representations were accordingly not accepted.

Purchase of MIG Fighters from Russia

4707.SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have committed to or are negotiating for purchase of a number of new version of MIG fighter aircraft from Russia, even the prototype of

which has not yet been tested, along with an aircraft carrier being procured from that country as reported in the Indian Express of July 30, 2000; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the negotiations stand at present and the details of the contemplated agreement and the salient features of the aircraft and the aircraft carrier ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Government of the Russian Federation have offered to gift Admiral 'Gorshkov', an aircraft carrier to India. The ship will, however, need to be repaired, modified and modernised at the cost of Government of India before it can be inducted into the service of the Navy. The ship will have a standard displacement of 34,000 metric tonnes and will be able to operate a mix of aircrafts and will provide integral air power to the Carrier Task Force at Sea. MIG 29 K aircraft is being considered as a deck based aircraft for operating from the Ship. No final decision in the matter has, however, been taken. No negotiations with the Russians for acquisition of MIG-29 K aircraft have been held.

Opening of Office of N.H.D.C.

4708.SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the welfare of handloom, most of the States have a office/marketing complex of National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to open a office in the National Capital Territory of Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., has Office/Marketing Complexes in many of the States. The Offices are located in the following places :-

Regional Offices.

1. Lucknow
2. Panipat
3. Calcutta
4. Bhopal
5. Hyderabad
6. Combatore
7. Guwahati

Branch Offices

1. Jaipur
2. Patna
3. Varanasi
4. Ghaziabad
5. Ludhiana
6. Kullu
7. Bhubaneshwar
8. Agartala
9. Imphal
10. Ahmedabad
11. Nagpur
12. Solapur
13. Nagari
14. Chottupal
15. Rajahmundry
16. Chennai
17. Kanchipuram
18. Bangalore
19. Cannanore
20. Erode.

The Marketing Complexes are located in the following States :-

1. Rajasthan
 2. Kerala
 3. West Bengal
 4. Gujarat
 5. Andhra Pradesh
 6. Uttar Pradesh
 7. Madhya Pradesh
 8. Maharashtra
 9. New Delhi (under pipeline).
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

Higher Charges for Naphtha

4709. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil companies have been charging the fertilizer units for Naphtha fuel oil at the higher rates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Companies charge the fertilizer units at a price worked out on the principle of import parity.

Misutilisation of Funds by N.E. States

4710. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan sanctioned to States Electricity Boards of the North-Eastern States for purchase of energy meters during the year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, whether some amount has been diverted or misutilised by the SEBs of North Eastern States;

(c) whether any Utilization report of funds so released have been asked by Rural Electricity Corporation (REC) recently;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the time by which payments to energy meters suppliers are likely to be released by these States for which amount has been disbursed by REC on or before March 31, 2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) During 1999-2000, Rural Electrification Corporation has sanctioned a loan assistance of Rs. 5.16 crores to Electricity Department, Government of Manipur for purchase of energy meters and, on the basis of invoices a sum of Rs. 3.4 crores (90% of Rs. 3.77 crores towards cost of material) was released to the Government of Manipur on 31st March, 2000. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides loans for procurement of meters according to its guidelines. The balance 10% of the loan is released after the installation/completion report is received from the SEB together with the village-wise, taluka-wise, district-wise details (and sub-station details, if any, involved). These guidelines also concern quality specifications, performance guarantees, testing and inspection procedures etc. as per standards, norms, and procedures specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards. However, the procurement decision, quality approvals and the payments to the suppliers against material received are done by the State Government concerned.

(c) to (e) The State Government has been requested to report utilisation of the above amount, and also to confirm that the money has been actually spent for the specified purpose, the supplier has confirmed the supply of requisite number of electric meters of the requisite quality and that due payment has been made to the suppliers against the supplies made.

[Translation]

**CBI Inquiry against Employees of
New Delhi/Delhi Stations**

4711. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a C.B.I. inquiry has been conducted against the employees working at Delhi and New Delhi railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the erring employees so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) During the last three years, one CBI enquiry was conducted in the year 1998 in which CBI recommended departmental action against five employees working at Delhi railway station.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Charge Sheets for imposition of Major penalties have been issued to all the five delinquents, under Discipline and Appeal Rules, 1968.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Theft of Railway Property

4712. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any efforts have been made to reduce thefts of railway property in Vijayawada Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the vigilance and curb such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to control crime against railway property including booked consignment, preventive measures are being taken as a result of which crime against booked consignment has gone down from 12 cases 1998-99 to 6 cases in 1999-2000. The following important steps have been taken :-

1. As far as possible, escorting of trains carrying valuable and important consignments.
2. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/sections.
3. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the condition of wagons/seals, carrying consignments.
4. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in yards as far as possible.
5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect criminal intelligence with a view to tracking down offender.
6. Based on criminal intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of criminals/receivers, of stolen property in order to bring them to book.
7. Close co-ordination between RPF, GRP and local police is maintained at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.
8. Dog squads are deployed for patrolling in yards and vulnerable areas as per their availability.

Review of Works Undertaken

4713. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the various works undertaken by South Eastern Railway, Khurda Road during the last three years;

(b) whether the norms prescribed by railways have been followed while giving the contract and spending of amount on official work including beautification and decoration of official's chambers;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the amount spent on each item of work;

(e) whether proper audit has been undertaken; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the officials who are responsible for the increasing the losses in the commercial publicity sector?

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

[Translation]

Transportation of Petroleum Products

4714. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the petroleum tankers have become useless after entrusting the transportation work of petroleum products on contract basis;

(b) if so, the number of such tankers which have become useless for want of any work;

(c) whether the Government are incurring losses worth crores of rupees every month in the form of tax due to these idle tankers; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to put the same in use for gainful purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The Oil Marketing Companies utilize the services of contractors and a few company owned road tankers for the bulk transportation of petroleum products. Oil Marketing Companies have reported that the road tankers are hired on contract by adopting public tendering procedures.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Improper Storage of Ammunitions

4715. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CAG in their report ending March 31, 1996 on Army and Ordnance Factories had commented that due to improper storage conditions and inadequate design of containers of fuze B-429, 29981 fuzes valued at Rs. 4.33 crore were affected by dangerous copper azide formation which had to be declared unserviceable/destroyed apart from loss of fuzes valued at Rs. 1.19 crore due to explosion;

(b) if so, whether the matter was enquired into and action taken;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there have been further losses on account of the above; and

(e) if so, the details thereof together with reasons for not taking corrective steps ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The containers in which fuze B-429 were kept had rubber disc to seal the containers against moisture. However, due to heavy corrosion there was copper azide formation which led to the fuze being declared unserviceable. The design of the container was modified in 1995 and the material of the disc was changed from rubber to capcell (a type of plastic).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, question does not arise.

Irregular Purchases by M.E.S.

4716. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reported rampant corruption in the Military Engineering Service all over the country in purchasing items which are on the DGS and D rate contract like tubelights, bulbs etc;

(b) if so, the number of MES officials found involved in irregular purchases and corruption during the last three years along with the action against them;

(c) the reasons for not purchasing tubelights and bulbs from popular and most reputed companies; and

(d) the steps taken to cleanse the MES of the prevailing corruption?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No complaint of corruption in the purchases of items on DGS and D rate contract have come to Government's notice during the past 3 years. Items on DGS and D rate, like tubelights, bulbs etc., are purchased by MES at the rates fixed by DGS and D. The items are inspected before despatch by DGS and D and Controller of Quality Assurance Establishments.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) As per extant Government orders, any item which is available on DGS and D rate contract can not be purchased from manufacturers in the open market.

DGS and D rate for tubelights and bulbs are lower than the rates of similar items of reputed companies in the open market.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply from (a) to (c).

CAG's Observation on Works and M.E.S.

4717. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CAG in their report No. 7 of 1997 on Army and Ordnance Factories had adversely commented upon the Works and Military Engineer Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any action has been taken on those observations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the working of MES ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes Sir. The C&AG has commented adversely on 13 works of Military Engineering Services (MES) in this report.

(b) and (c) C&AG's comments relate mostly to cost overruns due to delay in completion of works; execution of substandard work; non-recovery of excess issue of departmental stores to contractors; non-utilisation of assets due to faulty planning; and instances of avoidable construction etc. Action Taken Notes in respect of 9 Audit Paras have been prepared and submitted. Draft Action Taken Notes on the remaining 4 paras have also been prepared and submitted for final vetting by Audit.

(d) There has been continuous endeavour to improve and enhance the performance of MES. Instructions are issued from time to time by Army HQrs and Ministry of Defence in this regard. Necessary administrative and disciplinary action are taken against individual officers found guilty.

Disbanding of Coast Guard

4718. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Navy has been recommending that Coast Guard be disbanded or placed under the control of the Navy;

(b) if so, the reasons attributed thereto; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No such proposal has been received from the Naval HQrs.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pay Scales for Coast Guard Personnel

4719. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pay of Coast Guard personnel is yet to be fixed on the basis of Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay and the time by which the same is likely to be fixed;

(c) whether all senior posts in coast guard are filled by Naval Officers on deputation; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. Based on the recommendations of the Vth Pay Commission, the orders revising pay scales of Coast Guard personnel were issued on 6.11.1997.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There are 24 senior level posts in the Coast Guard of which 15 are occupied by Coast Guard Officers and 9 by Naval officers on deputation basis. As and when suitable Coast Guard Officers become available to man these posts, these posts will also be manned by them.

Railway Catering Service

4720. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that such officials have been made incharge of catering service in VIP areas of Delhi who have no experience of catering nor they are from catering service of Railways;

(b) if so, the details of such officials who are incharge of railways catering service in VIP areas;

(c) the reasons for making them incharge of railways catering service in VIP areas;

(d) whether the Government propose to withdraw them; and

(e) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The catering

services in VIP areas are managed by capable and experienced employees who have been exclusively dealing with the subject and they work under a Senior Scale Officer who also possesses deep knowledge of working of Commercial Department including catering.

(b) The list of officials presently deployed incharge of catering units in VIP areas along with their catering experience is given in the Statement.

(c) The staff mentioned under (b) above belong to non-gazetted catering cadre of railways and have been working in catering units for many years.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Non-gazetted employees working in catering units continue to work in catering departments and they cannot be transferred to any other wing of the Commercial Department of Railways.

Statement

List of Officials Presently Deployed in Catering Units in VIP Areas Alongwith their Catering Experience

S. No.	Name of Catering Unit in VIP areas	Name of Incharge of Catering Unit	Working since
1.	Parliament House	Sh. Ramit Singh Rekhi	21.12.1984
2.	Parliament House Annexe	Sh. T.D. Pathak	15.7.1988
3.	P.M's Office at South Block	Sh. Unni Chander Mohan	9.12.1987
4.	Parliament House Reception Office	Sh. Ajay Yadav	21.11.1984
5.	South Avenue MPs' Canteen	Sh. Bansi Lal	22.1.1981
6.	North Avenue MPs' Canteen	Sh. V.K. Joshi	22.1.1981
7.	VIP Canteen Rail Bhawan	Sh. Manglesh Chaturvedi	28.1.1981
8.	Central Hall, Parliament House	Sh. Imamuddin	15.7.1988
9.	Special Catering Cell, New Delhi	Sh. Sanjay Kumar	Since 1986

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

4721.SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some applications for appointment on compassionate ground are pending with the Power Finance Corporation Limited;

(b) so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) There is only one application for appointment in the Power Finance Corporation on compassionate grounds and the same could not be acceded to in view of the non-availability of a suitable vacancy and there being no policy for employment on compassionate grounds in a small organization like PFC.

[Translation]

Introduction of Intercity Express from Chhapra to Lucknow

4722.SHRI RAMAKANT YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Intercity Express train from Chhapra to Lucknow via Mau, Azamgarh was scheduled to be introduced from July 1,2000;

(b) if so, the reasons for not introducing the said train so far; and

(c) the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Trains announced in the budget are introduced during the course of the financial year. 5107/5108 Chhapra-Lucknow Express via Mau-Azamgarh has been introduced with effect from 12.08.2000.

**Demand of High Speed Diesel
by NTPC**

4723. SHRI J.S. BRAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power projects Kawas, Gangaghat Anta and Oraiya of the National Thermal Power Corporation need high speed diesel as fuel;

(b) if so, whether talks have been held with the concerned department for procurement of the high speed diesel;

(c) whether sanction has been granted for the same; and

(d) if so, the rate at which it is likely to be made available and how much more this rate is than that of the other consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is not using High Speed Diesel (HSD) for its existing gas based plants at Anta, Auraiya, Kawas and Gandhar. However, for its future expansion project at Anta, Auraiya, Kawas and Gandhar, provision has been kept for use of either naphtha or HSD as an alternate fuel.

(b) to (d) For expansion projects at Anta, Auraiya, Kawas and Gandhar, NTPC will approach Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for allocation of HSD at appropriate time in case the alternate fuel chosen for the gas turbines is HSD.

Preparation of Solvent from Naphtha

4724. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of factories preparing solvent from Naphtha in the country and the new factories set up during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the names of the oil companies from which these factories procure Naphtha alongwith the quantity thereof;

(c) the companies that procure Naphtha from foreign countries alongwith the quantity being procured;

(d) whether the Government have issued any guidelines so as to have a check on these companies; and

(e) if so, the details of the guidelines issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMANTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Cost Effective Technology for
Nitrogen Fertilizers**

4725. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is any cost effective technology for manufacturing nitrogen based fertilizers; and

(b) If so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) While there are a number of proven technologies for manufacturing nitrogen based fertilizers, their cost effectiveness depends on several factors including type and quality of feedstock used in the process.

(b) Some of the urea manufacturing technologies that Indian plants have adopted are:

(i) TEC Process

(ii) CO₂ Stripping Process

(iii) Ammonia Stripping Process

Shortage of Power in Andhra Pradesh

4726. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the measures proposed to supply extra power from National Grid to meet the shortage of power in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : In order to meet the shortage of power, besides a firm allocation of 943.5 MW in Central Sector Stations in Southern Region, Andhra Pradesh has been allocated (i) 40% out of unallocated quota in Southern region, (ii) 220 MW power from NTPC stations in Eastern Region. In addition, Andhra Pradesh gets about 150 MW Power from Orissa in Eastern Region as well as surplus power during off peak period from Western region under bilateral agreements.

Nexus for Sale of ATF to Private Airlines

4727. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the existence of nexus between the senior officials of the Oil Companies and private airlines in respect of sale of Air Turbine Fuel (ATF);

(b) if so, the amount of loss incurred due to such collusion;

(c) whether Government are contemplating any action against the erring officials besides initiating the recovery proceedings from the private airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has initiated a preliminary enquiry on the issues of non-recovery of dues from private domestic airlines and international airlines.

Oil Marketing Companies have initiated legal proceeding against the private airlines to recover the dues.

Setting up of Loco Shed in Kerala

4728.SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for setting up of loco shed in Kerala;

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

(c) the total amount of money has been estimated therefor; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

DSBs in Country

4729.SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Dealer Selection Boards constituted in the country, State-wise;

(b) the composition of the D.S.Bs.; and

(c) the guidelines being followed by them at the time of discharging their duties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The Government have constituted 57 Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) all over the country with the following composition :

- (i) A retired High Court Judge or – Chairman
a retired District Judge
- (ii) An officer of the rank of Deputy – Member
General Manager/Chief Manager,
depending on availability, of the
concerned oil company.
- (iii) An officer of the rank of Deputy – Member
General Manager/Chief Manager,
depending on availability, of
another oil company.

Dealer Selection Boards are required to make selection of dealers/distributors for retail outlet dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships. After scrutiny of the applications received in response to the advertisements for selection of dealers/distributors by the oil companies, these are forwarded to the concerned DSB for issuance of interview/call letters. The DSB will judge the inter-se suitability of the candidates on the following :-

- (1) Personality, business ability, salesmanship.
- (2) capability to arrange finance.
- (3) Educational qualification and general level of intelligence.
- (4) Capability to provide infrastructure and feasibility.
- (5) General assessment.

On the basis of the performance of the candidates, a merit panel is drawn up by the DSB and advised to the concerned oil company for issue of the Letter of Intent.

Tatkal Railway Reservation

4730.SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the activities of touts at Hazrat Nizamuddin and New Delhi Railway Stations who are fully operating 'Tatkal' reservation;

(b) if so, whether any complaint has been received by the Government in this regard;

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

(d) the manner in which the check is exercised by the Government to contain the activities of these touts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) No complaint regarding activities of touts in the name of 'Tatkal' reservation at Nizamuddin and New Delhi railway stations has been received. However, to avoid misuse of 'Tatkal Scheme' booking under this Scheme is given only on the authority of one of the proofs of identity prescribed in the 'Tatkal Scheme' and the passenger has to carry the same proof of identity during the journey on the basis of which he/she has procured the tickets. This proof of identity is also checked by the ticket checking staff in the train. Further, to avoid misuse of this facility by touts, a provision has been made in the scheme that no refund would be admissible on the tickets issued under 'Tatkal Scheme' except when the Tatkal coach is not attached or train gets delayed by more than three hours. Moreover, regular drives are conducted to apprehend touts and suitable action is taken against them and also against the Railway staff if found indulging in malpractices in connivance with touts.

[English]

Meeting of all Political Parties with CEC

4731. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6393 on May 8, 2000 regarding meeting of all political parties with CEC and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(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 INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statements (I) and (II) are laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Statement

Gist of Discussions held in the Meeting of Election Commission of India with Recognized National and State Political Parties on the 29th April, 2000.

Main Items of the Agenda :

- (i) **Delimitation of Constituencies-Removal of distortions** : All the political parties agreed that there should not be any decrease in the total number of seats allocated to States in legislatures as well as in the number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes therein. There were divergent views with respect to the Election Commission's proposal to entrust it with the delimitation work.
- (ii) **Council of States- Qualification for election** : There were divergent views in respect of the proposal to amend the section 3 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 for enabling any person from any State to be elected to the Rajya Sabha as in the case of Lok Sabha.
- (iii) **Reservation for Women in Parliament and State Legislature** : There were completely divergent views with respect to the issue in general as well as to the Commission's proposal, in particular, to provide in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, that a recognised political party, in order to continue to retain such recognition and enjoy all privileges thereof, shall, at every Assembly and Parliamentary election, that it contests, ensures that a minimum agreed percentage of women candidates were put up.
- (iv) **Disciplinary jurisdiction of the Election Commission over the officials employed in connection with elections** : Though there was no consensus, parties generally were desirous of the issue being resolved expeditiously.
- (v) **Criminalisation of politics** : There was no consensus over the proposals of the Election Commission that (a) the law may be simplified by amending section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to provide that any person convicted of an offence by a Court of law and sentenced to imprisonment for six months or more should be debarred from contesting elections for a period totaling the sentence imposed plus an additional six years, and (b)

that any person who is accused of any offence punishable with imprisonment for five years or more should be disqualified, even when his trial is pending, provided that the competent Court of law has taken cognizance of the offence and framed the charges against him.

- (vi) **Use of common electoral roll at elections conducted by the Election Commission and the State Election Commissions :** All political parties were agreed on the Election Commission's proposal that the electoral rolls for Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies, which were prepared and revised under the strict superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission and with due care and caution, should be used for local body elections also, by rearranging them suitably.

Statement-II

Proposals of the Election Commission on "Electoral Reforms" sent to the Government

I. Proposals requiring constitutional amendments.

1. There should be a maximum of two Election Commissioners, along with the Chief Election Commissioner.
2. The method of appointment and the constitutional protection after appointment should be the same for the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.
3. The Election Commission should have an independent Secretariat and the expenditure of the Commission should be a charged expenditure on the Consolidated Fund of India.
4. Anti-defection law may be amended leaving it to the President and the Governors concerned to decide cases of disqualification under the Tenth Schedule, after obtaining the opinion of the Election Commission.

II. Proposals requiring amendments to Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951

1. Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 should be amended to disqualify any person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for six months or more from contesting elections for a period totalling the sentence imposed plus an additional six years.

Further, a person who is accused of any offence punishable with imprisonment for five years or more should be disqualified, even when his trial is pending, provided that the competent court of law has taken cognizance of the offence and framed the charges against him.

2. Section 13CC of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and section 28A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 should be amended to make express provision empowering the Election Commission to frame rules for taking disciplinary action against electoral officers on deputation to the Commission in connection with elections. (Action already taken on this).
3. Political parties should be required to publish their accounts annually and these should be audited by agencies specified by the Election Commission.
4. Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, should be amended to expressly authorise the Election Commission to issue orders regulating registration and de-registration of political parties.
5. Number of proposers for candidates of recognised parties should also be ten as in the case of independent candidates and candidates of unrecognised parties.
6. Proxy voting facility should be granted for all service voters and their spouses.
7. Expenditure incurred by political parties should be included in the election expenses of the candidate concerned [omitting of Explanation (1) under section 77(1)].
8. No-maintenance of true account of election expenses or not filing its true copy as required under section 78 should be punishable with imprisonment and fine, and on conviction, the candidate should be disqualified for 6 years.
9. A candidate who fails to lodge his election expenses' account within the prescribed time as required under section 78 of Representation of the People Act, 1951, should automatically stand disqualified for a period of 5 years with elections.

10. The Election Commission should be given rule-making powers under the Representation of the People Acts.
11. The Election Commission should be empowered under section 58A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to countermand election due to booth capturing even otherwise than on the report of the Returning Officer.
12. The Election Commission should be empowered to issue instructions to any officer in connection with conduct of elections and to make recommendations for referring any matter for investigation to any agency specified by the Commission and for prosecution of any person who has committed any electoral offence.
13. District Election Officers should be statutorily required to be consulted regarding police arrangements during elections.
14. There should be statutory ban on transfer of election officers on the eve of elections.
15. Unauthorised possession of ballot boxes or Electronic Voting Machines and unauthorised printing of ballot papers should be made cognisable offences.
16. Making of a false declaration in connection with elections should be an electoral offence.
17. Simplification of procedure for disqualification of a person found guilty of corrupt practice—Secretary to the Election Commission of India, instead of the existing provision for Secretary of the concerned Legislature, be specified as the authority under sub-section (1) of section 8A of Representation of the People Act, 1951, to submit cases of disqualification under that section to the President;
18. Entrusting the Election Commission with the job of delimitation of constituencies instead of setting up of a delimitation Commission.
19. Model Code of Conduct and measures in enforcement thereof to be made effective from the date of announcement of elections by the Election Commission of India so as to ensure free and fair elections;
20. Appointment of an appellate authority in districts against orders of Electoral Registration Officers.

[Translation]

VIP Passengers at Delhi Station

4732.SHRI AKHILESH YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the average number of VIP's/VVIP's passengers going to New Delhi railway station every month;
- (b) whether smooth movement of trains and other works get affected due to the arrival of excess number of VVIP passengers at New Delhi railway station;
- (c) whether the railways are contemplating to appoint a protocol officer to entertain the VVIP's coming the station;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken to reduce the inconvenience being caused to common passengers due to the visits of VVIP's and to ensure smooth movement of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The statistics regarding the number of VIPs/VVIPs arriving at New Delhi Railway station is not maintained.

(b) to (e) The running of train and other functions of railways are not affected by arrival of VIPs/VVIPs and also no inconvenience is caused to general passengers on this account. The VIPs are being looked after by staff/officers not connected with running of trains. There is no proposal to appoint protocol officer to look after the VIPs arriving at New Delhi station.

[English]

Benzene Production Plant

4733.SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any Benzene Production Plants have been set up in the country during the last three years; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) During the last three years, two Benzene plants have been set-up in the country, the details of which are given below :—

Company	State	Year in which Set up	Installed cap. per annum	Production (1999-2000)
1. Reliance Industries Limited	Jamnagar, Gujarat	1999-2000	56000 MT	32080MT
2. Haldia Petrochemicals Limited	Haldia, West Bengal	1999-2000	77050 MT	*Nil

*Production commenced only from April, 2000.

[Translation]

Export of Petrol by Reliance Petroleum Limited

4734. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

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

(a) whether the Government have allowed Reliance Petroleum Limited to export petrol from the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quality of petrol proposed to be exported by this company;

(d) whether the petrol to be exported is required in the country; and

(e) if so, the reasons for according the permission to export it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a), (b) and (e) As petrol produced by domestic refineries is currently in excess of the domestic consumption, export of petrol has been generally allowed vide Notification No. 29 (RE 99) 1997-2002 dated 1.10.1999 of the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.

(c) and (d) The export of petroleum products depends upon the overall demand and supply position in the country and the products' conformity to international standard/requirement.

Foreign Assistance for Power Projects in Bihar

4735. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Bihar has sent any proposal for foreign assistance for power projects in the State; and

(b) if so, the names of these projects and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Government of Bihar had proposed seeking external assistance from the JBIC (formerly OECF), Japan during the year 1998-99 for implementation of the Tenughat Thermal Power Station stage-II (3x210 MW), which did not materialise. The Government of Bihar now proposes to implement the above power project with assistance from a Chinese public sector company.

[English]

M RTP Commission

4736. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADGE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether the MRTP Commission asked a US based Company and its Indian representative to respond to the allegations of supplying an outdated machine to private eye-clinic in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of cases pending and disposed of during the last three years by the MRTP Commission; and

(d) if so, the action taken against each of the case and penalty imposed on the guilty companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) On furnishing the name of the specific private eye-clinic in Delhi, necessary information will be collected from MRTP Commission which is a quasi-judicial body.

(c) The details of the number of cases pending and disposed of during the last three years by the MRTP Commission is given in the statement annexed.

(d) The MRTP Commission has stated that the number of enquiries/applications either pending before it or disposed of by it is very large and voluminous. Moreover,

the cases pending before the Commission are at various stages of consideration.

The time and effort thus involved in collecting the huge information which is dynamic and fluid by its very nature, may not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

Statement

The year-wise position of Enquiries/Applications pending/disposed of by the MRTP Commission during the last 3 years

I. YEAR: 1997

S. No.	Category.	Pending as on 31.12.1996	Instituted during the year 1997	Disposed during the year 1997	Pending as on 31.12.1997
1.	R.T.P. Enquiries	990	272	74	1188
2.	U.T.P. Enquiries	881	479	93	1267
3.	M.T.P. Enquiries	7	1	—	8
4.	Applications for Injunction	682	410	217	875
5.	Applications for Compensation	1224	434	220	1438
6.	Applications for initiating contempt	2	17	17	2

II. YEAR: 1998

S.No.	Category	Pending as on 31.12.1997	Instituted during the year 1998	Disposed during the year 1998	Pending as on 31.12.1998
1.	R.T.P. Enquiries	1188	315	93	1410
2.	U.T.P. Enquiries	1267	297	236	1328
3.	M.T.P. Enquiries	8	—	8	8
4.	Applications for Injunction	875	293	455	713
5.	Applications for Compensation	1438	455	159	1734
6.	Applications for initiating contempt	2	96	80	18

III. YEAR: 1999

S.No.	Category	Pending as on 31.12.1998	Instituted during the year 1999	Disposed during the year 1999	Pending as on 31.12.1999
1.	R.T.P. Enquiries	1410	218	206	1422
2.	U.T.P. Enquiries	1328	206	261	1273
3.	M.T.P. Enquiries	8	—	—	8
4.	Applications for Injunction	713	216	656	273
5.	Applications for Compensation	1734	477	229	1982
6.	Applications for initiating contempt	18	27	33	12

*[Translation]***Pay Revision of IDPL Employees**

4737. SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times pay of IDPL employees has been revised during the last eight years;

(b) whether neither the pay has been revised nor the instalments of Central Dearness Allowance and the Industrial Dearness Allowance paid to them;

(c) whether irregularities have been committed in the payment of Central Dearness Allowance and Industrial Dearness Allowance to IDPL employees;

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

(e) if not, the reasons for not implementing pay revision C.D.A. and I.D.A. in case of all the employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) :

(a) There has been no revision of pay of the employees of IDPL during the last 8 years.

(b) to (e) The employees are being paid Central Dearness Allowance or the Industrial Dearness Allowance, as per Government guidelines. Both sets of employees have approached the Court of Law for redressal of their grievances on revision of pay etc.

*[Translation]***Export of Hosiery Products**

4738. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed and actual export of hosiery products during each of the last three years and the current year along with foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise and product-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken to boost the export of hosiery products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The export target for hosiery products are not fixed separately. The exports of hosiery products during the last three years and current year is given below :-

(In Million US Dollar)

Product	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-2001 (Apr-Jul)
Knitted Fabrics	80.58	71.71	63.34	20.61
Knitted made-ups	5.86	14.15	12.07	3.07
Knitted ready-made garments	1,605.30	1,710.50	1,958.10	493.6*

*Figures : For period April-June, 2000-2001

The major countries of export are USA, EU Member States, CIS countries, Japan and Saudi Arabia.

The Government have been taking several steps from time to time to boost the export of textiles including hosiery products. Some of the important initiatives are as under:-

- (1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in International trade.
- (2) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.
- (3) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings and embellishments.
- (4) Government has recently launched Technology Mission for Cotton. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernising the existing ginning and pressing factories.
- (5) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100%, through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.
- (6) To prepare and sensitise our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of ecotesting laboratories.
- (7) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

- (8) The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policies announced for the period 2000-2004 to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

[Translation]

Black Marketing of Tickets

4739.DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the black marketing of tickets is done openly in reservation offices located at Kalyan, Dadar and Mumbai Central in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) No complaint of open black-marketing of tickets has been received. However, some cases of persons travelling on tickets purchased in others' names have been detected. In order to curb the menace of unauthorised sale of tickets, regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance Departments both in and around reservation offices at all important stations. Strict action is taken against any railway staff found involved or abetting in any malpractices.

Training to Unemployed Women for Preparation of Jute Article

4740.SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh and other State Governments have sought financial assistance from the Union Government for imparting training to unemployed women for the preparation of jute material article; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reaction of the Government thereto, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Government has not received any proposal for financial assistance from State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh and other State Governments for imparting training on jute articles. However, National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD), Ministry of Textiles has been imparting training on jute articles to various categories including unemployed women through its 13 Jute Service Centres located in 10 States.

The Jute Service Centre in Madhya Pradesh is run by M.P. Hasth Shilp Vikas Nigam (MPHSVN) under financial assistance from NCJD. During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, NCJD has spent Rs. 70 lakhs, 118.50 lakhs and Rs. 180 lakhs respectively on various activities including training, being undertaken by the Jute Service Centres in various States throughout India.

[English]

Election Commission

4741.SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government and Election Commission (EC) of India have reached an understanding over the deadlock on the issue of disciplinary jurisdiction over election staff as reported in Times of India on July 26, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by what time, it is likely to be sorted out ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) The issue concerning disciplinary jurisdiction of the Election Commission of India over the staff deputed for election work under section 28 A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and section 13CC of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 read with article 324 of the Constitution, is sub judice before the Supreme Court in the Civil Writ Petition No. 606/93 Filed by the Election Commission of India against the Union of India and others. A joint application proposing a resolution of the issue indicating terms of settlement by which certain powers are proposed to be given to the Election Commission in this matter has, however, been made to the Supreme Court on 26.7.2000.

[Translation]

Setting up of L.P.G. Bottling Plants

4742.SHRI SUNDERLAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up LPG bottling plants in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY IN PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The capacity additions of LPG bottling plants to be made by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies during balance Ninth Five Year Plan, in the country, are given in Annexure.

Statement

Statewise Bottling Capacity Additions under IX Plan Balance

Bottling Plant	Oil Co.	As on 1.4.2000 (Figs in TMTA) Capacity Additions Under IX Plan (Balance)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
Cherlapally*	IOC	12
Kakinada/Rajahmundry	BPC	44
Khammam	HPC	10
Vizag	HPC	44
Vizag	IOC	54
Cherlapally	IBP	10
Kakinada	HPC	22
Sub Total		196
Assam		
Guahati	BPC	6
Numaligarh	BPC	6
Sub Total		12
Bihaar		
Aurangabad	BPC	22
Patna	HPC	22
Jamshedpur	HPC	10
Bokaro	IOC	22
Patna	IOC	66
Bhagalpur	IOC	44
Sub Total		186

1	2	3
Gujarat		
Gandhinagar*	HPC	18
Ahmedabad*	IOC	34
Rajkot	BPC	22
Navsari/Hazira	BPC	22
Kandla	IOC	22
Sub Total		118
Haryana		
Gurgaon	IOC	22
Manesar	IBP	10
Sub Total		32
Himachal Pradesh		
Damta/Sundernagar	IOC	10
Bilaspur/Nalagarh	HPC	10
Sub Total		20
Jammu and Kashmir		
Jammu*	HPC	8
Sub Total		8
Karnataka		
Bangalore	IOC	44
Bangalore	HPC	22
Bellary	HPC	10
Bangalore	BPC	44
Dharwad	BPC	22
Mysore	BPC	10
Shimoga	IOC	66
Sub Total		218
Kerala		
Cochin*	IOC	44
Cochin	BPC	22
Sub Total		66
Madhya Pradesh		
Manglia	HPC	10
Bhopal	BPC	22

1	2	3
Bhopal	HPC	44
Jabalpur	HPC	44
Ujjain	IOC	78
Bilaspur	IOC	44
Guna	IOC	22
Sub Total		264

Maharashtra

Vasai/Virar	BPC	34
Kalyan	BPC	34
Nasik	BPC	22
Pune	BPC	44
Kolhapur	BPC	22
Nagpur	BPC	22
Nasik	HPC	44
Sholapur	HPC	10
Nanded	HPC	10
Akola	HPC	10
Mumbai/Virar	HPC	22
Nagpur	IOC	22
Vasai	IOC	10
Nasik	IBP	10
Mumbai/Palghar	IBP	10
Sub Total		326

Orissa

Jharsuguda	IOC	22
Halদিagada	IOC	10
Sub Total		32

Punjab

Patiala	IOC	44
Bhatinda	BPC	22
Rajpura	HPC	22
Sub Total		88

Rajasthan

Jaipur	IOC	44
Ajmer	BPC	44

1	2	3
Kota	HPC	44
Ajmer	HPC	22
Jaipur	HPC	22
Jhunjhunu	IOC	22
Bhilwara	IOC	22
Sub Total		220

Tamil Nadu

Mannargudi	IOC	6
Irugur	HPC	10
Ennore	HPC	10
Erode	IOC	34
Coimbatore/Dharmapur	IOC	34
Chengalpet	IOC	44
Nagapattinam	IBP	10
Sub Total		148

Uttar Pradesh

Unnao*	HPC	8
Loni	BPC	44
Gorakhpur	BPC	10
Kanpur/Auraiya	BPC	22
Jagdishpur	HPC	34
Loni	HPC	22
Kashipur	IOC	68
Muzaffarnagar	IOC	44
Loni	IOC	88
Gonda	IOC	34
Lucknow	IOC	34
Aligarh	IOC	22
Etawah	IOC	34
Shajahanpur	IOC	34
Balia	IOC	12
Kheri	IOC	22
Mughalsarai	IBP	10
Sub Total		542

1	2	3
West Bengal		
Durgapur*	IOC	24
Chandannagar	IOC	88
Malda	IOC	22
Siliguri	IOC	22
Calcutta	HPC	34
Burdwan	HPC	10
Haldia	IBP	10
Sub Total		210
Grand Total		2686

*Capacity Augmentation at the Existing Plants.

[English]

Introduction of Post Based Rosters

4743. SHRI BUTA SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether DOPT has introduced "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" for implementing reserving system w.e.f. 2nd July, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether while introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" the process of identifying excesses/shortages, if any in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and all the Autonomous/Statutory Organisations, Attached, Sub-ordinate offices and Public Sector Undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under para (5) of the DOPT O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997;

(d) if so, the details of excess/shortages found in all the above category of services as on July 2, 1997;

(e) whether "Post Based Rosters" are introduced in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" without completing the process of identifying excesses/shortages, if any, as prescribed under the above referred O.M., and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The post-based roster was introduced to implement the Supreme Court decision in R.K. Sabharwal case.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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

Approval to Mega Power Projects In Private Sector

4744. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of imported coal based and L.N.G. based mega power projects in private sector in Gujarat approved during 1998-1999 and 1999-2000;

(b) the conditions laid down for setting up such projects;

(c) whether any one of them has been expanded; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details of the proposals for setting up mega power projects in the private sector in Gujarat, as per the revised mega power policy of the Government of India of November, 1998, are given below :

S.No	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
1.	Pipavav Thermal Power Project	2000
2.	Narmada Thermal Power Project	1000

Under the revised mega power policy of the Government, the Power Trading Corporation (PTC) has been incorporated for the purpose of buying power from mega power projects under long term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and selling the power to the beneficiary States under long term PPAs. A pre-condition for purchase of power from mega power projects would be that the beneficiary States should have constituted their Regulatory Commissions with full powers to fix tariffs as envisaged in the Central Act. They would also have to privatise distribution in the cities having a population of more than one million. Certain fiscal concessions like duty free import of capital goods, deemed exports benefit and income tax holiday for 10 years period etc.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Work Order for Flat Wagons

4745.SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether work order has been issued in favour of "Shimes" of Rajasthan for 600 special flat wagons, when the M/s. Burn Standard of West, Bengal, Calcutta was the lowest bidder in this respect; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not accepting the offer of the lowest bidder ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Also there is no wagon building firm by the name 'Shimes' in Rajasthan.

(b) Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), a Public Sector Unit (PSU) under the Ministry of Railways, had recommended the award of the contract in favour of M/s. Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL), a public sector company. However, the World Bank, who have financed the project, did not favour awarding the contract to the company on the ground that BSCL had a poor track record in making deliveries in time. In furtherance of the Government policy to support PSUs, Ministry of Railways requested the World Bank to reconsider its decision. However, World Bank did not agree to this suggestion and the tender was thus cancelled.

Promotion of ACSO in Armed Forces Headquarters

4746.SHRI MANOJ SINHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directly Recruited Asstt. Civilian Staff Officers (DRACSOs) in Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service Cadre (AFHQ CSC) recruited during 1992-93 are now being promoted to Civilian Staff Officer (CSO) grade on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness ignoring the claims of Departmental ACSOs of 1988-89;

(b) if so, whether the relevant Civil Service Rules specify some special criteria for fixation of inter-se-seniority between the Direct Recruits and Departmental Promotees in that grade which is not applicable in respect of Assistants though they are also members of AFHQ Civil Service;

(c) if so, the reasons as to why do these provisions differ from the Government Principles, issued vide DOP&Ts OM dated February 7, 1986 for fixation of seniority between Direct Recruits and Departmental Promotees on the basis of rota-quota rule;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating any action to rectify the anomalous situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. No departmental ACSO of 1988 or 1989 Select List is awaiting promotion to the grade of CSO under Rule 10(2) of AFHQ Civil Service Rules 1968.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Identity Card to Railway Hawkers

4747.SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to issue Identity Cards and other social security to the Rail Hawkers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Hydro Electric Power Project in Orissa

4748.SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are big water reservoirs in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Hydro-electric Power is being generated from the said reservoirs;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any Hydro-electric Power Project in Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Hydro-electric power is being generated from the following reservoir based Hydro Stations in Orissa :-

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Installed Capacity (MW)
1.	Hirakud I&II	5x37.5+2x24+3x24 = 307.5
2.	Upper Kolab	4x80 = 320
3.	Balimela	6x60 = 360
4.	Rengali	5x50 = 250
5.	Upper Indravati	2x150 = 300
	Total	= 1537.5 MW

(c) to (e) Details of hydro-electric projects under execution in Orissa, proposals under examination in Central

Electricity Authority and Project Reports returned to project authorities for re-submission are given in the Statement.

Statement

A. H.E. Projects under execution in Orissa

1. Upper Indravati [2x150 MW]	=	300
2. Potteru [1x3+1x3 MW]	=	6
3. Balimela Dam Toe PH [2x30 MW]	=	60
Total	=	366 MW

B. H.E. Projects under examination in Central Elec. Authority

1. Balimela Extension HEP 2x75 MW	=	150 MW
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C. H.E. Projects Returned to Project Authorities for Re-submission

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Date of Receipt	Date of Return	Remarks
1.	Bhimkud Multipurpose Project [3x115+3x16=393 MW]	8/1980	9/1984	Large Submergence
2.	Hirakud-B/Chiplima-B [4x52+4x50 = 408 MW]	6/1994	7/1996	Involves Interstate aspect
3.	Manibhadra Multipurpose Project [24x40 = 960 MW]	10/1985	8/1999	Large Submergence
4.	Sindol [5x20+5x20+6x20=320 MW]	4/1994	7/1996	Involves Interstate aspect
Total : 2081 MW				

[Translation]

Restructuring of Agencies working In Power Sector

4749.SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to restructure the agencies working in the power sector;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government in this direction so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) In order to enable the Government to accelerate power sector development, the Government is considering various options for mobilizing resources to supplement the funds to be provided in the plan and to leverage the strengths of different Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) under the Ministry of Power. M/s ICICI and M/s State Bank

of India (SBI) Capital Markets have been appointed as Consultants to suggest various options of raising resources for investment in power sector by restructuring the CPSUs.

Further, various State Governments have been restructuring/unbundling their State Electricity Boards with a view to making them commercially viable and also to introduce efficiency and competition in the power sector. So far, the State Electricity Boards of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have been unbundled into separate entities.

[English]

Security Arrangement in Siachen

4750.SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during May, 2000 several Indian soldiers were killed in heavy exchange of firing with Pakistan in Northern Siachen sector;

(b) if so, whether Pakistani troops were using heavy machine guns and rockets and attacked Indian areas in Siachen sector as a result of which many bunkers were damaged and several jawans injured;

(c) if so, the details of casualties and other losses suffered on both sides;

(d) the main reasons for increasing the attacks by Pakistan in Siachen sector; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to beef up the security in this area?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) Pakistani troops have been resorting to firing by machine guns and rockets in addition to artillery and mortars. However, no physical attacks were launched by the Pakistani troops in the Glacier region in the month of May 2000. No report of any casualty on our side has been received.

A continuous watch is being maintained over the situation and necessary precautionary measures to frustrate any kind of misadventure on the part of our adversaries have been taken.

[Translation]

Power Generation Capacity

4751. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the average power generation capacity of thermal power sets manufactured by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is comparatively more;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the average capacity of power generation in the country which are being utilised by the National Thermal Power Corporation at present;

(d) whether the Government propose to replace the thermal power sets; and

(e) if so, the number of phases in which this process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The average Plant Load Factor (PLF) of thermal generating sets supplied by BHEL during 1999-2000 was 68.3% as against national average of 67.3%.

(c) The thermal generating sets supplied by BHEL to NTPC achieved a PLF of 81.7% during 1999-2000, while the same for other than BHEL sets has been about 76%. The overall PLF of coal based thermal plants of NTPC for 1999-2000 was 80.39%.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal for replacement of power generating units at present.

[English]

Competition Commission of India

4752. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Competition panel to impose strict vigil on Mega corporate deals" appearing in Hindustan Times dated July 31, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Raghavan Committee identified Rs. 5000 crore assets as sole criteria for scrutinizing mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up competition Commission of India (CCI) to scrutinise the corporate acquisition, amalgamation and joint ventures involving assets worth 5000 crore or Rs. 1500 crore as turn over;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which this Commission is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The High-Level Committee on Competition Law headed by Shri S.V.S. Raghavan has inter-alia recommended the setting up of an independent authority to be called the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The Committee has also recommended that there should be a Mergers Commission which could be part of the CCI and that the Mergers Commission should look into corporate mergers/amalgamations from competition angle by way of pre-merger scrutiny.

The Committee has recommended that all mergers/amalgamations exceeding the threshold limit should be notified in advance to the CCI/Mergers Commission. The threshold limit suggested by the Committee is Rs. 500/- crores assets in the case of a single merged entity or Rs. 2,000/- crores in the case of a group in terms of combined assets after merger.

The Government has circulated the Report among the general public, the State Governments/Union Territories and the Central Ministries/Departments and has sought opinions and suggestions. The Report has also been placed at the website of the Department of Company Affairs at <http://www.nic.in/dca>

The Government would take a final view on the matter on the basis of feed-back received from all concerned.

[Translation]

Pollution due to Refineries

4753. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :

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

(a) whether the oil effluents emanating from various oil refineries are polluting water and soil;

(b) if so, the details of such effluents being emanated from each of the oil refineries; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY IN PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir. Only treated effluent meeting stipulated Minimal National Standards (MINAS) is discharged from the refineries.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Train Vending Service in Akal Takht Express and Upasna Express

4754. SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether train vending services are being provided in Akal Takht and Upasna Express trains from Moradabad station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Akal Takht and Upasna Express trains have sufficiently long stoppages enroute and catering services are provided through the static units satisfactorily.

[English]

Casual Substitutes

4755. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of candidates who have been recruited as Casual substitutes in Adra Division of South Eastern Railway;

(b) whether any notification was issued in regard to employment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There is no term on the Railways as "Casual substitutes". However, a total number of 153 (One hundred and fifty three) candidates have been engaged as Substitutes in Adra Division during the last three years upto 31.07.2000.

(b) to (d) Out of 153 substitutes engaged, 17 have been engaged on compassionate grounds for which no notification is required. The remaining substitutes were engaged under the General Managers discretionary powers in terms of extant rules to cope with emergent situations and safety related work, due to non-availability of adequate leave reserve etc..

Over-Payments to Oil Companies by OCC

4756. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether Oil Coordination committee (OCC) allowed over-payment or undue benefits of several crores to oil companies during 1993-98;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check it;

(d) whether against a provision of 12% post-tax returns, the Ministry allocated pre-tax returns to oil companies; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the loss suffered as a result thereof ?

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

(b) to (e) The compensation to the oil companies had been made based on the approved Government policies.

[Translation]

Complaints against T.T.E.

4757.SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received regarding corruption/misconduct against the first class ticket examiners working under the Allahabad division from January 1998 to June 2000;

(b) whether the above complaints were looked into by the concerned Vigilance Department of the Railway Board/Northern Railway headquarter; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken against the employees found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There is no post of first class ticket examiners. However, 37 complaints were received against Travelling Ticket Examiners(TTEs) of Allahabad division during this period.

(b) and (c) 17 of these complaints were looked into by Railway Vigilance. In 7 cases, staff were found at fault and disciplinary action has been taken against them.

[Translation]

Employees in IDPL

4758.SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees in each unit of IDPL; and

(b) the number of employees who have not been paid salary regularly with the period of non-payment, unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Unitwise details of IDPL employees as of 30.6.2000 are as under :

Rishikesh	2678
Gurgaon	556
Hyderabad	3199
Corporate Office	72
Marketing Division	650

(b) Salary of employees upto July, 2000 has been paid.

Setting up of National War Museum

4759.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised a proposal to set up a National War Museum;

(b) if so, the site selected therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) It is proposed to set up a National War Museum in New Delhi. Three pieces of land, measuring nearly 17 acres, near India Gate, have been selected for this purpose. The proposal is being processed for obtaining necessary approvals. It is not possible to indicate any time frame for completion of the project at this stage.

Enquiry Services In Bangalore

4760.SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that railway enquiry lines 131, 132, 133 and 135 in Bangalore hardly ever function;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to increase the number of lines; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The enquiry line 131 relating to manual reservation enquiries and 132 relating to manual enquiries regarding arrival/departure of trains are functioning normally. However, the utilisation level of these lines is very high. The service of taped information on telephone number 133 is temporarily out of order on account of technical defects. Service on phone number 135, which was related to Bangalore Cantonment station, has been merged with the existing services on 131 and 132.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to increase the number of lines for reservation related enquiries. There is also a proposal to introduce automatic train arrival/departure enquiry service through Interactive Voice Response System. Both these proposals will be commissioned before the end of this financial year. As regards temporary defects of telephone number 133, action has been initiated to set right the same.

Allocation of Diesel to Punjab

4761.SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the allocation of diesel to the Punjab during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : The sale of diesel in the State of Punjab during the last three years is as follows :—

Year	Quantity in T.M.Ts.
1997-98	2,064
1998-99	2,205
1999-2000	2,331

**Post Retirement Benefits Scheme
to Employees of ONGC**

4762.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) extended the Post Retirement Benefit Scheme (PRBS) to its employees (other than executives) in 1995;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC employees who were Members of the Family Pension Scheme 1971 were given the option to join PRBS;

(c) if so, whether the monthly contribution with interest thereon was refunded to the employees who retired between 1971 to 1993 on their retirement;

(d) if so, whether the employees who retired between 1973 to 1995 were granted pensionary benefits under PRBS;

(e) if so, whether the employees who retired since November 1995 are being denied any type of benefit under PRBS;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the measures taken or proposed to be taken for settlement of rightful claims of post November 1995 voluntarily retired employees of ONGC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) extended the Post Retirement Benefit Scheme (PRBS) to its employees, other than executives, with effect from 16.11.1995.

(b) No, Sir. The PRBS has been implemented for all the employees of ONGC with effect from 16.11.1995.

(c) Refund of monthly contribution made by ONGC employees to the Family Pension Scheme, 1971 with interest thereon, has to be made by the Office of the Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner (APFC), Dehradun. ONGC, on its part, has forwarded withdrawal benefit claims received by ONGC from its employees who retired between 1971 to 1993, to the office of APFC, Dehradun for taking further necessary action in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme since settlement is to be made by that office.

(d) No, Sir. The employees who retired prior to 16.11.1995 were not granted pensionary benefits under PRBS, since the Scheme was not existing.

(e) and (f) The employees who retired after 16.11.1995 are granted pensionary benefits under PRBS since the Scheme was introduced for the employees only from that date.

(g) All rightful claims of the ONGC employees who voluntarily retired during the period from 16.11.1995 onwards are already settled or being settled in accordance with the provisions of the PRBS.

[Translation]

Installation of Water Mills

4763.SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of water mills installed under the promotional schemes as on March 31, 2000, State-wise;

(b) the total amount spent on them and their installed capacity.

(c) whether these water mills are in running condition and generating power according to their installed capacity;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of such water mills which have been closed and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of work done for installing water mills in private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) 110 water mills (as demonstration units) have been installed as part of UNDP-GEF Hilly Hydro Project implemented by the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources. These water mills have been installed in the States of J&K (15), Himachal Pradesh (20), Uttar Pradesh (25) and Arunachal Pradesh (50). The project has spent about Rs. 8000 per water mill towards the equipment cost and the civil works cost is being met by the beneficiary. These water mills are for mechanical operation with an equivalent capacity of 5 KW.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Most of these water mills are in running condition and generating power according to their installed capacity. During monitoring follow up visits, minor problems were reported in a few water mills, which were rectified on the spot.

(e) It is estimated that there are over 1 lakh old and traditional water mills in the Himalayan States which have been used for mechanical work such as grinding, oil extraction etc.. Many such water mills are falling in to disuse as these are based on very old traditional designs and have low reliability. In order to up-grade these water mills, MNES has announced an incentive scheme.

(f) The scheme is being implemented through State Agencies for Renewable Energy, NGOs, local bodies etc. Private sector is not directly involved in the installation of the water mills. They are involved in the manufacture and supply of these mills.

[English]

Permission for Running Petrol Pumps by Private Companies

4764. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to permit the private companies to start petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these private companies are likely to be in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Government have permitted marketing of decontrolled products through private and joint sector. Marketing of kerosene and LPG is permitted through private and joint sector under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS).

The Petroleum products under the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) are marketed by public sector oil marketing companies only. These products are Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel, LPG (Domestic), SKO (PDS), Aviation Turbine Fuel.

[Translation]

Misuse of Land

4765. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of licences issued by Railways for utilisation of railway land are being misutilised by the licence holders by violating the licencing agreement;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action to cancel these licences;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[English]

Appointment of SC/ST as Central Government Advocates

4766. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Senior Central Government Standing Councils and Central Government Standing Councils in the Supreme Court and various High Courts as on January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000 and total number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs communities along with their percentage as compared to the total number of such persons;

(b) whether the 'Forum of SC/ST Parliamentarians' has submitted representations to the Prime Minister on December 12, 1996, September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998 regarding the posting of persons belonging to the SCs/STs in important assignments in the higher Judicial Administration; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The total number of government counsels/panel counsels in the

Supreme Court and High Courts was 547 and 1136 as on January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000, respectively. Since there is no reservation for SCs/STs in the matter of engagement of counsels, no separate account is maintained regarding engagement of SC/ST counsels.

(b) The representations were submitted by the Forum to the Prime Minister on December 12, 1996, September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998.

(c) The Appointment of judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts is made in terms of Article 124 and Article 217 of the Constitution of India respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time requesting them to locate suitable persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes, Minorities and Women for appointment as High Court Judges. As per Articles 233, 234 and 235 of the Constitution of India, the matters relating to appointment, promotion and posting of persons in District and Subordinate Judiciary are within the purview of the respective State Governments and High Courts.

Loans from Power Production Development Fund

4767. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether loans from Power Production Development Fund were sanctioned to major industrial houses to private sector engaged in power generation during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details of the outstanding amount against these industrial houses till March 2000, industrial house-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) There is no Fund under the administrative control of Ministry of Power by the name Power Production Development Fund. In view of this, question of giving loans from the such fund does not arise.

Improvement in Quality of Cotton Products

4768. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the imported cotton is being preferred to the indigenous cotton both on account of quality and price as reported in The Economic Times dated June 17, 2000;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government as in case of milk production;

(c) if so, whether there is any plan to improve quality and productivity of cotton and the textiles;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether pest resistant varieties of cotton seed are not available leading to import of cotton seeds from Monsanto through its associates, MAFCO in Maharashtra;

(f) if so, whether cotton research will be handled by the Textile Department in future;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government will pay attention for development of coir geo-textiles also; and

(i) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Import of cotton is under Open General Licence (OGL) from April, 1994. From the budget for the year 1999-2000, import duty of 5.5% has been imposed. The user mills are free to import cotton to meet their requirement within the framework of the policy of the Government.

(b) to (d) The Technology Mission on Cotton Development has been launched on 21.02.2000 with the objectives of research, dissemination of technology to farmers, improvement in market infrastructure and modernisation of G and P factories for overall improvement in the productivity and quality of cotton. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFFS) has been launched with effect from 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years for modernisation of textile and jute industries. A chain of testing laboratories have been set up to help industry in accessing the quality of textiles. For import of capital goods, the Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme has been simplified.

(e) Resistant/tolerant varieties and hybrids of cotton are already available with respect to many pests/diseases viz. Jassids, White fly, Bollworms, Nematode, Verticillium wilt, Fusarium wilt, Root rot, Leaf curl virus etc.

(f) and (g) Research on improving quality and productivity of cotton crop is done under All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education). Special emphasis on research and development has been given under Mini Mission-I of the Technology Mission on Cotton Development.

(h) and (i) The Coir Board set up under the Coir Industry Act, 1953 has been undertaking various research and development work and extension services for the development of the coir industry inter alia including the Coir Geo-textiles. In fact, India is an exporter of the Coir Geo-textiles and the export during 1998-99 was 1208 tons valued at Rs. 546.91 lakh, which was a increase of 63% in quantity and 75% in value over the preceding year. The major countries to which Coir Geo-textiles are exported include USA, Germany, Japan, UK, Netherlands, France, Belgium, Canada.

[Translation]

**Supply of Ash-Free Coal to
Thermal Power Project**

4769.SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ash-free coal has been purchased for the thermal power stations in the country particularly in Delhi during the last three years and the current year so far, State-wise;

(b) if so, the price at which the ash-free coal was purchased;

(c) whether the ash-free coal is being purchased from the Kargali washery of the Central Coalfields Limited and this type of coal is not being purchased for the Chandrapura Thermal Power Station; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No ash free coal is supplied to thermal power stations in the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Cess Charged on Diesel

4770.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cess of rupee one per litre is being charged on diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the head under which the said amount of cess has been kept; and

(d) the items on which this amount is proposed to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An Additional duty of customs as well as excise at the rate of Re. 1 per litre is charged on imported and indigenously produced diesel respectively. This duty sometimes referred to as "cess" was levied in the Union Budget 1999-2000. No separate Head as "cess" has been created.

(d) Together with the Re. 1/litre additional customs/ excise duty on motor spirit (levied in Budget 1998-1999), the additional levy on diesel is proposed to be utilized in Budget Estimates 2000-01 as follows :

Rural Roads	Rs. 2500 crore
National Highways	Rs. 2010 crore
State Roads	Rs. 990 crore
Railways	Rs. 300 crore
	<hr/>
	Rs. 5800 crore

[English]

**Termination of Services of Contract
Engineers in EIL**

4771.SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Engineers India Limited (E.I.L.) have terminated the services of Contract Engineers working at various project sites;

(b) if so, the number of contract engineers that have been terminated alongwith their performance as per the Annual Appraisal Performance Report;

(c) whether management of E.I.L. have taken a decision to absorb them as contract engineers;

(d) if so, the reasons for their terminations; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to ensure that such engineers are taken back in the E.I.L. forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) The contract engineers have been released in phases from various project sites on account of tapering off or completion of Work and also completion of their contract period at various project sites.

Details of the contract engineers released (as of 15.8.2000) are as follows :

(i) Resigned and left	243
(ii) On completion of contract period	71
(iii) Foreclosure of contract	31

Being on contract for specified period, there was no formal system of appraising the contract engineers annually through Annual Appraisal Performance Report.

EIL Board has decided that 50% of vacancies/requirements of Management Trainees will be filled on an annual basis from contract engineers working in the Company or who have left the services of the Company on account of completion of contract period/fore closure of contract and are meeting the selection criteria.

[Translation]

Requirement of Power

4772.SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have submitted projects for approval;

(b) if so, since when these projects are pending with the Government along with the time by which these projects are likely to be approved;

(c) whether there are large number of power projects which are lying incomplete due to shortage of funds; and

(d) If so, the remedial steps being taken to resolve the Power crisis in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) There is no proposal presently under examination/pending in CEA for grant of techno-economic clearance for setting up of power projects submitted by Bihar Government. However, the following power projects in Bihar were returned for want of various inputs/clearances. Pending projects would be considered for Techno-Economic Clearance as soon as the necessary inputs/clearances are tied-up and clarifications are furnished by the project authorities through the State Government.

1. Katihar (2x250 MW)	Returned in 10/95
2. Ray (2x200+4x500 MW)	Returned in 8/80
3. Patratu Extn. St. V (2x210 MW)	Returned in 12/92
4. Kadhwan HEP (5x90 MW)	Returned in 3/95

5. Barun St. I (2x500 MW)	Returned in 5/89
6. Patna CCGT (2x50 MW-GT+2x30 MW-ST)	Returned in 5/89
7. Barauni CCGT (2x50 MW-GT+2x30MW-ST)	Returned in 5/89
8. Patna TPS (2x67.5 MW)	Returned in 9/90
9. Kanhar Pump Storage Scheme (3x100 MW)	Returned in 7/99
10. Sankh St. II Hep (186 MW)	Returned in 1/2000

The following power projects are lying incomplete due to shortage of funds inspite of investment approval given by Planning Commission :-

1. Tenughat : Approval given by Planning St. II(3x210MW) Commission in February 1989.
2. Muzaffarpur TPP : Approval given by Planning Extn. (2x250 MW) Commission in December 1995.

For resolving the power crisis in the State, the following power projects have been granted techno-economic clearance by CEA are targeted for commissioning during 9th Plan :

1. Jojobera TPP U-1&2 (T)	2x120 MW
2. Eastern Gandak (H)	5MW (already commissioned)
3. Chandil LBC (H)	2x4 MW
4. North Koel (H)	2x12 MW

In addition to the above, four inter-state inter regional mega projects are proposed to be set up in Bihar in 10th and 11th Plan period.

Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
North Karanpura (NTPC)	1980 MW
Barh (NTPC)	1980 MW
Kahalgau St. II (NTPC)	1320 MW
Maithon Right Bank (Joint venture company of DVC and BSES).	1000 MW
Koel Karo (NHPC)	4x172.5+1x20 MW.

[English]

Review of Power Sector

4773.SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made a thorough review of the power sector to identify the areas where investment is required;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the interest of power investors in private sector have been considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The policy announced in 1991 to encourage greater private sector participation in the power sector has been reviewed from time to time with a view to streamlining the procedures for speedy development of the power projects and also for ensuring a reasonable tariff for the power to be purchased from these projects. Interests of the private investors have also been kept in mind while reviewing the policy and the rate of return on investments made, incentives for efficient operation of the power plant, etc., have been prescribed under the policy.

The Perspective Plan Studies conducted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), as brought out in the publication of CEA entitled "Power On Demand by 2012", indicate that the total required installed capacity by the year 2012 in the country would be around 2,40,000 MW. The present installed capacity at the end of June, 2000, is around 98,500 MW. Thus an additional installed capacity of around 1,41,500 MW would be required by the year 2012. This would involve an investment of around Rs. 6,36,750 crores (@ Rs. 4.5 crores per MW). Corresponding investment in the areas of transmission and distribution would also be required.

Agreement with RIL for Exploration of Oil

4774. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether an agreement has been signed by the Government with the Reliance Industries Ltd. for exploration of Oil in Mahanadi basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RIL has started the commercial production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The Government of India has signed a Production Sharing

Contract (PSC) with the consortium of Reliance Industries Ltd. and Nilo Resources, Canada for exploration of Oil and Gas in Mahanadi deepwater offshore block-MN-DWN-98/2 under New Exploration Licensing Policy, 99. The production can start only after a commercial discovery of hydrocarbons is made, through exploration.

[Translation]

Power Supply to M.P. from Hirakud Hydro Power Project

4775. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of power supplied to Madhya Pradesh from the Hira Kud hydro-power project of Orissa;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh is being provided compensation by Orissa Government against the non-supply of power as per latter's share; and

(c) if not, the amount outstanding on Orissa Government and the action being taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Presently, Orissa is neither supplying the share of 5 MW Power of Madhya Pradesh in Hirakud Hydel Power Project (Installed capacity 270 MW) located in Orissa nor paying compensation for retention of this 5 MW power. The payment of compensation of MP's share of 5 MW power was being made by Orissa State Electricity Board (OSEB, now GRIDCO), during the period when OSEB was availing power from MPEB. The total outstanding against OSEB as on July 2000 was Rs. 59.60 Crores (Provisional) out of which compensation towards retention of MP's share of 5 MW power is Rs. 47.27 crores.

This is a bilateral issue for which the two States are holding discussions for resolving the matter.

[English]

Requirement of Power

4776. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated requirement of power for domestic consumption, agriculture sector and Industrial purpose in every State at the end of Eighth Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether the power requirement for the above purposes has increased now;

(c) if so, the estimated demand expected by the Ninth Plan, State-wise;

(d) the efforts being made to cope with the increasing requirement in every State; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be feasible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) Based on 15th Electric Power Survey Report, published in July, 1995, the estimated State-wise requirement of power at the consumers' end for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes at the end of Eighth (1996-97) and Ninth (2001-02) Plans are given in Statement-I, & II, respectively.

To cope with the increasing requirement of power, a capacity of 28,907 MW was considered feasible in the mid-term review of 9th Plan. Details are given in statement-III.

In addition to the above capacity addition during 9th Plan, the following steps are being taken to cope with the increasing requirement of power :

1. Improving availability from existing Power plants through Renovation/Modernisation and life extension programmes.
2. Reduction of T&D losses by implementing various measures.
3. Promoting energy efficiency and conservation.
4. Facilitating inter-regional transfer of power by establishing the necessary transmission network.
5. Establishing a regulatory framework to rationalise tariff fixation.
6. Enabling private sector investment in generation, transmission and distribution.

Statement-I

Estimated energy requirement (in MUs) at consumers end in Domestic, Irrigation and Industrial Sectors at the end of Eighth Plan (1996-97)

State/UT	Domestic	Irrigation	Industry
1	2	3	4
Delhi	5117.32	47.00	2777.99
Haryana	2905.61	5435.80	2989.55
Himachal Pradesh	441.85	17.93	914.55
Jammu & Kashmir	629.30	295.49	555.80
Punjab	3123.62	7383.20	7076.94
Rajasthan	2153.94	4572.32	7564.75

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	8236.64	11022.80	8246.90
Chandigarh	202.81	2.39	199.62
Goa	205.78	22.78	440.35
Gujarat	3509.37	10121.99	12496.59
Madhya Pradesh	4533.39	6360.18	10331.57
Maharashtra	9173.96	11234.81	19949.03
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8.11	0.83	446.08
Daman & Diu	14.44	1.82	246.60
Andhra Pradesh	4673.37	10556.36	8787.14
Karnataka	2877.42	7048.81	7306.78
Kerala	3128.92	364.21	3601.38
Tamil Nadu	4801.54	5955.54	11290.06
Pondicherry	97.32	127.22	872.59
Bihar	1045.45	2400.15	7187.82
Orissa	1989.12	469.82	4767.56
Sikkim	39.11	0.00	10.30
West Bengal	3703.67	975.16	7566.61
Arunachal Pradesh	46.16	0.00	14.41
Assam	409.76	45.66	1733.79
Manipur	146.28	5.85	73.46
Meghalaya	57.16	1.50	145.32
Mizoram	73.51	17.56	18.56
Nagaland	63.91	0.00	39.70
Tripura	83.08	44.58	74.91
A&N Islands	35.24	0.00	9.89
Lakshadweep	9.05	0.00	1.75
All India	63536.21	84431.76	127738.15

Statement-II

Estimated energy requirement (in MUs) at consumers end in Domestic, Irrigation and Industrial Sectors at the end of Ninth Plan (2001-02)

State/UT	Domestic	Irrigation	Industry
1	2	3	4
Delhi	7939.86	52.00	3833.38
Haryana	5001.55	6797.79	4360.58
Himachal Pradesh	645.35	21.12	1609.35

1	2	3	4
Jammu & Kashmir	988.67	643.44	742.93
Punjab	5025.93	8872.02	9662.40
Rajasthan	4222.86	6209.73	10844.27
Uttar Pradesh	16221.90	12555.67	10749.60
Chandigarh	274.40	2.39	229.88
Goa	278.66	28.08	632.40
Gujarat	5593.33	12828.02	17107.41
Madhya Pradesh	6849.39	8282.21	14046.85
Maharashtra	14897.53	15551.18	27985.60
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	13.52	1.09	783.61
Daman & Diu	21.60	2.59	456.86
Andhra Pradesh	8178.82	13605.51	10277.44
Karnataka	4111.73	9474.00	9702.39
Kerala	5044.78	592.89	4560.04
Tamil Nadu	7655.47	6864.19	14217.36
Pondichery	149.58	186.98	1300.56
Bihar	1760.50	3360.45	10216.74
Orissa	3220.80	755.83	8329.90
Sikkim	58.05	0.00	12.80
West Bengal	5899.72	1331.64	10358.58
Arunachal Pradesh	108.70	0.00	764.62
Assam	618.22	55.12	1697.17
Manipur	270.91	9.33	241.23
Meghalaya	76.67	1.50	148.53
Mizoram	130.05	94.81	32.35
Nagaland	106.11	0.00	37.77
Tripura	146.09	69.61	130.24
A&N Islands	61.59	0.00	15.83
Lakshadweep	13.22	0.00	4.29
ALL INDIA	105585.52	108249.19	175092.96

Statement-III*Capacity addition programme-9th Plan (28097.2MW)*

Name of the Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
Central Sector		
Unchahar	U.P.	420

1	2	3
Kayamkulam	Kerala	350
Vindhayachal	M.P.	1000
Faridabad	Haryana	430
Kawas II	Gujarat	650
Anta II	Rajasthan	650
Auriaya II	U.P.	650
Simhadri	A.P.	500
Ghandhar II	Gujarat	650
Kathalguri	Assam	90
Agartala	Tripura	84
Mejia	DVC	210
Neyveli Extn.	T.N.	210
Doyang	Nagaland	75
Kopili Extn. III	Assam	25
Ranganadi	Ar. Pr.	405
Rangit III	Sikkim	60
Dulhasti	J&K	390
Nathpa Jhakri	H.P.	1500
Tehri HEP	U.P.	500
RAAP	Rajasthan	440
Kaiga	Karnataka	440
STATE SECTOR		
Panipat	Haryana	210
Bhantinda	Punjab	420
Suratgarh	Rajasthan	500
Tanda	U.P.	110
Ghanvi	H.P.	22.5
Upper Sindh	J&K	105
Pahalgaon	J&K	3
Chenani III	J&K	7.5
Sewa III	J&K	9
Thein Dam	Punjab	600
Sobla	U.P.	6
Kutch Lignite	Gujarat	75
Gandhinagar	Gujarat	210
Wanakobri	Gujarat	210
Dhuvaran	Gujarat	110
Sanjay Gandhi Ext.	M.P.	420

1	2	3
Chandrapur	Mah.	500
Khaperkheda	Mah.	420
Kadana	Gujarat	60
Sardar Sarovar	M.P.	650
Bansagar Ton	M.P.	110
Rajghat	M.P.	45
Koyana IV	Mah.	1000
Warna	Mah.	16
Dudhaganga	Mah.	24
Kothgudem	A.P.	250
Raichur	Karnataka	420
Barhampuram	Kerala	100
Kozhikode	Kerala	128
Narimanam	T.N.	5
Karikal	Pondicherry	32.5
Rangit Bay DG	A&N Island	5
Basin Bridge	T.N.	30
Srisaillam	A.P.	900
Singur	A.P.	15
Shravati	Karnataka	240
Kalinadi-Kodasalli	Karnataka	270
Bhadra	Karnataka	6
Lower Periyar	Karnataka	120
Brindavan	Karnataka	12
Kakkad	Kerala	50
Kutiyadi Extn	Kerala	50
Poringal Kuthu	Kerala	16
Lower Bhiwani	T.N.	8
Santhur Dam	T.N.	7.5
Kunda V Extn	T.N.	30
Kalpong	A&N Island	5.2
Bakreshwar	W.Bengal	630
Eastern Gandak	Bihar	5
North Koel	Bihar	24
Chandil	Bihar	8
Upper Indravati	Orissa	600
Kotteru	Orissa	6

1	2	3
Teesta Canal	W.Bengal	67.5
Rokhia	Tripura	8
Leimkhong DG	Manipur	36
Lakwa WH	Assam	47.5
Nuranang	Ar. Pr.	6
Likimro	Nagaland	24
PRIVATE SECTOR		
Global Board CCGT	Rajasthan	130
Magnum Power FO	Haryana	25
Phoenix Power FO	Haryana	175
Baspa	H.P.	300
Sabarmati	Gujarat	120
Hazira CCGT	Gujarat	185
Paguthan CCGT	Gujarat	655
Surat Lignite	Gujarat	250
GIPCL Baroda	Gujarat	167
Dabhol I	Mah.	740
Dabhol II	Mah.	1444
Rattam DGPP	M.P.	118
Godavari	A.P.	114
Jegrupadu	A.P.	77
Kondipalli	A.P.	350
Vemagari	A.P.	468
Gautami CCGT	A.P.	358.9
Snehlata	A.P.	200
Torangalu	Karnataka	260
Bellary Hospet	Karnataka	27.8
Tanir Bavi-Barge	Karnataka	200
Mounted		
Bidadl CCGT	Karnataka	200
Bharat Forge CCGT	Karnataka	50.8
DLF Power CCGT	Karnataka	32.5
Tumkur		
Eloor (BSES)	Kerala	173
Basin Bridge DG	T.N.	200
Samaynallur DG	T.N.	106
Pillariemallur	T.N.	330.5

1	2	3
Samallapati DG	T.N.	105
Bamboo Flat DG	A&N Island	20
Bhattahamkettu	Kerala	16
Jojobera	Bihar	240
Budge Budge	W.Bengal	500
Adamtilla	Assam	9
Banaskandi	Assam	15.5

[Translation]

Reduction in the rates of Transmission and Distribution

4777.SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to reduce the rates of transmission and distribution of Power;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) had issued comprehensive guidelines for reduction of T and D losses in July, 1991 to SEBs and Electricity Departments. The guidelines enumerate various short-term and long-term measures that could be adopted for reducing both technical and commercial losses.

The Indian Electricity Act, 1910 has been amended through Sections 39 and 39A to make theft of energy and its abetment as a cognizable offence with deterrent punishment.

At the Chief Ministers' Conference/Power Ministers' meeting the State Governments/State Utilities have undertaken to adopt the following measures:-

- Compulsory metering at sub-stations and all major feeders would be introduced.
- Compulsory metering of all new electricity connections as also connections to the agricultural sector exceeding 10 HP will be undertaken and completed in two years.
- All electric supplies would be metered by 2002.
- Compulsory annual energy audit of large consumers, that is 1000 KVA and above would be undertaken.

- Time of the Day Metering would be introduced for big power consumers for better load management.

The reduction of T and D losses can be achieved by SEBs/State Utilities by availing funds provided at concessional interest rates by the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and undertaking the following activities :-

- a. Installation of pre-paid electronic meter/electronic meters at the sub-station.
- b. Conversion of LT line of HT line within the area served by the sub-station.
- c. Installation of energy efficient transformers by replacing the existing ones.
- d. Installation of electronic meters on all major feeders, consumers linked to high-tension line, agricultural pump sets and the domestic consumers.

Memu Train between Ratlam and Vadodara

4778.SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'MEMU' a daily local passenger train under Western Railway starts from Ratlam to Vadodara has a stoppage at every station and takes 5-6 hours to reach Vadodara;

(b) whether this train continue to stay at Ratlam and Vadodara railway-stations and leaves for the respective stations the next day;

(c) if so, the reasons for not starting this train on the return journey after some time as there are a large number of passengers on this route and they do not get seats in the compartments;

(d) whether no toilets have been provided in this train which ply for 5-6 hours at a stretch;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the concrete steps taken by the Government to provide toilet facilities in this train ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. There is no direct MEMU train running between Ratlam and Vadodara. However, the following MEMU trains are running on the section :-

1. 717/718 Vadodara-Dahod
2. 781/782 Dahod-Ratlam
3. 719/720 Vadodara-Godhra
4. 721/722 Vadodara-Godhra

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) No toilets are provided by MEMU services as these are short distance services on heavy density sectors with higher carrying capacity.

(f) There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

MOU Signed with Foreign Countries In Power Sector

4779.SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether MOU has been signed with some foreign countries for greater cooperation in the Power Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof with provisions of each MOU;

(c) whether some power projects would be implemented in Maharashtra during current and next financial years in terms of MOU; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Government of India had signed an MOU with the United States of America in July, 1994 for greater cooperation in the power sector. The objective of this MOU was to discuss current and prospective energy developments in both countries, facilitate exchange of information, exchange views on energy and related environmental policies including global climate change etc.

Separately, there are a number of Working Groups which have been set up for cooperation with other countries having a bearing on the power sector. The relatively more important Working Groups are with Russia, France, Australia, Germany and Japan.

Further, the Government of India has signed two Joint Statements with the Government of United States of America in October, 1999 and March, 2000 which envisage cooperation between the two countries in the area of

conventional energy projects, renewable energy, clean coal technology, energy efficiency and related environmental aspects. A Joint Consultative Group on Clean Energy and Environment has been set up as was proposed in the Joint Statement signed in March, 2000. No specific projects have yet been formulated under the aegis of these Joint Statements so far.

Revision of Prices of Formulations

4780.SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria of revision of prices of drugs;

(b) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has recently revised the prices of formulations;

(c) if so, whether Ampicillin, Cloxacillin capsules and Elucin tablets were also under this price revision;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these revisions were done under the Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1995; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS):

(a) Prices of drugs are fixed/revised as per the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

(b) Fixation/revision of prices of scheduled drugs is an ongoing exercise.

(c) and (d) The price revision on the 20th July, 2000 includes, inter alia, 12 packs of Ampicillin plus Cloxacillin Capsules/Tablets and one pack of Elucin Tablets.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. As mentioned at (a) above, these revisions were done under the provisions of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995.

Limit for Vacation of Government Accommodation

4781.DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Railway Chief's farewell Gift is a bungalow" appearing in the Indian Express dated August 7, 2000;

(b) Whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government to remove the one year limit on the vacation/occupation of the house and also to waive the

outstanding rent as well as electricity charges on the residential accommodation of the Chairman and Members of the Railway Board; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, a rejoinder has been issued in the Press denying the contents of the news item.

(b) No, Sir. There is/was no proposal under consideration of this Ministry to modify existing instructions on retention of Railway houses or instructions regarding recovery of rent/electricity charges from officers in respect of residential accommodation. All Railway officials including Chairman and other Members of Railway Board are eligible to retain Railway houses for a maximum period of 8 months. Rent/electricity charges for the residential accommodation is paid by the officers themselves.

(c) Does not arise.

Functioning of Hajipur Zone

4782.SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether meagre allocation of funds has been made for the maintenance of Hajipur Zonal Office (Bihar) against the estimated expenditure for the year 2000-01;

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

(c) whether the Hajipur Zonal Office is proposed to be closed down; and

(d) if so, the circumstances leading to such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The entire issue of reorganisation of Zones is under review. The decision to provide additional funds, if any, can be taken after completion of review.

Santushti Complex

4783.SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken over the management of "Santushti Complex", New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the persons already employed in this complex, including security personnels, are deemed to be treated as Government servants for all purposes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Santushti Complex was set up without Government sanction and therefore its management was taken over by Defence Estate Officer on 28th February, 1998. The persons already employed in the Complex, when it was under the management of Air Force Wives Welfare Association/President Services Institute, were continued after the management of the Complex was taken over by the Defence Estate Officer and are governed by the terms and conditions on which they were employed by the previous management. They were not recruited by the Government and are not Government employees. Their salaries etc. are being paid out of the maintenance funds collected from the shopkeepers of the Complex and not out of Consolidated Fund of India.

[Translation]

Shifting of Concor Office

4784.SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India has shifted its registered office to Le Meredien Hotel and the rent is about Rs. 20 lakhs per month;

(b) if so, whether the rules prescribed by the Government in this regard has been followed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a tender for it had been published in the newspaper;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, has shifted its Corporate Office to Le-Meridien Commercial Towers which is an exclusive office premises building separate from Le-Meridien Hotel Building at a monthly rent of Rs. 14.40 lakhs.

(b) to (f) A newspaper advertisement was published on 29.3.1998 in the Hindustan Times. In response, offers were received through various property dealers and a senior level committee evaluated the offers to assess suitability of premises. As the premises offered were not found suitable, the property dealers were again asked to

give fresh offers. The offer of space in Le-Meridien Commercial Tower was found suitable for the Corporate Office and the premises were taken on lease after negotiated settlement.

[English]

Coal Based Thermal Power Plants

4785. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the coal based power plants which are exclusively/partially using imported coal along with their PLF;

(b) the advantages of imported coal; and

(c) the per unit electricity cost generated by each plant using imported coal and domestic coal, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No coal based Thermal Power Station under Utility Sector is exclusively using imported coal. Import of coal is under OGL and, therefore, power stations importing coal are not necessarily furnishing the import details. During the current year five thermal power stations namely Dahanu (Maharashtra), Ropar (Punjab), AE Company (Gujarat), Ukai and Trombay (Maharashtra) are reported to be importing coal for blending purposes. The PLF of these power stations for April-July 2000 is given below :

Thermal Power Station	PLF (%)
1. Dahanu	80.8
2. Ropar	75.9
3. AE Company (Sabarmati)	87.3
4. Ukai	68.5
5. Trombay	79.5

(b) Imported coal is generally blended with indigenous coal in proportions varying between 10-30% for improving the calorific value and reducing ash percentage.

(c) Per unit electricity cost being generated by individual power station is not being monitored by CEA.

[Translation]

Allotment of Govt. Accommodation

4786. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of quarters allotted to grade II, III and IV officers on the Gaya-Kiul, Mugulsarai-Dhanbad, Mugulsarai-Patna, Kiul-Howra railway lines in the Mugulsarai and Danapur divisions under the Eastern railway;

(b) the number of quarter constructed and allotted to the employees during the last three years and the current year so far;

(c) whether some persons have been allotted quarters on the out-of-turn basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Non-Return of Deposit by KIFL

4787. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has received complaint from Member of Parliament and Investors Association regarding non-payment of deposits by KIFL;

(B) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of depositors and total amount involved therein;

(c) the action taken by the C.L.B. in this regard;

(d) whether the promoter of the company are obeying the C.L.B. orders; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken against such company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The company is a Non-Banking Finance Company and is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and guidelines made thereunder.

The Company Law Board, which is a quasi judicial body set up under section 10(E) of the Companies Act, 1956, has received complaints from Members of Parliament, Investors' Association and individual investors regarding non-repayment of deposits by KIFL. As on 11.02.2000, the Company Law Board had received 1872 applications complaining of non-repayment of deposits aggregating to an amount of Rs. 340 lakh.

(c) The Company Law Board has after affording an opportunity to all depositors by public notice and after hearing the company, Reserve Bank of India, Bangalore, Registrar of Companies, Bangalore, Consortium of Banks, Several Investors Associations and individual investors passed an order under section 45QA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 on 21.03.2000 rescheduling the repayment of deposits.

(d) and (e) The Company has preferred an appeal before the High Court of Karnataka vide M.F.A. No. 2030 of 2000 seeking certain modifications in the order passed by the Company Law Board. Separately Bank of India and United Western Bank have obtained an interim stay on the Order of the Company Law Board from the Hon'ble High Courts of Madras and Karnataka respectively.

Service conditlions of Employees of Unit Run Canteens

4788.SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to improve service conditions of employees working in Unit Run Canteens and grant them status of Government servants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Not applicable, in view of Answer (a) above.

(c) Unit Run Canteen employees are neither paid from the Consolidated Fund of India nor from the Defence Services Estimates. The Canteens are independent Units in themselves and are controlled by the Managing Committee of the respective Unit/Formation. The terms and conditions of the service of the employees are mutually agreed between the respective Managing Committee and its employees.

Mobilisation of Funds in Power Sector

4789.SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Power Finance Corporation (PFC) propose to mobilise funds from the overseas market as part of its resource mobilisation programme;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of the power project for which the mobilized funds are likely to be used ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) According to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between PFC and the Ministry of Power for the year 2000-01, PFC will undertake market borrowings of Rs. 2200 crores including domestic and external commercial borrowings (ECB) in 2000-01. No specific amount of funds to be mobilised from overseas markets has been fixed.

(c) According to the current guidelines of the Ministry of Finance governing ECB, the funds mobilised by PFC from overseas market can be used for capital expenditure in any power project. Accordingly, the funds to be mobilised from overseas market will be used for PFC's normal loan disbursement programme in power projects for capital expenditure requirement either in foreign exchange or in Indian Rupees.

1040 MW Vizag Power Project

4790.SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 1040 MW Vizag Power Project of Hindujas has suffered a massive cost escalation of Rs. 1200 crore even as Andhra Pradesh Government is yet to approve the financial plan for the execution of the fast track project;

(b) if so, the main reasons for delay;

(c) whether the Central Authority has stated that they could take a view whether the cost escalation has been incurred by the project or not, only after the State Government submits HNPCL's proposal; and

(d) whether Union Government received the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) in Andhra Pradesh being promoted by M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. (HNPCL) has been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on July 25, 1996 at an estimated completion cost of US\$ 943.75 million + Rs. 1324.993 crores (@ 1 US\$ = Rs 35.00). On 16.5.1998, Government approved extension of counter-guarantee to this project through the revised procedure. Counter guarantee of Government of India has been issued to the project on August 19, 1998.

M/s. HNPCL have submitted the firm financial package, in two parts, to Government of Andhra Pradesh (GOAP)/Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation (APTRANSCO) in the first week of November 1999 and

second week of December, 1999. The promoters of the project have also endorsed copies of the same to the Ministry of Power and the CEA. The firm financial package, which is presently under examination of GOAP/APTRANSCO, is required to be forwarded to CEA, along with the recommendations of GOAP. Change in cost, if any, over the project cost estimated by CEA, can be determined only after the firm financial package is approved by CEA.

GOAP have informed that they are negotiating reduction of capital cost of the project as required under the revised procedure for extension of counter guarantee.

Restructuring of Power Grid Corporation

4791. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to restructure the Power Grid Corporation;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of funds which are likely to be invested therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) In order to enable the Government to accelerate power sector development, the Government is considering various options for mobilizing resources to supplement the funds to be provide in the plan and to leverage the strengths of different central public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Power including the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.

M/s. ICICI and M/s. State Bank of India (SBI) Capital Markets have been appointed as consultants to suggest various options of raising resources for investment in the power sector.

Misuse of Rail Coupons

4792. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that free railway passes/coupons/cards which have been issued to VIPs are being misused;
- (b) if so, the number of cases detected by the railways during the last two years;
- (c) the amount of money involved in those cases;
- (d) whether the involvement of railway officials has also been noticed in some of these cases;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them; and

(f) the steps taken to check the misuse of such railway passes/coupons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Problems to Handloom and Powerloom Weavers

4793. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that handloom and powerloom weavers of Karnataka are facing problems due to rise in the prices of cotton and non-export of manufactured goods;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard; and
- (c) the action proposed by the Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE. N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No representation has been received from the Government of Karnataka about the problems faced by weavers of that State due to rise in prices of cotton and non-export of manufactured cloth.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

New Railway Lines in Maharashtra

4794. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have conducted any survey for the construction of new railway lines or modernisation of existing railway lines in Maharashtra during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;
- (b) if so, the details of such railway lines;
- (c) whether the Government have examined all the survey reports; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The following surveys for construction of new lines and for gauge conversions has been conducted in Maharashtra during 1998-99 and 1999-2000. The position of each is indicated below :-

Sl. No.	Nomenclature of survey	New Line/Gauge Conversion	Length	Status
1.	Wadsa-Armori-Gadchiroli	New Line	75 Km	Report under examination.
2.	Kalyan-Murbad-Ahmednagar	New Line	204 Km	Project could not be taken up due to constraint of resources and inadequate traffic potential as revealed in the survey.
3.	Puntamba/Kopergaon-Shirdi	New Line	16.6 Km	Work of Puntamba-Shirdi New Line sanctioned.
4.	Pachora-Jamner GC with extension up to Ajanta caves	Gauge Conversion	104	Project could not be taken up due to constraint of resources and inadequate traffic potential as revealed in the survey.
5.	Manmad-Dhule	New Line	98 Km	Project could not be taken up due to constraint of resources and inadequate traffic potential as revealed in the survey.
6.	Purna-Akola-Khandwa-Rattlam-Mhow	Gauge Conversion	625 Km	Work of Purna-Akola Gauge Conversion has been included in Budget 2000-01. The remaining routes would be considered in the coming years as per availability of resources.

**Advance Information about
Intrusion in Kargil**

4795.SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the Government got the information about the intrusion in Kargil;

(b) whether any advance information about the Pakistani preparation on the LoC had been reported to the Government by any Intelligence source; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) No advance information was received from Intelligence agencies regarding Pakistani preparation for intrusion in Kargil. Government came to know of the Pakistani intrusion in Kargil in the 1st week of May 1999. On getting the information, all necessary measures were immediately taken and our forces swung into action. The intrusion was finally vacated on 26th July, 1999.

Law Faculty of Agra College

4796.SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Bar Council of India has recommended for withdrawal of affiliation to law Faculty, Agra College, Agra, on the ground that the law Faculty of the College has no separate Principal.

(b) If so, the number of other colleges under the Uttar Pradesh State Universities Act, which are imparting legal education and have their law Faculties functioning as integral parts of their respective colleges, as in Agra College; and

(c) the steps being taken to regularize the continued functioning of the law Faculty, of Agra College as in case of Law Faculties of other such colleges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) As per the information received from the Bar Council of India, its Legal Education Committee has expressed the view that approval of affiliation to Agra College, Agra be withdrawn because the said College is not an independent Law College and is not having a separate Principal as per the norms laid down by the Bar Council of India Rules. The Rules envisage either a Law College or a Law Department of a University, not a Law Department of a college. The said recommendation of the Legal Education Committee

has been approved by the Bar Council of India and communicated to Agra College.

(b) The number of independent Law Colleges is 8 and the number of Department attached multi faculty colleges is 37 as per the information furnished by the Bar Council of India.

(c) The letter dated 20th June, 2000 from Vice Chancellor, Dr B. R. Ambedkar University, Agra and letter dated 29th July, 2000 from Principal, Agra College, Agra, requesting reconsideration of the above decision of the Bar Council of India, have been included in the Agenda for the next meeting of its Legal Education Committee for consideration.

[Translation]

Samjhauta Express

4797.SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the month-wise average number of passengers travelling by the Samjhauta Express running between India and Pakistan since its introduction;

(b) the frequency of the train in a week;

(c) the facilities available therein;

(d) whether the Government have received letters and memorandum from the passengers and the organisations, being faced by the passengers in Samjhauta Express;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon ?

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

(b) Twice a week.

(c) The train comprises of 10 general coaches, two 3 tier sleeper coaches and two SLRs.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Statement

The month-wise average number of passengers travelling by the Samjhauta Express running between India and Pakistan for the last eight years are given below :

Year/Month	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
April	16693	5011	4196	5492	3156	8107	8032	4573
May	10985	5335	4174	6206	3364	6593	6093	4263
June	10865	3605	4575	2717	3486	8422	7276	9516
July	15057	2224	4819	4652	2124	6586	7704	4173
August	15260	3314	5696	3971	4757	7780	6997	3890
September	16825	4728	5084	4279	5304	8644	6838	5176
October	16355	4628	4656	4352	6519	9509	7766	7302
November	12751	4815	4896	2921	7424	11981	6377	10216
December	9077	4767	5813	2806	6098	11331	9059	8483
January	5548	4578	5862	2793	5170	5136	4496	6500
February	2902	4102	4812	3264	3740	5234	4390	6391
March	2668	2878	4621	3466	5227	7030	5672	6092

*[English]***Laying of Optical Fibre Cable**

4798. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Indian Railways are laying Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) along the 62,000 route kms of railway track;

(b) if so, the total cost of the project;

(c) the time by which the OFC is likely to be laid and started revenue earning;

(d) whether the cost benefit analysis has been done; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. A policy decision has been taken by the Ministry to build a nation wide broadband telecom and multimedia network by laying Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) along the 62,800 route kms of Railway track by utilising Railways' right of way through a professionally managed corporation.

(b) Decision regarding cost of the project would be taken on receipt of the business plan from the consultant to be appointed for this purpose.

(c) In the first phase, Railways plan to build a 7,800 kms long OFC network interconnecting 4 major metros viz., Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and 4 already developed/ fast developing IT portal cities of Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad. It is expected that the Corporation will pay upfront charges to Railway's to the tune of Rs. 500 crore during Financial Year 2000-2001

(d) and (e) Railways are in the process of appointing a consultant for developing business plan for Railways nationwide broadband telecom and multimedia network.

Stand Alone Oil Refineries

4799. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been done in respect of investment from Shareholders, financial institutions and the Public Sector Undertakings for the Stand Alone Oil Refineries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the Government have prepared them with any institutional support to face a

future without the system of Administered Prices Mechanism ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No specific survey has been done in respect of stand alone oil Refineries.

(c) The refining sector has been delicensed in June, 1998 to encourage investments in this sector.

Keeping in view the deregulated scenario which is approaching, stand-alone refineries would need strategic alliances with Oil Marketing Companies for marketing their products. The Government have initiated steps in this direction.

Shortage of Ships and Aircraft in Coast Guard

4800. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Coast Guard is facing shortage of ships and aircraft to perform their statutory duties and no project of acquisition of ships or aircraft was sanctioned during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the reasons, if any, identified therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Government have approved a Development Plan for the Coast Guards for 5 years viz. 1997 to 2000 which inter-alia includes induction of 15 ships and 13 aircraft. Orders for the acquisition of 11 ships and 7 aircraft have already been placed. The acquisition of 7 Dornier Aircraft was approved during 1999-2000.

Seminar on Indian Fertilizer Industry Vision for New Millennium

4801. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a seminar was held recently on 'Indian Fertilizer Industry-vision for the new millennium' organised by the FICCI in the Capital;

- (b) if so, the decision arrived thereat;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether any high power committee has been set up by the Government for the finalisation of policy for fertilizer units of the country;
- (e) if so, the terms and reference of the committee;
- (f) whether the committee has submitted its report;
- (g) if so, the salient features thereof and its likely impact on the fertilizer industry; and
- (h) if not, the time by which the committee will submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) :

(a) to (c) A seminar entitled "Indian Fertilizer Industry - Vision for the New Millenium" was jointly organised by the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Delhi on 17.7.2000. Detailed discussions on the draft long term fertilizer policy were held in the seminar. Seminar was one of the series of the seminars proposed to be held at Metropolitan Centres to elicit response to the proposals contained in the draft long term fertilizer policy with a view to enable the Government to get informed views for finalising the long term fertilizer policy.

(d) to (h) No High Powered Committee has been set up by the Government recently for finalisation of the policy for fertilizer units of the country.

Production of Naphtha by Refineries

4802.SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell the Naphtha produced by refineries of country to some promoters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of ancilliary industries set up to produce and make use of the Naphtha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Naphtha is a decontrolled product with effect from 1.4.1998.

Government have issued guidelines for allocation of naphtha by oil companies for consumers in different categories viz. Fertilizers, Petrochemical Units and other sectors like steel, textiles, glass etc. other than power.

Government allocates Naphtha for power generation as per the extant guidelines on recommendation of Ministry of Power.

Irregularities in Holding NCC Camps

4803.SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of camps held by NCC in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise and the type of training imparted to the cadets;

(b) whether there have been complaints that the food provided to the cadets is of poor quality and not commensurate with the funds provided for the purpose;

(c) the quantum of funds sanctioned for these camps and the amount remained unutilised therefrom;

(d) whether any audit of the expenditure on these camps was ever conducted;

(e) if so, the details of irregularities, cases of fraud, misappropriation and embezzlement recorded therein; and

(f) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The total number of NCC Camps of various types held in the last three years, i.e. during the training years 1997-98, 1998-99, and 1999-2000 is 2865. Training is imparted during Annual Training Camps, National Integration Camps, Nau Sainik Camps, Vayu Sainik Camps, Centrally Organised Camps, Attachment training with Army/IMA/OTA/MH, Trekking/Mountaineering/Rock Climbing Camps and the Republic Day Camp. Statements indicating State-wise camps conducted during 1997-98, 1998-99, and 1999-2000 are enclosed as statements 'A', 'B' and 'C'

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The details of amount sanctioned by State Governments/UTAs for the last 3 years is enclosed as Statement 'D'. No funds have remained unutilised.

(d) to (f) Audit of all camps is conducted by the State Accountants General. No case of irregularities, fraud/misappropriation, embezzlement has been brought to notice so far.

Statement-'A'

Training Camps 1997-98

DTES	AUTH	ATC		NIC		COC	RDC	YEP	Training/Adventure/Activities						Total Achievement Nos.		
		NOS	STR	NOS	STR				BOYS	GIRLS	TRK	ME	MC	RCC	PBC	Attended	
A.P.	44736	74	43232	5	3572	432	117	7	554	47	453	2	16	-	2	48434	108%
Bihar	26278	32	16794	4	1167	340	93	-	736	36	600	2	13	-	2	19783	75.28%
Delhi	11974	14	6622	4	2119	237	52	2	377	-	-	2	45	20	-	10404	87%
Gujarat	26575	36	16181	4	3079	427	92	-	420	20	566	4	11	-	2	20802	78%
J&K	6400	10	4783	-	529	241	76	2	103	18	135	1	7	-	2	5897	92.14%
Kar.	37697	56	33100	3	2620	444	105	1	798	59	3	9	72	-	4	37699	100%
Ker.	37195	59	30717	4	3024	371	101	7	423	40	704	1	6	72	2	35468	95.35%
M.P.	39825	80	31228	5	4521	759	102	2	575	74	534	11	3	3	3	37863	95%
Mah.	46835	78	40932	5	3496	438	106	4	877	116	821	10	13	20	2	46835	100%
NER.	28570	29	5808	3	395	171	90	2	130	69	444	4	13	2	3	7214	25.25%
Orissa	20649	27	10814	4	2390	369	88	5	170	12	322	1	4	2	5	14182	68.68%
Punjab	53674	100	30267	5	2610	379	120	5	815	108	755	4	9	12	2	34286	43.30%
Raj.	23340	41	19752	4	2743	387	141	1	370	27	489	-	8	-	1	24043	100%
T.N.	49285	64	38894	5	2992	446	106	16	466	22	1043	2	6	3	2	43998	89%
U.P.	66195	117	55589	6	3647	581	135	6	1987	174	866	2	21	-	6	63020	95.20%
W.B.	46568	85	42399	4	1563	446	145	3	583	30	569	-	14	-	2	45777	98%
Total	565796	902	427112	65	40467	6468	1669	63	9384	852	8304	55	261	134	40	495705	87.6%

Abbreviations : STR - Strength

NIC - National Integration Camps

RDC - Republic Day Camps

AUTH - Total numbers authorised to attend camps.

MC - Mountaineering Courses

PBC - Para Basic Course

ATC - Annual Training Camps

COC - Centrally Organised Camps

YEP - Youth Exchange Programme

TRK - Trekking

ME - Mountaineering Expeditions

RCC - Rock Climbing Camps

Statement-'B'

Training Camps 1998-99

DTES	AUTH	ATC		NIC		COC	RDC	YEP	Attachment		Adventure Activities				Total Achve- ment Nos.	
		NOS	STR	NOS	STR				Training		TRK	ME	MC	PBC		
									BOYS	GIRLS						
A.P.	45280	67	41552	05	3637	492	121	04	470	36	522	01	14	02	46851	103.4%
Bihar	23014	39	14121	04	2524	367	97	-	780	38	514	04	08	02	18455	80%
Delhi	8782	14	3331	04	2920	270	49	-	52	-	163	06	22	02	6815	77.95%
Gujarat	26675	34	14862	04	2761	418	89	-	386	20	583	01	13	02	19135	72%
J&K	7020	09	4201	-	404	290	76	-	103	08	135	01	07	02	5227	54.45%
Kar.	36445	49	27987	04	2442	1708	112	04	655	137	708	01	40	03	33797	92.73%
Kerala	37195	57	31172	04	2859	341	104	01	424	20	715	-	74	02	35712	96%
M.P.	39825	80	34435	05	3496	425	101	01	706	76	568	-	14	03	39825	100%
Mah.	46900	78	41085	05	3414	464	110	03	826	116	808	03	68	03	46900	100%
NER.	28570	21	5075	02	538	256	92	01	97	32	493	02	09	02	6597	23.09%
Orissa	22000	24	14873	04	2703	432	87	01	154	12	291	01	56	02	18612	84.6%
Punjab	57136	115	26308	05	1247	487	119	01	780	60	718	09	05	01	29735	52.04%
Raj.	23365	46	20235	04	1947	373	140	-	381	36	350	03	08	03	23476	100.48%
T.N.	49255	70	40775	05	3502	444	108	05	438	46	873	03	18	02	46214	94%
U.P.	66370	112	54803	06	3552	656	133	02	1956	204	904	05	16	05	62236	93.77%
W.B.	46568	68	37429	04	1872	371	143	02	710	36	736	-	06	02	41307	88%
Total	564310	883	412244	65	39818	7794	1681	25	8495	877	9081	40	378	38	480894	85.22%

Statement-'C'

Camp Vacancy Utilisation 01 Apr 99 to Mar 2000

DTES	Nos. Authorised to attend Camps	ATC	ATC Held	NIC	NIC Held	COC	RDC	Attachment Training Adventure Activities		Trekking	YEP	Mountaineering Exp Courses	Mountaineering Courses	RCC	PBC	Total Nos. Attended	% of Utilisation
								Boys	Girls								
A.P.	53795	50102	74	3500	05	492	124	-	36	495	04	03	18	-	02	54776	100%
Bihar	19474	18051	48	3162	04	471	91	894	-	637	-	05	13	-	02	21326	100%
Delhi	18290	10386	11	3010	04	322	81	-	-	380	02	03	05	-	03	14192	77%
Gujarat	26575	21255	34	1842	04	404	83	-	-	619	02	01	12	01	-	24219	91%
J&K	7020	3939	09	423	-	172	71	-	-	120	01	-	02	01	02	4731	67%
Kar.	38445	33206	50	2269	05	268	112	357	-	1644	-	-	-	-	02	37858	100%
Ker.	37195	34400	62	2594	04	415	104	444	37	715	03	-	06	-	02	38720	100%
M.P.	39825	32959	72	3321	05	461	106	395	54	490	03	03	20	03	02	37817	94.5%
Mah.	46900	42750	75	3526	05	464	110	654	116	880	05	05	34	06	03	48553	100%
NER.	25570	19819	54	1726	04	211	86	278	61	545	02	03	07	-	03	22741	88.9%
Orissa	22025	14550	25	2015	04	335	85	129	-	217	04	02	06	-	-	17343	78.7%
Punjab	57136	26795	45	2861	05	511	121	318	-	626	04	02	-	03	03	31244	54.6%
Raj.	23440	20378	39	2180	04	399	141	120	24	399	02	-	13	03	02	23661	100%
T.N.	49255	46142	68	3281	04	469	108	290	25	875	09	05	05	03	03	51215	100%
U.P.	66370	58899	94	3932	06	590	132	1234	154	956	05	02	29	-	09	65942	99.3%
W.B.	46568	39785	60	1950	04	337	145	537	57	833	01	04	18	-	02	43669	93.7%
Total	575883	471416	820	41592	67	6321	1700	5650	564	10431	47	38	188	20	40	538007	93.42%

Statement—'D'**Budgetary State Support on NCC Camp
during last 3 years**

(Rs.in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTAs	1997-98	1998-99	1999- 2000
1	Andhra Pradesh	222.85	246.02	269.20
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.50	0.50	0.12
3	Assam	32.20	4.91	23.89
4	Manipur	7.50	7.04	5.79
5	Meghalaya	4.02	0.41	3.46
6	Mizoram	1.55	4.85	2.45
7	Nagaland	0.58	9.81	7.50
8	Tripura	4.74	2.31	5.10
9	Bihar	104.30	155.61	84.18
10	Delhi	100.00	190.00	105.62
11	Gujarat	141.00	100.00	105.00
12	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0.10	0.08	0.08
13	Daman & Diu	0.15	0.20	0.20
14	Jammu & Kashmir	28.40	22.50	19.08
15	Karnataka	130.64	143.45	168.30
16	Goa	3.36	0	4.40
17	Kerala	110.00	130.00	150.00
18	Lakshdweep	4.69	0.06	4.26
19	Madhya Pradesh	240.00	240.00	270.00
20	Maharashtra	256.24	200.00	200.00
21	Orissa	81.72	98.72	98.57
22	Punjab	45.24	43.31	53.94
23	Haryana	36.68	42.26	47.56
24	Himachal Pradesh	28.24	33.21	31.30
25	Chandigarh	10.00	7.30	8.95
26	Rajasthan	93.69	119.25	116.00
27	Tamil Nadu	135.00	145.00	150.00
28	Andaman & Nicobar	3.12	3.09	3.09
29	Pondicherry	10.80	3.53	21.31
30	Uttar Pradesh	225.00	265.00	293.00
31	West Bengal	195.00	181.00	147.00
32	Sikkim	4.90	1.50	2.00
Total		2262.21	2400.92	2401.35

Acquisition of Wagons by CONCOR

4804.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) proposes to acquire new wagons;

(b) if so, the number of new wagons proposed to be acquired by CONCOR; and

(c) the investment proposed to be made by CONCOR for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) As a part of its modernisation programme, Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, is procuring new wagons for the transportation of container within the country. CONCOR has already contracted for the purchase of 3225 of these wagons from two different suppliers out of a World Bank assisted Container Transport Logistics Project of US\$ 94 million. Out of 3225 wagons ordered, 1185 wagons have since been supplied. Besides the World Bank project, CONCOR has also plans to acquire 600 wagons at an estimated cost of Rs. 90 Crores out of its own funds for which tender has since been floated.

**Photo Identity Cards to Voters in
Assam and Mizoram**

4805.SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to re-start the process of issuance of photo identity cards to voters in Assam and Mizoram; and

(b) if so, the time by which the process is likely to be re-started and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that it does not consider it opportune at the present juncture to restart issuance of photo identity cards to voters in Assam and Mizoram.

[Translation]

Activity of Coolies

4806.SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that coolies take unauthorised possession of berths in the trains stationed at platforms and offer them to the passengers after taking money from them;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government in this regard, zone-wise; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Some such instances have come to notice of the Government.

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

(c) In order to check this menace, regular checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance Departments in association with the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police to prevent cornering of seats by 'coolies' and other anti-social elements. In addition, passengers are advised to follow queue system for preventing cornering of seats in unreserved coaches.

[English]

Development of Air Defence Ship

4807. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on the prestigious air defence ship at Cochin shipyard has since been commenced; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (c) While physical construction of Air Defence Ship at the Cochin Shipyard Ltd., has not yet been started, the following activities in regard to the Air Defence Ship project have already commenced :

- (i) Generation of Baseline drawings by the Design Directorate of the Indian Navy.
- (ii) Augmentation of facilities at Cochin Shipyard Ltd., at the cost of Rs. 30 crores has been sanctioned.
- (iii) Approval for conduct of Hydrodynamic Model Test has been granted.

[Translation]

Re-employment of Senior Officers of Army

4808. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the High Court has served a notice on his Ministry in June, 2000 regarding mismanagement in re-employment scheme for senior officers of the army;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to scrap these rules in view of huge unemployment prevailing in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Two re-employed officers have filed Writ Petitions in Delhi High Court regarding their service conditions. Government's reply in one writ petition has been filed in the Court.

(c) There is no proposal to scrap the re-employment scheme in the Army.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase Order with Mazagon Dock Limited

4809. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mazagon Dock Limited have not received any orders for purchase of submarine from Navy or from any other country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of purchase orders received and executed by M.D.L. during each of the last three years alongwith the names of the purchasing party?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) A letter of intent (LOI) was received in February 1997 from the Indian Navy for construction of two submarines. The LOI has not been converted into an order as the design and configuration of the submarines have not been determined.

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

The details of orders received by MDL during the last three years and the ships delivered by it during the corresponding period are as under :-

Details of orders received :

Year	Type of ship ordered	Date of order/LOI placed on MDL	Name of purchaser
1997-1998	Frigates-(3 Nos)	January, 1998 (Letter of Intent)	Indian Navy
	Tug	March, 1998	Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust
1998-1999	Dredger	July, 1998	M/s Mortenol, Castion and Sagua, France
1999-2000			

Details of ships delivered :

Year	Type of ship ordered	Date of Ship delivered	Name of purchaser
1997-1998	(i) Dredger	June, 1997	Mumbai Port Trust
	(ii) Destroyer	September 1997	Indian Navy
1998-1999	Rescue Boats (3 Nos.)	July, 1998	Narmada Valley Development Authority, Madhya Pradesh
1999-2000	Destroyer	June 1999	Indian Navy

Oozing of Gas

4810.SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the Dhokari village of Bahadurpur Block under Phulpur Tehsil of Allahabad district and at some other places, gas oozed out of the boring pipe while boring tube-wells for irrigation and remained burning for several days;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted a survey by high level officials for exploring the gas reserve there;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The reported gas seepage, from the tube-well site at village Dhokari Kachchar in Phulpur Tehsil of Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh was investigated by a team of geo-scientists from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

(ONGC). The analysis of the said gas revealed that it comprises mainly methane with subordinate amount of carbon di-oxide and nitrogen gas and is devoid of higher hydrocarbons. The gas seepage is localised, is of biogenic origin and has no significance from hydrocarbon exploration point of view. Of the two other tube wells bored in the vicinity of the site, one tube well is producing water and the second tube well is dry.

[English]

**Setting up of an Independent
Regulatory Authority**

4811.SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance has demanded to set up an independent regulatory body for Pharmaceutical Industry on the lines of TRAI and IRDA; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance has, in a

communication dated July 21, 2000, interalia, envisaged an independent regulatory body for the pharmaceutical sector similar to TRAI and IRDA as a vision for the pharmaceutical sector in the year 2010. The paper gives no details about the objectives, structure, functions, responsibility, duties etc., of the proposed regulatory authority.

Railway Cases Pending In Courts

4812.SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway cases pending in various District Courts in Orissa;

(b) the time since when these cases are pending; and

(c) the measures taken to expedite the disposal of such cases ?

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

Diversion of Train Route

4813.SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from Tamil Nadu to divert the trains between Bangalore and Southern Tamil Nadu vice versa through Dharmapuri and Hosur instead of the present route of Jolarpet and Bangarupet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations including one from Shri. P. D. Elangovan, Hon'ble M.P. have been received in this regard.

(c) There is no proposal at present to divert additional trains via Dharmapuri and Hosur.

Medical Allowance to Railway Pensioners

4814.SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the disbursing banks of railway pension at Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh are not giving fixed medical allowance to railway pensioners and family pensioners due from 1.12.1997;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation from Railway Pensioners' Association, Farrukhabad, UP in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) As per information received from Railway Pensioners' Association Farrukhabad, all the Banks, Government Treasury and Post Offices at Farrukhabad are paying Medical Allowance @ Rs. 100/- p.m. to the railway pensioners and family pensioners except Central Bank of India and State Bank of India and its branches in Farrukhabad.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The concerned banks have been advised to pay Medical Allowance to railway pensioners and family pensioners as per extant instructions.

Reservation in AC Class

4815.SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that reservation in AC categories is not available in most of the long distance trains even before 20 days of journey;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to streamline the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The advance reservation period for long-distance trains is 60 days from the date of departure of the train from the train originating station. Since a limited number of berths are available in Air-conditioned classes, during peak rush period, such as summer, festival season etc, the accommodation in AC classes gets exhausted within a short time. However, during the lean period, accommodation remains available for much longer period in all classes including air-conditioned classes. In order to bridge the gap between the demand and supply, various steps have been taken which include running of special trains, augmenting the load of the existing trains etc. In addition, waiting list position is monitored on day to day basis and wherever justified and feasible, additional coaches including Air conditioned class coaches are attached.

Spindle Capacity

4816.SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) appealed to lower existing minimum spindle capacity of 11, 000 to 5, 000 and review the economic size of the mills, while considering the spindlage; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government thereon to enable small financially strong mills to avail of technology upgradation fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) A representation has been received from the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) for lowering the existing minimum spindle capacity of 11,000 to 5,000 spindles and review the economic size of the mills, while considering the spindlage under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). The Minimum Economic Size (MES) and related matters for TUFS have been duly considered and decisions are as under:

The capacity expansion of similar units to the level of minimum 12,000 spindles but less than 25,000 spindles (subject to strong management and financial track record) may be permitted if investment in permissible downstream value addition activities matches 50% of the expanded spinning capacity. For new spinning units or expansion beyond the MES (25,000 Spindles) only that portion of the spinning will be eligible for TUFS for which there is also investment in creating matching downstream value addition capacity. It has also been decided that the Minimum Economic Size (MES) in respect of other textile segments, the MES should be as per viability analysis of financial institutions or banks.

Gauge Conversion of Kollam-Sengottai Rail Line

4817.SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any change in alignment of Kollam-Sengottai metre gauge line converted to broad gauge line;

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

(c) the total number of km has to be change the alignment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) A final location survey has been taken up to examine if the gradients and curves on the section can be eased to permit

running of full load of broad gauge freight trains and to determined financial implication thereof. Details will be known only after the completion of final location survey.

(d) No target date has yet been fixed.

Hiving off Rail Production Units

4818.SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are considering a proposal for hiving off six manufacturing units of Indian Railways into separate profit centres;

(b) if so, whether the above proposal has been finally approved; and

(c) if so, the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Railways are considering a recommendation for converting the six Railways Production Units into individual profit and cost centres within the present structure of Indian Railways.

Functioning of Reliance Petroleum Limited

4819.SHRI MATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether the Oil Co-ordination Committee (OCC) has found discrepancies in the functioning of M/s Reliance Petroleum Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Like any other refinery, Jamnagar refinery set up by M/s Reliance Petroleum Limited passed through certain initial stabilization problems. The refinery has since stabilized.

[Translation]

Corruption Cases against Reservation Clerks

4820.SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of corruption cases registered against the reservation clerks working in the Allahabad division by the Vigilance Department during the last three years;

(b) the action taken against each of them;

(c) the number of clerks posted at the same station for more than five years and having nexus with touts; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) 66 cases.

(b) Departmental action for major penalty was taken in 9 cases and for minor penalty in 38 cases. In the remaining 19 cases, administrative action like warning etc. was taken.

(c) There is no established case of any reservation clerk having nexus with touts due to long stay at the same station.

(d) Regular Preventive/Surprise checks are conducted to detect malpractices in reservation offices. During peak traffic seasons, such checks are intensified. Appropriate departmental action is taken against staff found responsible for irregularities.

[English]

Target Fixed for Production of Oil and Gas during Ninth Plan

4821. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

(a) whether targets were fixed for production of oil and gas and crude oil during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the production has been as per the fixed targets; and

(d) if not, the production of above products by the end of March, 2000, separately and the extent to which it is below the set targets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The

targets fixed in the IX Plan period for production for crude oil and natural gas by the National Oil Companies and Private/Joint Venture are 180.82 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and 144.53 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) respectively.

(c) and (d) The targets and actual production of crude oil and natural gas during the Plan period, upto March, 2000, are as under :—

Item	Target	Actual	%Achievement
Crude Oil (MMT)	106.625	98.521	91.91%
Natural Gas (BCM)	84.20	82.272	97.71%

Railways Staff suffering from AIDS

4822. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the nearly 1800 railway employees are suffering from AIDS with HIV positive symptoms;

(b) if so, the main reasons for increasing AIDS in the railway staff;

(c) whether any concrete steps have been worked out by the Railways in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the provisions being made to help the employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No Sir, as on date there are 1906 HIV positive persons among nearly one crore population of Railway employees and their dependents in the country. Presently, there are 190 cases having signs and symptoms of T.B. and other infections.

(b) Question does not arise. The present HIV positivity rate among Railway population is much below the estimated national level.

(c) Steps for prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS are already under implementation in the Railways.

(d) and (e) As per the existing technology and know-how, prevention is the main stay in the control of AIDS. The prevention is done through Health Education by (i) improving awareness about HIV and AIDS in the population regarding modes of transmission of the disease and safe sex practices. (ii) supply of condoms (iii) mandatory testing of blood and blood products (iv) safety in hospitals and medical care facilities in administration of blood and blood products (v) training of medical and para medical personnel (vi) safety of medical and para medical

staff and proper disposal of hospital wastes (vii) family counselling centres to counsel about HIV/AIDS.

Bangalore Metro Rail Project

4823.SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have agreed to send a team of officials to Bangalore for discussion on the Bangalore Circular rail and Bangalore metro rail projects.

(b) If so, whether the team has held discussions with the State Government officials at Bangalore; and

(c) If so, the present position thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) In view of the Government of Karnataka's agreement to share 2/3rd cost of the Inter Model Transport System for Bangalore, recently a meeting was held between the officials of Railways and State Government of Karnataka at Bangalore to discuss the modalities. It is proposed to carry out a study to assess details of the revenue and cost implications of the Project. Consent has been sought from Government of Karnataka for sharing cost of the study, as a first step towards implementation of the project.

Ordinary First Class In Rajdhani Express

4824.SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to consider to reintroduce non-A.C. non smokers first class compartments in long distance trains including super fast trains; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Prices of Petroleum Products In Neighbouring Countries

4825.KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is huge difference in the prices of petroleum products in India and its neighbouring countries; and

(b) If so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The prices of major petroleum products in India and in neighbouring countries are given below :

[INR=Indian Rupee]

Country	Kerosene PDS INR/Ltr	Diesel INR/Ltr.	Domestic LPG INR/Kg.	Petrol INR/Ltr.
India (Delhi)	5.55	14.04	13.84	26.07
Bangladesh	10.91	10.87	16.78	17.62
Sri Lanka	8.98	13.12	21.31	30.91
Pakistan	9.57	10.89	16.17	25.09
Nepal	8.39	14.85	21.14	25.82

The difference in the prices of petroleum products between India and neighbouring countries is due to factors such as the cost of crude oil, charges for processing, marketing and filling, cost of freight, distributors' commission, taxes and duties and subsidies.

[English]

Discipline and Efficiency for Better Administration

4826.SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently the Supreme Court has suggested to bring discipline and efficiency for better administration among the Government and Judicial officers; and

(b) If so, the steps, the Government propose to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Supreme Court of India, vide its judgement of June 26, 2000, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 376 of 2000 in Ramesh Chandra Acharya Vs. Registrar, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack and ANR, held, in the context of judicial officers, that continuation beyond 58 years is permissible only when the High Court makes a positive recommendation in favour of that officer for such continuation. Otherwise,

the judicial officer has to retire at the age of 58 years. This can be departed from only when the State makes specific rule otherwise'. The Supreme Court directed that the High Court/Tribunals/other Authorities may decide the cases by following the Judgement and may also communicate the decision to the Subordinate Courts/other authorities and direct them to take action accordingly.

[Translation]

Status of Contracts Made for Power Project

4827. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the position of the contracts for the power projects made by various State Governments during the last three years;

(b) the number of projects out of these on which work has already been started;

(c) the reasons for not starting work on the remaining projects;

(d) whether the Union Government are contemplating to issue any fresh guidelines in this context; and

(e) If so, the details thereof ?

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

Installed Capacity in Power Projects

4828. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the Power projects of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan which are likely to be completed during the 2000-01 and whether the Government propose to increase their installed capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of such projects about which this decision has been taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) According to the capacity addition programme for 2000-01, no thermal/hydro project is targeted to be commissioned in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan during the year. However, Unit-4 of Rajasthan

Atomic Power Station is scheduled to be commissioned during 2000-01. The total estimated cost of this unit inclusive of Unit-3 which was commissioned in 1999 is Rs. 2511 crore including interest during construction of Rs. 800 crore.

Licence for Chemicals Industry

4829. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the names of chemicals for which licence is still mandatory ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): The following hazardous chemicals are covered under compulsory licencing at present :

HS Code	Item
1) 280110.00	- Chlorine
2) 281119.01	- Hydrocyanic acid and its derivatives
3) 281210.01	- Phosgene and its derivatives
4) 2815.11	- Sodium Hydroxide: Solid
5) 2815.12	- Sodium Hydroxide; Aqueous
6) 290121.00	- Ethylene
7) 290122.00	- Propene (Propylene)
8) 290124.01	- Butadienes
9) 290220.00	- Benzene
10) 290230.00	- Toluene
11) 290241.00	- o-Xylene
12) 290242.00	- m-Xylene
13) 290243.00	- p-Xylene
14) 290244.00	- Mixed Xylene isomers
15) 290531.00	- Ethylene glycol/ethylene oxide
16) 292229.02	- Meta amino phenol
17) 292910.00	- Isocyanates and diisocyanates not elsewhere specified
18) 380810.02	- Aluminium Phosphide
19) 380810.16	- Dimethoate
20) 380810.21	- Quinalphos
21) 380810.29	- Carbaryl, Phorate, fenitrothion
22) 390110.00	- Polyethylenes having a specific gravity of less than 0.94

[English]

Deployment of Army for Counter Insurgency

4830. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Western Command General Officer Commanding-in-Chief said on the "Kargil Divas" that counter insurgency was a secondary task of the Army for which it should not be 'overly committed' as there were State agencies for the task and that the Army should be called to tackle insurgency as a last resort; and

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

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

(b) The Government is of the view that the deployment of the Army to tackle insurgency needs to be done in exceptional situations when it becomes inescapable.

[Translation]

Use of Coal In Thermal Power Plants

4831. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of thermal power stations in the country which are using pollution free washed coal;

(b) the categories of coal used by thermal power stations of the country;

(c) the rate of coal of each category; and

(d) the details of profit/loss to thermal power stations due to purchase of coal of each category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) At present, Delhi based Thermal Power Stations namely Indraprastha, Rajghat and Badarpur and some other Thermal Power Stations like Dadri of NTPC and Dahanu of BSES are using washed coal/raw coal having ash content not exceeding 34%

(b) Thermal Power Stations in the country are generally using non-coking coal of 'D' to 'G' Grades with ash content varying between 30% to 50%. Some old and city based power stations are using better coal of 'B' and 'C' grades having ash content less than 30%.

(c) The rates of coal vary company-wise and grade-wise. However, rates of various grades of coal used in NTPC power stations are given below :

Coalfield (Coal Company)	Grade of Coal	Basic Price (-) 250 mm (Rs. Per tonne)
1. Singrauli (NCL)	C	797.00
	D	683.00
	E	492.00
	F	396.00
2. Korba (SECL)	F	375.00
	G	274.00
3. Rajmahal (ECL)	F	563.00
	G	455.00
4. Jharia (BCCL)	D	676.00
	E	487.00
	F	393.00
	G	287.00
5. North Karanpura (CCL)	D	708.00
	E	510.00
	F	412.00
	G	300.00
6. Talcher (MCL)	E	448.00
	F	361.00
	G	263.00
7. Godavari Khani (SCCL)	C	1092.00
	D	972.00
	E	786.00
	F	663.00
8. Wardha (WCL)	E	685.00
	F	574.00
	G	438.00

The above rates are exclusive of royalty and other statutory levies/sale tax etc.

(d) Variable cost of electricity which is mainly the cost of fuel for various coal based power stations varies between 50 paise/Kwh to Rs. 1.50/Kwh. The profit/loss is not directly related to the grade of coal used as fuel cost is a pass through in the tariff for NTPC stations.

Construction of Quarters for Coast Guard

4832. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has sought approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for construction of quarters for Coast Guard at Jakhu in the district of Kutch;

(b) the date since when this case is pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Coast Guard have identified three pieces of land at Jakhu in Gujarat for setting up a Coast Guard Station. The Government of Gujarat is willing to provide all these three pieces of land subject to clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for one acre of land situated near the Jakhu Port. The proposal sent by the Government of Gujarat seeking clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 10th August, 1999, has been cleared on 17th May, 2000.

[English]

Potential of NCES

4833. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment on the potential of Non-conventional energy sources in Eastern States;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken for proper exploitation of the Non-conventional energy sources

(d) whether any plan has been formulated for Ninth Five Year Plan in this regard; and

(e) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has sponsored/undertaken many studies which have indicated broad potentials of various Non-Conventional Energy Sources on a country-wide basis including Eastern States. The estimated potential in the States of Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa in respect of Biogas, Improved Chulhas, Small Hydro Power (upto 15 MW), Baggasse based Co-generation in Sugar Mills and Wind Power Programme, is given in Statement-I

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a wide range of programmes and providing various fiscal and financial incentives for the exploitation of Non-Conventional Energy Sources depending upon the technical feasibility and economic viability of available technologies throughout the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The details of physical targets fixed under various programmes of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during the Ninth Plan Period, are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Potential Estimates for Various Non-Conventional Energy Sources in Eastern States

Sl. States No.	Estimated Potential				
	Biogas	Improved Chulha	Small Hydro Power (upto 15 MW)	Baggasse based Co-generation	Wind Power
	(Nos. in lakhs)	(Nos. in lakhs)	(MW)	(MW)	(MW)
1. Bihar	9.399	123.83	252	200	-
2. Orissa	6.055	54.55	156	-	840
3. West Bengal	6.950	98.72	182	-	180

MW = Mega Watt

Statement-II

Details of Physical Targets fixed under various Programmes of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during 9th Plan Period

Sl.No.	Programmes/Schemes	9th Plan Physical Targets
1	2	3
1	Biogas	10 Lakhs

1	2	3
2	Community/Institutional/Night-soil based Biogas Plants	800 Nos.
3	Improved chulha	150 Lakhs
4	Biomass/Gasifier	40 MW
5	Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP)	660 (Old Blocks) 200 (New Blocks)
6	Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme	
	SPV Home Light	2 Lakhs
	SPV Lanterns	3 Lakhs
	SPV Power Plants	1.6 MW
7	SPV Pumps	4000 Nos.
8	Solar Thermal (ST) Energy	
	Solar Water Heating Systems (M. sq. collector area)	1.5 Lakh
	Solar Cooker	1.5 Lakh Nos.
9	Wind Pumps and Hybrid Systems	1000 Nos. 250 kW.
10	Wind power	1000 MW
11	Small Hydro Power (SHP)	130 MW
	Water Mills	700 Nos.
	Renovation and Modernization	65 MW
12	Biomass Power	314 MW
13	Solar Power	141.5 MW
14	Urban and Industrial and National Bio-energy Board	42 MW

MW= Mega Watt; kW= Kilo Watt; M.sq. = Square Meter of Collector Area

Woman Forced to Leave the Reserved Berth

4834. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding woman forced to leave the reserved berth reported in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated July 24, 2000;

(b) If so, whether any action has been taken against the guilty officials; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check such incidences ?

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

(b) and (c) The matter is under investigation and based on the investigation report, stringent action will be taken against the guilty officials concerned.

Power Projects Completed by NEEPCO

4835. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Power projects completed by NEEPCO in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the names of power projects to be taken up by NEEPCO during the current financial year and next financial years;

(c) the amount spent on each project as in (a) and amount allocated for each project as in (b); and

(d) the total assets available so far with each completed project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) has not taken up execution of any project nor it has any proposal to execute power project in the State of Maharashtra. for the present.

(b) to (d) The details of the power projects to be taken up by NEEPCO and the allocation made/amount released for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are indicated

below. The allocation for 2000-2001 will be decided in due course after keeping in view the progress achieved by NEEPCO.

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Project with installed Capacity	State in which located	1999-2000 Allocation	Actual Release	2000-2001 Allocation
1.	Kameng HEP (600 MW)	Arunachal Pradesh	15.00	15.00	40.00
2.	Tuivai HEP (210 MW)	Mizoram	30.00	20.00	20.00
3.	Lower Kopili HEP (100 MW)	Assam	—	—	5.00
4.	Tipaimukh HEP (1500 MW)	Manipur	8.39	—	7.00

The value of assets of NEEPCO is Rs. 3843.86 crores as on 31.03.1999.

[Translation]

Train from Nandurbar to Delhi and Mumbai

4836. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received letters from people's representatives to start direct train from Nandurbar station to Delhi and Mumbai.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Some representations including from Shri Manikrao Hodiya Gavit, Hon'ble MP have been received for introduction of trains from Nandurbar to Delhi and Mumbai.

(c) The suggestions have been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

More Train to Moradabad

4837 SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are lakhs of commuters who go daily from Kunderki, Raja-ka-Sahaspur and Chandausi to Moradabad;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the trains to enable the heavy work force to arrive at Moradabad conveniently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Touts at Delhi Stations

4838. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether her Ministry has failed in checking the corruption and irregularities in railway reservation particularly at Delhi/New Delhi railway stations;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received and cases detected by the Government during the last one year; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in combating the situation to the detriment of rail passengers ?

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

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

(c) Apart from conducting frequent checks by Commercial and Vigilance Departments to curb malpractices related to reservations at important railway stations and reservation offices, special drives are also launched from time to time. Police is also associated as and when required. Checks are also conducted in trains to detect passengers travelling on tickets booked in names of others. A close surveillance is kept on the activities of the staff and suitable action is taken against those indulging in malpractices.

[Translation]

Expenditure Incurred on Railway Security

4839. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state :

- (a) whether the allocation for railway security has been increased during each of the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether allocated funds have not been fully utilized for security measures;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The position of allotment of funds and the actual expenditure on railways security during the last three years is as under

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
1997-98	574.71	513.84	490.83
1998-99	655.96	642.12	602.88
1999-2000	751.13	656.79	691.86

(e) Budget allocation could not be utilised mainly due to non receipt of bills towards cost of order police from the State Government duly certified by the concerned Accountants General.

Supply of Power

4840. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have requested for more supply of power from Central Pool;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have also received any proposal for setting up any power project or to modernise/expand existing power projects in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from the Government of

Uttar Pradesh in the recent past. Due to financial constraints limiting its paying capability, Uttar Pradesh is not able to draw its full entitled share from the Central Sector Power Stations in Northern Region. During April-July, 2000, the drawal by Uttar Pradesh from Central Sector generating stations was 5265.8 MU against an entitlement of 5639.3 MU.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Eight proposals with a total capacity of 5251 MW comprising of four thermal projects (Anpara 'C' - 2x500 MW; Rosa TPP Phase-I, - 2x263.5 MW; Auraiya CCGT St. II - 1x850 MW of NTPC; Rihand STPP St. II - 2x500 MW of NTPC) and four hydro-electric projects (Vishnuprayag HEP - 4x100 MW; Tehri Dam St. II HEP - 4x250 MW of THDC; Maneri Bhal-I HEP - 4x76 MW of UPJVNL; and Srinagar HEP - 4x82.5 MW) have been appraised and received Techno Economic Clearance (TEC) from the Central Electricity Authority between 1996-2000. Two proposals with a total capacity of 842 MW (one thermal, Jawaharpur TPP - 800 MW and one Hydel - Tiuni Plasu 42 MW) are under appraisal in CEA for TEC. Twenty-three proposals with a total installed capacity of 11282 MW (12 thermal for 7230 MW and 11 Hydro for 4052 MW) received in CEA between 1979-1999 have been returned for completion of various essential inputs.

The Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Nigam Ltd. has submitted a proposal to CEA for modernisation/ refurbishment of 5x50 MW + 3x100 MW+5x200 MW units of Obra Thermal Power Station at an estimated cost of Rs. 1600 crores for TEC. Uttar Pradesh Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. has submitted proposals for renovation, modernisation and uprating of 19 hydro schemes to Standing Committee set up for identifying new RM and U schemes under phase-II. As the estimated cost of each of these schemes is less than Rs. 500 crores, TEC from CEA is not required.

[English]

Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam Pipeline

4841. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited has decided to begin work on the 600 km. Long pipeline from Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam for supply of liquified natural gas (LNG);

(b) if so, the estimated cost of this project; and

(c) the time by which the work on this project is likely be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Gas Authority of India Limited has planned to lay a 600 km. (approx.) long pipeline for transportation of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) in bulk from Vishakhapatnam to Secunderabad in Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 502 crore. The project is estimated to be completed within 36 months from the date of its approval.

Visit of Foreign Teams on Child Labour Component In Textile Industry

4842. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State :

(a) the details of foreign teams visited India during the last three years to verify the Child Labour Component in the Textile Industry before according permission for Indian garment exports;

(b) the response of those teams towards Indian Textile Industry; and

(c) the impact on export of garment thereafter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to

(c) There have not been any visits by foreign teams to India during the last three years to verify the Child Labour Component in garment export industry, at Government to Government level. The details of private visits, if undertaken on the basis of understanding between the individual garment exporters and their buyers, are not maintained.

Survey for New Railway Lines In Karnataka

4843. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of railway lines for which survey work has been completed during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 so far in Karnataka;

(b) the outcome of the survey conducted so far;

(c) the response of the Government in regard to construction of these lines; and

(d) the time by which construction work is likely to be started there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) The position is as under :-

Surveys completed during the year 1998-1999

Sl. No.	Name of Survey	Length (in K.m)	Cost (Rs.in Cr.)	Rate of Return	Action taken
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Construction of a new line between Kuehal Nagar and Channarayapattana via kunanur	80	107.53	(-)6.083%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.
2.	Construction of a new line between Medkere and Channarayapattana via Holenarasipur.	117	211.96	(-)5.553%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.
3.	Construction of a new line between Tumkur and Devanagere.	195.76	299.59	(-)51.376%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.
4.	Construction of a new line between Talaguppa and Honnavur.	82.15	411.91	(-)2.795%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.
5.	Construction of a new line from Bidar to Hospet via Gulbarga	378.00	740.63	(-)0.46%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has

1	2	3	4	5	6
					not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.
6.	Construction of a new line between Cuddapah and Bangalore	255.40	578.69	(-)0.49%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.
7.	Construction of a new line between Chittoor and Bangarapet	140.40	356.19	(-)0.43%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.
8.	Construction of a new line between Almatti and Yadgir	154.77	302.96	(-)17.26%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.

Surveys completed during the year 1999-2000

1.	Construction of a new line between Bisanatham and Marikuppam.	12.50	31.71	(-)5.54%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.
2.	Construction of a new line between Mettur and Chamrajanagar	182.00	495.85	(-)6.58%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.
3.	Construction of a new line between Pandavapura and Shravanabelagola.	59.50	88.19	(-)0.074%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.
4.	Construction of a new line between Nanjangud and Badagara via Vyithiri and Puzhithodu.	250.80	835.18	(-)0.057%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.
5.	Construction of a new line between Hyderabad and Raichur.	189.41	456.32	(-)35.03%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.

Surveys completed during the year 2000-20001

1.	Gauge conversion between Chickballapur and Kolar section	85.00	63.45	(-)0.029%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.
2.	Construction of a new line between Bijapur and Shedbar via Althani	112.40	213.85	1.03%	Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Construction of a new line between Belgaum and Dharwad	97.10	228.58	(-)4.91%	Survey has been completed. Length of line, cost and Rate of return as worked out by the Railway have been indicated. However, the survey report is under preparation. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.
4.	Construction of a new line between Nippani and Raybag	49.50	106.86	7.52%	Survey has been completed. Length of line, cost and Rate of return as worked out by the Railway have been indicated. However, the survey report is under preparation. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

*[Translation]***Encroachment of Railway Lands at Nandpur Bharoli**

4844.SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railway land adjoining Nandpur Bharoli railway station on Pathankot-Joginder Nagar railway line has been encroached upon by the local residents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to remove such encroachment?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Telecommunication Network**

4845.PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have already own 20,000 route kms. of microwave, 12,000 route kms of copper cables and 3000 kms. of Optical Fibre Cable;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the purpose for which this extensive telecommunication network installed by the Railways; and

(d) the revenue generated during 1999-2000 and expected during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Railway own 19,437 route kms of microwave, 12,897 route kms of copper cable and 2,921 route kms of optical fibre cable as on 31.7.2000.

(b) The assets given in reply to part (a) have been created over a long period of time with costing applicable at the time of commissioning of the system.

(c) and (d) Railways use their telecom network to cater for Railway's own need of communication such as Railways' Train Control, operational, Safety, accident/disaster management system and administrative Trunk Communication. Since Railways' communication infrastructure is create only to meet internal demand, no attempt was made earlier for earning revenues from these assets. However, after advent of OFC network/Digital Microwave system, it is being increasingly realised that surplus capacity may be leased/rented for earning some revenues. A beginning has been made in this direction and Railways could lease out some communication channels which gave a revenue earning of Rs. 6.08 lakhs in 1999-2000 and Rs. 10.76 lakhs in 2000-2001 so far.

Investment by IOC

4846.SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is going for equity in various projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the logic for such investments;

(c) whether the surplus funds of Indian Oil cannot be invested in down-stream activity like oil exploration;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to ensure that Indian Oil Corporation does not put its surplus funds acting as a stock-broker; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the activity of Indian Oil Corporation particularly in areas of advertisements, decoration of petrol outlets, investing in companies which are of no strategic significance?

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

(b) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) have taken equity in the following joint ventures with other organisations for securing sustained growth of the organization :

- Indo-Mobil Limited for lubricants Business
- Avi-Oil India Limited for aviation lubricants.
- Indian Oil Tanking Limited for infrastructure facilities for storage of POL products.
- Petronet India Limited for pipelines projects.
- Petronet-LNG Limited for LNG import, storage and supply as alternate fuel to power plants.
- Indian Oil Petronas Limited for LPG import at Haldia.
- Petronet-VK Limited for Vadinar-Kandla Pipeline
- Petronet-CTM Limited for Chennai-Trichy-Madurai Pipeline
- Indian Oil Panipat Power Consortium Limited for Panipat Power Project.
- Indian Oil TCG Petrochem Limited for Petrochemical business.
- Lubrizol India Limited for lube additives.

(c) and (d) Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), two blocks have been awarded to the consortium of ONGC and Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

(e) The activities of the IOC are being reviewed and managed by the Navratna Board.

Project Report of Windmill Station to Bedi Port Rail Line

4847. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the project report for constructions of rail line from Windmill Station to Bedi Port under Rajkot

division of Western Railway has been prepared by Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost thereof; and

(d) the time by which the above project is likely to be started and completed ?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Improvement in Electricity Supply In Rural Areas

4848. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government while finalising power projects in private sector, stressed the private sector to set up their projects in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the total number of power projects that are coming up in rural areas out of the projects cleared as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir. The Project sites for development of power projects proposed to be developed through the private sector are generally identified by the concerned state government authorities, whose choice of location is based on many factors such as availability of fuel, demand-supply position and location of load centres.

(b) Does not arise.

Sale of Government Stake In IBP to IOC

4849. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have agreed to sell its stake in Indo-Burma Petroleum to Indian Oil Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Setting Up of LNG Terminal

4850. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cleared the proposal for setting up of LNG terminal in joint venture at Cochin (Kerala);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its installed capacity; and

(c) the estimated profits of GAIL, IOC and BPL likely to be increased due to it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL), a joint venture of Gas Authority of India Ltd., Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., is setting up LNG Terminal at Cochin (Kerala). PLL has signed a long term LNG Sale Purchase Agreement with M/s RasGas of Qatar for supply of 2.5 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) LNG from January, 2005 for the Cochin Terminal. The estimated cost of the terminal is US\$360 million.

(c) There is potential of earning of profit by the promoting companies through dividend proportionate to their equity participation after operation of the terminal for a reasonable period.

Pipeline Between Paradeep Port and Ranchi

4851. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to lay a pipeline between Paradeep Port and Ranchi;

(b) if so, the estimated cost involved therein; and

(c) the target date fixed for the completion of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to lay a pipeline between Paradeep Port and Ranchi. However, there is a proposal to lay a pipeline from Paradeep to Rourkela. The capital cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 581.1 crores and the project is proposed to be completed within 36 months from the date of financial closure.

Reservation Problem to Orissa Bound Passengers

4852. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Orissa bound passengers are facing a lot of problems in getting railway reservations; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to augment the system and resolve the problem of the commuters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Some passengers do remain on the waiting list in some important popular Orissa bound trains particularly during the rush period. In order to bridge the gap between the demand and supply, various steps are taken which include running of special trains, augmenting the load of the existing trains etc. In addition, waiting list position is monitored on day to day basis and, wherever justified and feasible, additional coaches are attached.

Procurement of AJTs

4853. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for which the procurement of Advance Jet Trainers (AJT) for Indian Air Force is getting delayed;

(b) whether the Government have constituted a High Level Committee to expedite the procurement process of AJT as reported in the Hindustan Times dated August 2, 2000;

(c) if so, the composition and terms of reference thereof; and

(d) the time by which the AJTs are likely to be procured ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Various trainer aircraft available in the world market were being evaluated by the government. Negotiations have commenced with M/s British Aerospace for the Hawk AJT.

(b) and (c) A special committee, with the following composition, was constituted on 14.12.1999 to monitor the progress of the acquisition of AJT aircraft and to give expeditious and necessary directions from time to time to facilitate its accelerated procurement :

Raksha Mantri	—	Chairman
Chief of Air Staff,		
Defence Secretary,		
Secretary (DP&S),		

Scientific Advisor to RM, and
Financial Advisor (DS) — Members

(d) The contract will be signed after the negotiations are successfully completed.

Oil Prices of OPEC

4854. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased state :

(a) whether the oil prices of OPEC continued to fall in the last week of July, 2000;

(b) if so, the extent to which the fall in the prices have affect oil prices in India;

(c) whether Government are considering to reduce the oil prices in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) There was a slight drop in the average price of Dubai and Brent crude oil during the last week of July, 2000, as compared to third week of July 2000.

(b) to (e) Currently, prices of crude oil in international market are volatile and are subject to wide fluctuations Government continuously monitors the trends of the international prices of crude oil and petroleum products. The impact of the changes in the international prices on the subsidies and cross subsidies on controlled products is also reviewed on a regular basis. There is no proposal under consideration at present to revise the prices of controlled petroleum products.

Training to Handloom Weavers Cooperative in Tamil Nadu

4855. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government proposes to set up a training centre at Chennimalai in Tamil Nadu to give latest training to handloom weavers' cooperatives so as to produce export quality handloom fabric; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting UP of CNG Outlets by GAIL

4856. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. proposed to set up retail outlets for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in Bangalore and Hyderabad; and

(b) is so, the proposed investments to be made in the project by GAIL ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Constitution of Anomaly Committee

4857. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the matter pertaining to the increase in the pay scales of Assistant Director. (Handicraft) and the Handicraft Promotion Officer is under consideration of the Government.

(b) if so, whether any anomaly committee has been constituted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said committee is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An anomaly Committee has been constituted in Ministry of Textiles to consider representations from officials in the office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) in the matter of fixation of their scales of pay with reference to the recommendations of the Vth Central Pay Commission. The Committee held 2 meetings and constituted a Sub-Committee to study and to bring forth before the Anomaly Committee the issues involved for consideration. The Sub-Committee has completed the work and submitted its report.

(d) The Committee has not been fixed a time within which its recommendations must be submitted.

[English]

Research Fund for Pharmaceutical Industry

4858. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOSA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have established a research fund for Pharmaceutical Industry;
- (b) if so, the objectives thereof;
- (c) the quantum of the initial corpus funds;
- (d) whether this fund will also be financed for research proposals of the private pharmaceutical sector;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether any research is being done by the private sector; and
- (g) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) The pharmaceutical Research and Development Committee (PRDC) was constituted in March, 1999 to recommend measures to strengthen the Research and Development capability of the pharmaceutical industry in India and to identify the support required by Indian Pharmaceutical companies to undertake domestic Research and Development. In its report submitted to the Government, the Committee has recommended, inter alia, the establishment of a Drug Development Promotion Foundation, to promote such R&D. For this purpose, it has recommended setting up of a fund called the 'Pharmaceutical R&D Support Fund' to be administered by the Drug Development Promotion Foundation. It has also suggested several fiscal and non-fiscal measures. The Government is generally supportive of the approach suggested by the Committee.

(f) and (g) Research is being undertaken by companies in the private sector depending on their capability and on commercial considerations. Government does not monitor such research in the private sector.

Removal of Encroachments

4859. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken a decision to remove encroachments on railway lands within ten metres of tracks to ensure passenger safety and cleanliness; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Removal of encroachments from Railway land, including those within safety zone of operations, is a continuous process which is executed as per provisions of The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

[Translation]

Coal Supply to Thermal Power Plants

4860. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of coal purchased for operating thermal power plants of the Damodar Valley Corporation particularly Bokaro Thermal Power Station, Chandrapura Thermal Power Station and Mijihiya Thermal Power Station (West Bengal) during the last three years and current year till July 2000 alongwith the manner in which the said coal has been transported;

(b) the names of coal mines from where the coal has been purchased for the said power stations alongwith purchase price of the coal per ton and the type thereof;

(c) the quantum of coal transported by the railways and road transport to the said Thermal Power Stations alongwith the transport charges per ton by both separately by rail and road transport;

(d) whether coal was transported to the Chandrapura and Bokaro Thermal Power Stations by road despite the fact that rail route is cheaper for the said purpose; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The quantum of coal purchased for operating Bokaro Thermal Power Station (BTPS), Chandrapura Thermal Power Station (CTPS) and Mejia Thermal Power Station (MTPS) of Damodar Valley Corporation during the last three years and the current year alongwith the mode of transport are given in the Statement-I attached.

(b) The names of coal mines from where the coal has been purchased for the said power stations alongwith the purchase price of coal per ton and type of coal are furnished in the Statement-II attached.

(c) The quantum of coal transported by rail and road to the said Thermal Power Stations alongwith the transport charges per ton by rail and road separately are furnished in the Statement-III attached.

(d) and (e) In case of Chandrapura Thermal Power Station and Bokaro Thermal Power Station, the transportation cost of coal by rail is sometimes higher and at times cheaper compared to the road transport depending upon the distance involved. On an average, the cost of transportation of coal by rail and road are almost equal. So strategically, DVC are taking around 60% supply of coal by rail and 40% by road.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Period/Year	BTPS	CTPS	MTPS	Total
1	1997-98	2078768	1279565	362565	3720898
2	1998-99	1796041	1154302	819450	3769793
3	1999-2000	1758543	1178036	1499061	4435640
4	2000-2001 (Till July, 2000)	684147	401205	420339	1505691

The mode of transport of coal for individual power stations are as under :-

Name of TPS	Mode of Transport
Bokaro	Rail and Road
Chandrapur	Rail, Road and Belt
Mejia	Rail and Road

Statement-II

Names of Coal Mines from where the coal has been Purchased and Purchase Price per Ton (Average) and type of Coal

- BTPS (i) (a) BCCL-Ramkanali, West Mudidih, Muraidih, Barora; Damoda, Keshalpur, Benidih, Jamuria, Siding.
- (b) CCL-Sei. Dhori, Kare, Kargali, Kathara, Amlo, Golpahari, Dhori, Kuju, Tarmi, Kalyani etc.

- (ii) Avg. Purchase price of coal per ton CCL-Rs.635/-type of coal-W-IV, DE

- (ii) Ave. Purchase price of coal per ton BCCL-Rs.635/-type of coal-WIV, DE

- CTPS (i) (a) CCL-Dhori
- (b) BCCL-Kessurgarh, W/M, Ramkanali, Lohapatt, Parora, Phulari tand, Telulmari, Nichtpjur, E/Katras, Bansjora, Madhuvan, Keshalpur, Bhowra, Muraidih.

- (ii) Ave. Purchase price of coal per ton CCL-Rs.635/-type of coal-W-IV, DE

- (III) Ave. Purchase price of coal per ton BCCL-Rs.635/-type of coal-W-IV, DE

- MTPS (i) (a) ECL Kalidespur, Ardhamgram, Mohampur, Chapapur

- (b) BCCL-Sudamdih, Patherdih, Golukdih, Barora, Zeenagora, Muraidih, Bhojadih, West Mudidih (W/M), Damagoria, Phularitand.

- (ii) Avg. Purchase price of coal per ton ECL-Rs.1000/- and type of coal BCD

- (iii) Ave. Purchase price of coal per ton BCCL-Rs.635/- and type of coal-W-IV D.E.

Statement-III

The quantum of coal transported by Railways and Road Transport

S. No.	Period/Year	BTPS			CTPS			MTPS		
		Rail Qty	Avg.Tpt Chg/Ton	Road Qty Avg.Tpt Chg/Ton	Rail Qty	Avg.Tpt Chg/Ton	Road Qty Avg.Tpt Chg/Ton	Rail Qty	Avg.Tpt Chg/Ton	Road Qty Avg.Tpt Chg/Ton
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	1997-98	1247670	Rs.98/-	831098 CCL 52/- BCCL-132/-	656958	Rs.98/-	62260768/-	Nil	Rs.98/-	362565 283-BCCL 87.5-ECL
2	1998-99	1089453	Rs.110/-	708588 CCL-54/- BCCL-132/-	508691	Rs.110/-	64561174/-	71169	Rs.110/-	748281 310-BCCL 90-ECL
3	1999-2000	936713	Rs.118/-	821830 CCL-57/- BCCL-161/-	657047	Rs.118/-	52098987/-	564603	Rs.118/-	934458 330-BCCL 93-ECL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4	2000-2001 (Till July 2000)	343391	Rs.130/-	340756 CCL-64/- BCCL-177/-	204482	Rs.130/-	19672392/	230587	Rs.130/-	189752 337/-BCCL 95/-ECL

*[English]***Prices of Petroleum Products**

4861. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to review the prices of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to encourage Indian owned refineries to produce oil products at cheaper rates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The review of prices of petroleum products is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) The Government had decided in November, 1997 to dismantle the Administered Pricing Mechanism in a phased manner and action had been initiated with effect from 1.4.1998. Accordingly, the system of retention pricing for all the refineries has been abolished and refinery gate prices of controlled petroleum products are now being fixed on principle of import parity.

Touts at Railway Goods Booking Centres

4862. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding touts rule in the matter of railway goods booking at Delhi and New Delhi appearing in the Nav Bharat Times dated August 11, 2000;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected by the Government during the last three years;

(c) the number of Railway officials/touts found involved therein and action taken by the Government against them; and

(d) the concrete measures have been taken by Ministry in this regard ?

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

(b) Parcels are booked by consignor or their authorised agents as provided under the rules and no such case has been reported.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Supply of Cooking Gas Through Pipeline**

4863. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the scheme of supplying cooking gas to homes through pipeline; and

(b) the names of the cities in which the Government propose to supply cooking gas under the above scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) At present there is no scheme for supplying cooking gas (LPG) through pipeline in the country. However, GAIL has launched the piped gas distribution to domestic consumers in Delhi and Mumbai through its joint venture companies, namely, Indraprastha Gas Limited and Mahanagar Gas Limited respectively.

*[English]***Safety Device in AC Compartments**

4864. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railway workshops and RDSO have not been able to design safety devices for Air Conditioned compartments in time of accidents, collisions and other mishaps;

(b) if so, whether the research and technical staff of the railways have not the requisite knowledge or motivation to come up with the requisite safety designs;

(c) if so, whether railways have considered any out-house agency to come up with a safety design and devices for AC compartments at the time of accidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to install safety devices in AC compartments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Railway coaches including air-conditioned coaches are designed to international (UIC) safety standards with anti-telescopic features and destruction zones at the two ends to provide safety to railway passengers in event of accidents and collisions.

(b) Staff employed in Railway's research and technical units are fully competent and motivated. As a result of sustained research made by the Railways, several new designs of coaches like AC-2 tier, AC-3 tier, double deckers, Rajdhani and Shatabdi coaches, Swarna Shatabdi coaches etc. and also new features like high tensile coupling modern UIC vestibules, air brakes, roof mounted AC units, 110 Volts lighting system etc. have been developed over the years.

(c) to (e) Research, Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) located at Lucknow is a well equipped and self-sufficient research unit of Indian Railways. However, for complete upgradation of coach manufacturing technology, Railways have entered into a transfer of technology-cum-supply contract with M/s Alstom LHB, Germany. The salient features for improved safety, which will be installed in future coaches, including AC coaches, manufactured to the new design, are enumerated below:

- (i) Anti-telescopic stainless steel bodies.
- (ii) Anti-climbing feature with centre buffer couplings to avoid piling up of coaches in event of accidents.
- (iii) State-of-the-Art bogie and suspension which has potential to run at speeds upto 200 kmph with superior riding quality.
- (iv) Fire retardant upholstery and furnishings.
- (v) Modern Disc type, microprocessor controlled brake system.
- (vi) Emergency opening windows
- (vii) Improved passenger alarm system.

Spinning Mills

4865. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of spinning mills in the country, particularly in Orissa and the number of workers therein, mill-wise;

(b) the number of mills out of them lying closed/sick/running in losses, separately, state-wise;

(c) whether the workers in some of those mills have been thrown out of employment following the closure of mills;

(d) if so, the details thereof mill-wise/state-wise; and

(e) the steps taken for the revival of mills and the rehabilitation of thrown out workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) As on 30.06.2000, the total number of cotton/man-made fibre textile spinning mills in the country were 1569. Out of which, 15 cotton/man-made fibre textile spinning mills were, in the state of Orissa. The mill wise details of cotton/man-made fibre textile spinning mills (Non-SSI) in the State of Orissa along with number of workers, are given below :

Name of the Mill	Workers on Roll
Orissa Spinning Mills Limited, Sundargarh	384
Lingnraj Textiles P Ltd., Bhubaneswar	48
Utkal Weavers Coop Spg. Mills Ltd., Puri	1258
Jaganath Weavers Coop Spg. Mills, Cuttack	953
The Orissa Weavers Coop Spg. Mills Ltd., Bargarh	1067
Orissa Cotton Mills, Cuttack	386
Baripada Spinning Mills, Mayurbhanj	1215
Bhaskar Textile Mills, Jharsuguda	1943
Aska Spinning Mills, Ganjam	548
Kalinga Weavers Coop Spg. Mills Ltd., Dhenkanal	1358
Shree Sarala Weavers Coop Spg. Mills Ltd., Jagatsinghpur	1194
Sonepur Spinning Mills, Subarnapur	731
Shree Gopinath Weavers Coop Spg. Mills Ltd., Balasore	439
Ashoka Sybnthetics Ltd., Sudargarh	436
Akhandalmari Spinners & Exporters Ltd., Cuttack	57

(b) to (d) As on 30.06.2000, the total number of 252 cotton/man-made fibre textile spinning mills were lying closed, in the country. The state wise details of closed cotton/man-made fibre textile spinning mills (Non-SSI) in the country including State of Orissa along with number of workers, are given below :

State	No. of Mills Closed	No. of Workers on Roll
Andhra Pradesh	31	48161
Assam	4	1595
Bihar	5	3541
Gujarat	21	28962
Haryana	10	20437
Karnataka	11	23149
Kerala	4	13836
Madhya Pradesh	4	24154
Maharashtra	28	64508
Orissa	6	12017
Punjab	6	53042
Rajasthan	9	45406
Tamilnadu	82	173045
Uttar Pradesh	24	55767
West Bengal	7	16395

(e) The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (special provisions) Act, SICA, 1985 and established the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive, ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies, change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions.

Government have also set up the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to protect the interest of workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure or partial closure of textile mills in the private sector only, in the country. The objective of the TWRFS is to provide interim relief to the eligible workers only for a period of 3 years on a tapering basis, 75% of wage

equivalent in the first year, 50% in the second year and 25% in the third year as per norms of the scheme.

Government Cases

4866. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government spends nearly Rs. 100 crores in fighting cases in the Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check this expenditure and reduce litigations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) As regards cases pending before the Supreme Court in which the Union of India is represented by the Central Agency Section of this Department, the total budget allocation for payment of fees to lawyers is Rs. 3.61 crores (approximate) per year. In order to avoid frivolous litigation before the Supreme Court, the advice of Law Officers (Attorney General, Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor Generals) is invariably taken before filing SLPs/appeals.

Setting Up of Quality Silk Centres

4867. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed the State Governments to set up quality silk centres in their respective states:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have provided any assistance for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of silk units which have been modernised in the country, particularly in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) The Government have not directed the State Governments to set up quality centres in the respective States. However, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has offered a Catalytic Development Scheme namely creation of growth centres for production of quality silk to all the States for implementation during the 9th plan. The objective of the scheme is production of quality silk on multi-end reeling machine by providing common facilities to the entrepreneurs under one roof called growth centre. The space and

building alongwith basic amenities for setting up the centres will be provided by the participating States, while the CSB provides equipments and machinery. It has been envisaged to set up 10 such centres during the 9th Plan at an outlay of Rs.28 lakhs per centre. So far the CSB has spent Rs.96.83 lakhs under the scheme.

(e) The CSB has assisted in modernisation of silk units as follows :-

- (i) In the 8th Plan CSB offered assistance to the State of Orissa for upgradation of its filature unit at Nvapatna at a cost of Rs.5.74 lakhs.
- (ii) CSB has also assisted Government of West Bengal to modernise the reeling and twisting facilities at Berhampore at a cost of Rs.20.75 lakhs.
- (iii) CSB has assisted the reeling unit at Nurpur in Himachal Pradesh at a cost of Rs.20 lakhs for upgradation of their reeling and twisting unit.
- (iv) The CSB has provided assistance to Government of J&K in preparing a project/feasibility report for modernisation of their filature and silk weaving factory at Rajbagh, at a cost of Rs.10 lakhs.
- (v) Under the Swiss aided SERI-2000 a provision of Rs.70.28 lakhs has been made for setting up quality clubs in Karnataka.
- (vi) Under the National Sericulture Project implemented with World Bank assistance, the Departments of Sericulture in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh obtained assistance for upgradation/establishment of reeling and twisting complexes. The Government of Karnataka obtained assistance to establish 7 growth centres at a total cost of Rs.10.8 crores. The Government of Tamil Nadu obtained assistance for upgradation of 7 Regional Reeling Training Centres at a cost of Rs. 0.49 crore. The Government of Andhra Pradesh obtained assistance to upgradation 10 reeling complexes at a cost of Rs.0.946 crore.

[Translation]

Methane Gas from Coal

4868. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any scheme to develop methane gas from coal as an alternative source of energy; and

(b) if so, the present position of this scheme especially in West Bengal and coal mines of Jharia in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has approved the policy for exploration and exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in the country as an alternative source of energy. This policy provides for offer of blocks for exploration and exploitation of CBM through open global competitive bidding. Nine blocks throughout the country, including the States of West Bengal and Bihar, have been identified. Consultations with the concerned State Governments for offer of these blocks have been taken up.

[English]

Hoarding of Fertilisers

4869. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether cases of hoarding of fertilisers have come to the notice of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No report of hoarding of fertilisers has been received by the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Joint Ventures for Manufacture of Phosphoric Acid

4870. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS Be pleased to state :

(a) whether any joint ventures exists for manufacture of phosphoric acid;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the experience gained from these joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The details of the joint ventures set up by the fertilizer sector companies abroad for the manufacture of phosphoric acid are as under :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Name of country	Indian Partner/ Sponsor	Capacity of Phosphoric acid in lakh MT	Status
1.	Industries Chimques du Senegal (ICS)	Senegal	Government of India, IFFCO, SPIC	3.30	In operation since 1984.
2.	Expansion of Industries Chimques du Senegal	Senegal	-do-	3.30	Expected to be commissioned in March 2001.
3.	Indo Jordan Chemicals Company Ltd.	Jordan	SPIC	2.24	In operation sine May 1997.
4.	Indo Maroc Phosphore Sa	Morocco	Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd.	3.30	In operation since October 1997.

(c) The joint ventures have enabled Indian Companies to source phosphoric acid on sustained basis thereby maximizing the production of phosphatic fertilizers. These ventures have also provided valuable experience to Indian companies in setting up, managing and operating large fertilizer companies abroad.

Banning HPCL to Open Sub Counters in Andhra Pradesh

4871. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have banned companies like Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) from giving domestic gas connections over the counter in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether rural and tribal areas in some districts of Andhra Pradesh have been deprived of domestic gas due to the ban on opening sub-counters, by HPCL; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to obtain a report from the HPCL and direct it to provide domestic gas connections in rural and tribal areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Government have a plan to liquidate the waiting list existing with LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies as on 1.12.1999 in the country by the end of year 2000. Accordingly, LPG connections are being released in Andhra Pradesh by Oil Marketing Companies including Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

(c) and (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies including HPCL, have been authorised to open extension counters in the rural areas upto 30 kilometers radius to release the new connections in rural and tribal areas in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Government have also allowed release of 10 lakh LPG connections in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh under 'Deepam Scheme'.

Extension to Chief Executives of Oil PSUs

4872. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 840 dated July 27, 2000 regarding extension granted to Chief Executives and Chairman of Oil Public Sector Units and state :

(a) the criteria fixed for grant of extension to Chief Executives of Oil Public Sector Units; and

(b) the steps proposed to review the whole matter of granting extension in a routine manner after 58 years of age ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Extension beyond the normal tenure of 5-years is granted to a Board level appointee on the basis of appraisal of his performance by the Public Enterprises Selection Board and the administrative Ministry, and with the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

(b) With effect from May 30, 1998, the age of retirement of Board level appointees was raised from 58 years to 60 years by the Government. Accordingly, those Board level appointees including the Chief Executives in

the oil PSUs, who had not completed 58 years of age or 5-years' tenure, were allowed to continue up to 60 years of age or completion of 5-years' tenure, whichever was earlier.

[Translation]

Theft of Goods

4873. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidents of theft while loading and unloading of goods have been increased in railways particularly at Mughalsarai to Patna Sector, Gaya, Dhanbad, Asansol and Howrah during each of the last three years and the current year so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the value of goods stolen, Zone/Division-wise;

(c) whether any responsibilities has been fixed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of persons held responsible and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The crime against booked consignment in Eastern Railway including Mughalsarai-Patna section, Gaya, Dhanbad, Asansol and Howrah is showing declining trend. The details of incidents reported over Eastern Railway are as under :-

Year	No. of Cases Reported	Value of Property Stolen
1997-98	2039	97,19,260
1998-99	1533	76,59,344
1999-2000	1172	66,34,972
2000-2001 (April-July).	315	13,41,236

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Vizag-Vijayawada Pipeline

4874. SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the length (in kilometers) and capacity of Vizag-Vijayawada Pipeline;

(b) the time by which the pipeline is likely to be operational; and

(c) the number of units/consumers likely to be benefited by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The length and capacity of the pipeline is 348.8 kilometres and 4.1 million metric tonnes per annum respectively.

(b) The pipeline has been operational since May, 1998.

(c) Consumers in the districts of East and West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Nalgonda, Warangal, Karimnagar, Khammam, Medak, Mehboobnagar, Ranga Reddy, Hyderabad and Adilabad in the State of Andhra Pradesh would be benefitted by this pipeline.

Computerised Reservation System at Renigunta

4875. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main objectives with which Computerised Reservation System was started at Renigunta near Tirupathi have been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time since when it was started; and

(d) the present stage in respect of progress and development of area?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The computerised reservation centre at Renigunta is functioning since 31.3.1998 and it is providing requisite service to the public.

Natural Gas from Tehran

4876. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Iran, Tehran was requested to agree to sell Natural Gas to India through Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government in this regard; and

(c) the further action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) During the visit of the Minister of External Affairs to Iran in May, 2000, it was agreed to constitute an Indo-Iran Joint Committee consisting of representatives of the Governments of Iran and India to examine all aspects of the proposal of Government of Iran to supply natural gas to India. The first meeting of the Joint Committee has taken place during August 18-20, 2000, at Tehran.

Factors deciding Dealers' Commission

4877. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the purpose/objective of charging SSLF/LFR from the RPO dealers on per kiloetre basis;

(b) whether above charge was recovered from 'B' site petrol dealers on the basis of actual payment to the 'department of explosives prior to the nationalisation of the trade;

(c) whether the above cost has been included in the cost break up while deciding dealers' commission; and

(d) not, by time by which it is proposed to be rectified to make the dealer's commission structure reasonable/justified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The SSLF/LFR is being recovered from the dealers towards investment made by the oil companies for providing infrastructure facilities like land, building, pump tank etc.

(b) Prior to July 1976, individual oil companies were recovering licence fees from the dealers as per their own norms.

(c) and (d) The amount recovered from the dealers by way of licence fee recovery has been built into the commission payable to them as a return on cost of investment on an average basis.

Supply of Spring Steel

4878. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the safety considerations, the "approved" suppliers of spring Steel for rolling stock are required to have a composite unit of steel manufacture and rolling at one location and under one management; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not insisting on a similar requirement in case of "elastic rail clips"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir, Railways have approved vendors having integrated facility for manufacture of steel and rolling of spring steel flats and rounds required for manufacture of various types of springs.

(b) All suppliers of spring steel for manufacture of elastic rail clip are also required to have steel making and rolling mills working at one place under the same management.

[Translation]

Payment of Claims by Railways

4879. SHRI RAMAKANT YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2868 dated August 10, 2000 regarding Payment of Claims by Railways and state :

(a) whether the Varanasi Claim Office had withdrawn pending appeal cases Nos. FAFO 38/97, OA 1/509 and 40/97, OA 1/510/93-BSB RCT Gorakhpur in the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court after review and had made payments in these cases on December 30, 1997;

(b) whether the Varanasi Claim Office had also withdrawn pending appeal cases No. OA/1800015, 17, 41, 102, 103 and 127 in April, 2000 from Lucknow Bench of Hon'ble High Court after review and had made payments;

(c) if so, whether the Railways propose to withdraw similar other appeal cases from Lucknow Bench of High Court after review;

(d) if so the details of such cases and the time by which these cases are likely to be withdrawn; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No similar appeal case is lying pending with Lucknow Bench of High Court;

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Crisis In the Financing of Private Sector Power Projects

4880. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Confederation of India Industry has expressed concern over the crisis in the financing of private sector power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 100,000 MW of Independent Power Producers (IPP) project proposed only 9 IPP amounting to a capacity of around 2,700 MW are currently operational;

(d) whether CII has urged the State Governments to develop an alternative viable lending mechanism for projects that are not given escrow cover; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Government is in receipt of the confederation of Indian Industries (CII) analysis on Independent Power Producers (IPPs). In their analysis, CII has attempted to assess the difficulties in implementation of private power projects, inter-alia, highlighting the poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) as the biggest hurdle and the hesitation of lenders in financing IPP projects. Given the poor State of SEB finances, lenders are generally insisting on strong payment security packages.

(c) As on date CEA has accorded techno-economic clearance to 57 schemes for setting up of power projects aggregating to a capacity of 29362.3 MW. of these, 9 projects with a capacity of 3210.70 MW have been commissioned. Apart from these, 5 licensee projects with a capacity of 1465 MW have also been commissioned and 17 power projects totaling a capacity of 5096 MW are under various stages of construction.

(d) and (e) In its report, CII has suggested that alternative viable security packages should be evolved in consultation with various lending institutions. With a view to finding a resolution to this problem and to simplify/ decentralise the procedure for clearance of private power projects and to attract more investment in the power sector, the Government has already initiated several measures which include :-

- minimising the number of clearances required to be obtained for the purpose of appraisal of

the private power projects by Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

- minimising the role of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board by providing for automatic approval for foreign equity in selected categories and enlarging the provisions for automatic approval for such projects and liberalisation of the Foreign Direct Investment regime by removal of the upper limit for foreign direct investment in respect of projects relating to electric generation, transmission and distribution (other than atomic reactor power plants).
- delegating more powers for environmental clearance to State Governments.
- raising the limits for power projects which require the clearance from CEA.
- preparation of a shelf of projects to facilitate early execution and reduction of time required for implementation.
- close monitoring at various levels to expedite clearances, remove bottlenecks and to resolve the 'last mile' problems in achieving financial closure.
- the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 has been enacted which has enabled setting up of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Eleven States have set up Regulatory Commissions and three States have notified the Commissions.
- The Electricity Laws Amendment, Act 1998 was enacted to make transmission a distinct activity for encouraging greater private participation.
- A policy on Hydro Power Development has been initiated for accelerating the pace of hydro power development in order to exploit the vast hydro-electric potential at a faster pace, increase the private investment and promote small and mini hydro projects.
- The development of mega power projects at mine pit-heads and coastal locations both in public and private sector with transmission facilities for evacuation of power to other regions.
- Exploring Alternative Security Mechanisms which includes linking IFI financing with the progress of reforms undertaken by the State Governments.

Committee for LNG Policy

4881. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted a high powered Committee of Secretaries to work out an Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) policy for the country;

(b) if so, the composition thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report ?

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

(b) The Committee comprises of Finance Secretary and Secretaries of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Power, Deptt. of Fertilizer and Deptt. of Shipping.

(c) The Committee has submitted its recommendations to the Committee of Secretaries on July 28, 2000.

[Translation]

Power Projects of Delhi and U.P.

4882. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have requested the Union Government for granting funds to set up Power projects in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Under the Central Plan, the Central Government normally provides funds to the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) of the Power Sector wherever required. As regards State Sector Projects, funds are allocated in the State Plan which is approved by the Planning Commission.

[English]

Power Generation Capacity

4883. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power generation capacity in India is likely to remain Stagnant atleast for the coming five Years;

(b) whether some major foreign investors in power sector are cooling off towards India because of long-gestation periods and abysmal track-records of State Electricity Boards; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The installed capacity at the end of Eighth Plan, on 31st March, 1997, was 85,742 MW which has increased to 99121.43 MW as on 31st July, 2000. The mid-term appraisal of the Ninth Plan capacity addition programme had revealed that a capacity of 28097.2 MW would be feasible by the end of Ninth Plan (31.3.2002). Various projects of capacity totalling to 51500 MW have been identified for Tenth Plan.

(b) and (c) The poor economic health of the State Electricity Boards have delayed the financial closure of many private power projects. In order to find a resolution to this problem and in order to simplify procedures, the Government has already initiated several measures which include:-

- minimising the number of clearances required to be obtained for the purpose of appraisal of the private power projects by Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- minimising the role of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board by providing for automatic approval for foreign equity in selected categories and enlarging the provisions for automatic approval for such projects and liberalisation of the Foreign Direct Investment regime by removal of the upper limit for foreign direct investment in respect of projects relating to electric generation, transmission and distribution (other than atomic reactor power plants).
- delegating more powers for environmental clearance to State Governments.
- raising the limits for power projects which require the clearance from CEA.
- preparation of a shelf of projects to facilitate early execution and reduction of time required for implementation.
- close monitoring at various levels to expedite clearances, remove bottlenecks and to resolve

the 'last mile' problems in achieving financial closure.

- the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 has been enacted which has enabled setting up of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Eleven States have set up Regulatory Commissions and three States have notified the Commissions.
- The Electricity Laws Amendment, Act 1998 was enacted to make transmission a distinct activity for encouraging greater private participation.
- A policy on Hydro power Development has been initiated for accelerating the pace of hydro power development in order to exploit the vast hydro-electric potential at a faster pace, increase the private investment and promote small and mini hydel projects.
- The development of mega power projects at mine pit-heads and coastal locations both in public and private sector with transmission facilities for evacuation of power to other regions.
- Exploring Alternative Security Mechanisms which includes linking IFI financing with the progress of reforms undertaken by the State Governments.

[Translation]

Involvement of Army In Arrangement for 'Kumbh Mela'

4884. SHRI DHARAM RAJ SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that a Maha Kumbh Mela is being organised at the Trivani Sangam at Allahabad during November-December, 2000 and January-February, 2001;
- (b) if so, whether a makeshift bridge is likely to be constructed on the Yamuna river in Allahabad for the safety of the crowd;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, whether the military could escape from this responsibility ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The responsibility for making necessary arrangements for the Kumbh Mela is essentially that of the State Government. The Army has, however, in the past launched bailey pontoon bridge on the Yamuna

on the occasion of Ardh Kumbh/Kumbh Mela only as an 'Aid to Civil Authority'.

2. The bridging equipment which has been used by the Army in the past, has become obsolete and its installation is not considered to be free from risk. The Central Command of the Army had accordingly intimated the Mela authorities in May, 2000, its inability to launch the bailey pontoon bridge during the ensuing Kumbh Mela.

3. In the context of the request of the State Government, received in July, 2000, for launching of a bailey bridge during the ensuing Kumbh Mela, the matter has been reconsidered and it has emerged that an alternate set of floating bridge can be constructed from the Army HQs' reserves. The exact availability of the equipment is being ascertained.

[English]

Coco Retail Outlets

4885. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to commission any COCO retail outlets in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, with estimated cost of each retail outlet, state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The COCO retail outlets are set up from time to time by the Oil Marketing Companies looking to the local conditions, etc. The cost of each retail outlet depends on the location, area and conditions of the site and the facilities to be provided.

Natural Gas Core Study Group for LNG in U.P.

4886. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of a Core Study Group for estimation of demand for Natural Gas/Regasified LNG in U.P.;
- (b) if so, the time by which the Group is likely to submit its report to the Government;
- (c) whether there is any proposal with Government to supply Natural Gas to the industrial units in U.P. at the same price at which it is being supplied to other units situated outside of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time frame for the implementation of it ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The consumer price of Natural Gas at the landfall point is the same to consumers of all regions. However, the transportation charges thereof vary from place to place.

Budget Demand

4887. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been gross unspent provision of thousands of crores of rupees under revenue and capital section indicating the mockery of budget;

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

(c) the steps taken to be accurate and realistic in the preparation of Budget demands ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Ministry of Power has utilised 97%, 85%, 98% and 95% of its budget during the years 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively. A statement indicating year-wise details of approved budget, supplementary grants obtained during these years and actual expenditure is annexed.

Statement

Year Wise details of BE/Supplementary Grant and Actuals expenditure of Ministry of Power

(Rs. in crores)

Years	Description	Non-Plan Revenue	Non-Plan Capital	Plan Revenue	Plan Capital	Total Plan	Grand Total
1996-97	Be	451.03	0.00	117.61	2455.20	2572.81	3023.84
	Supplementary	69.08	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.03	69.11
	Total Budget	520.14	0.00	117.62	2455.22	2572.84	3092.95
	Actuals	516.08	0.00	110.29	2370.29	2480.58	2996.66
1997-98	BE	453.49	0.00	76.31	2717.23	2793.54	3247.03
	Supplementary	184.33	0.00	217.37	697.50	914.87	1099.20
	Total Budget	637.82	0.00	293.68	3414.73	3708.41	4346.23
	Actuals	638.44	3.77	291.41	2727.36	3018.77	3660.98
1998-99	BE	641.57	0.00	472.06	2691.94	3164.00	3805.57
	Supplementary	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	2.52
	Total Budget	644.07	0.00	472.06	2691.96	3164.02	3808.09
	Actuals	620.43	0.00	417.45	2691.00	3108.45	3728.88
1999-2000	BE	601.81	0.00	425.78	2974.22	3400.00	4001.81
	Supplementary	214.94	0.00	0.00	1.51	1.51	216.45
	Total Budget	816.75	0.00	425.78	2975.73	3401.51	4218.26
	Actuals	848.29	0.00	374.42	2797.06	3171.48	4019.77

**Terminal Charges to Reliance
Petroleum LTD.**

4888. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are paying terminal charges to Reliance Petroleum Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

**Arrears of Ministry of Surface
Transport**

4889. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Surface Transport has asked Petroleum Ministry to clear their arrears expeditiously;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time frame by which dues are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Ministry of Surface Transport has written to the Ministry of Petroleum to clear the arrears of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) against Oil Coordination Committee and Public Sector Undertaking oil companies.

(b) to (c) As intimated by the Ministry of Surface Transport, an amount of Rs. 492.28 crore is outstanding from the Oil Pool Account in respect of Shipping Corporation of India. It is not possible to indicate any time frame for clearance of dues.

Sale of Adulterated Petrol

4890. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that adulterated petrol has been sold by the petrol pumps in some districts of Gujarat and Maharashtra with the help of officials of oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against such officials and petrol pumps owners ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Oil Marketing PSUs are not not aware of adulterated petrol being sold by retail outlet dealers in Gujarat and Maharashtra with the help of officials of oil companies.

The Oil Marketing Companies carry out regular/ surprise checks of retail outlets to prevent various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. Further, to prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (Public Distribution System), furfural doping, filter paper test, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are undertaken by the oil companies.

**Revival of Sick Fertilizer Units
by use of L.N.G.**

4891. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have any proposal to revive sick fertilizer units of H.F.C. and F.C.I. by the use of L.N.G.;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) The revamp of the gas based Namrup Units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) with an investment of Rs. 350 crore has been approved by the Government and is under implementation. The rehabilitation package of the remaining units of HFC and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) based on unitwise techno-economic viability is to be submitted to the competent authority in the Government and thereafter for sanction of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Proposals for use of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as feedstock in fertilizer units are still at a very early stage.

Hal Max Gist Brocade

4892. SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hal Max Gist Brocade (H.M.G.B.), the joint venture as a model for other Public Sector Enterprises, has been running in loss for the last three years;

(b) if so, the amount of loss suffered during the said period along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Max GB, a partner of H.M.G.B., is not paying the lease rental as per the Contratual obligation for over the last two years and buying Pen G at a preferential price;

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

(e) the concrete steps proposed to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The amount of the net loss suffered by HMGB during the last three years is as follows :

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Rs. 28.13 crore	Rs. 27.57 crore	Rs. 38.20 crore

The main reason for the losses incurred by HMGB is sharp fall in the prices of Penicillin G in India and the International Market.

(c) and (d) Since HMGB has been suffering cash losses because of sharp fall in prices of Penicillin G. HMGB, in order to keep its operations running, has for about two years, been paying only 50% of the lease rent to HAL in the from of supply of Penicillin G. HMGB has been supplying Penicillin G to MAX G.B. Ltd. at a preferential price. The reason is that MAX GB, one of the promoters, is a bulk and regular purchaser of Penicillin G from HMGB; 5% discount is offered in the nature of quantitative discount. A similar offer was made to HAL, the other promoter, for captive consumption. The preferential price is in comparison to price offered to other smaller purchasers from HMGB who purchase the material from HMGB in small quantities without any continuous buying arrangement.

(e) HMGB has initiated cost reduction measures to improve efficiency and bring down losses.

[Translation]

Construction of Jodhpur-Kolayat-Bikaner-Nagaur Rail Line

4893. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to connect the Falaudy city of Jodhpur districts with Kolayat, Bikaner and Nagaur by railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether survey in regard to the above railway line has been conducted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Surveys for construction of broad gauge line from Kolayat to Phalodi and from Nagaur to Phalodi have been conducted recently. The surveys have revealed that the cost of the 111 km. and 147 km. lines would be Rs. 123 crs. and 162 crs. respectively with negative rate of return. The survey reports are at present under examination.

[English]

Compensation to the Victims of Bomb Blast in G.L. Express

4894. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed/injured and the value of Railway property damaged in a bomb explosion in G.L. Express between Khandigar and Gareswar station in Kamrup district in Assam on July 31, 2000.

(b) the number of trains affected and diverted to different routes;

(c) whether the Government have announced to pay compensation to the victims of said accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount of compensation has so far been paid to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) In the bomb explosion in 5716 Up Katihar-Tezpur Express on 31.7.2000, 9 Persons were killed and 12 persons were injured. The Value of Railway property damaged in the incident is approximately Rs. 5,50,000/-.

(b) Following the bomb explosion and suspension of night running of trains in Assam area of Alipurduar Division, the number of trains affected is as follows:-

Metre Gauge	-	12 trains
Broad Gauge	-	12 trains

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No compensation has so far been paid. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims filed by the claimants are decreed by Railway Claims Tribunal.

Setting Up of Wind Power Units

4895. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

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

(a) the number of wind power units set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total capacity generated during 2000-2001 and proposed to be generated during the next three years;

(c) how does it compare with the advanced States like Denmark in the field of wind energy generation;

(d) whether any special efforts made to install more wind power energy generators in the coastal areas, especially in Andhra Pradesh which is most suitable for wind energy generation; and

(e) is so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) An aggregate wind power capacity of 1167 MW was installed in the country upto 31st March, 2000. A further capacity of 16 MW has so far been added during 2000-2001. State-wise installed capacity is given in the Statement. A target of 1000 MW capacity addition has been fixed for the 9th Five Year Plan.

(c) India ranks fifth in the world in wind power installations, after Germany, USA, Denmark, and Spain. A capacity of about 1750 MW has been installed in Denmark.

(d) and (e) 192 potential sites, including those in the coastal areas, have been identified for wind power projects in 13 States/UTs. Out of these, 29 sites are in Andhra Pradesh. Wind power projects are mainly being set up as commercial projects through private investments. A capacity of 88 MW has already been set up in Andhra Pradesh. Another 44 MW capacity is under installation.

State-wise Wind Power Installed Capacity (As on 31.07.2000)

State	Total Capacity (MW)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	88
Gujarat	167

1	2
Karnataka	37
Madhya Pradesh	23
Maharashtra	88
Tamil Nadu	772
Others	8
Total	1183

Power Demand

4896. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the present demand of Power in National Capital Territory of Delhi and National Capital Region;

(b) whether the Government propose to locate power plants in Delhi as well as in Areas namely-NOIDA, Greater NOIDA, Ghaziabad, Loni, Sonapat, Gurgaon, Manesar, Faridabad, Ballabhagarh or in any other places around Delhi, and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) National Capital Region (NCR) comprises whole of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and contiguous areas in the adjoining states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana. Supply and distribution of power to the NCR areas is done by the respective states' power utilities and area-wise power demand within the states is not worked out separately. The details of power supply in NCT of Delhi and the adjoining states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana during the period April-July 2000 are given below :

Energy (MW)

State	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	%
Delhi	6685	6431	234	3.5
Uttar Pradesh	14970	12980	1990	13.3
Rajasthan	8005	7707	298	3.7
Haryana	5520	5478	42	0.8

Peak (MW)

State	Peak Demand	Peak Met	Shortage	%
Delhi	2940	2670	270	9.2
Uttar Pradesh	6760	5793	967	14.3
Rajasthan	3490	3370	120	3.4
Haryana	2619	2619	0	0.0

(b) and (c) The following projects are proposed to be set up/under execution in Delhi and adjoining areas :-

1. Pragati CCPP (2x104.6 MW GT+1x121.18 MW ST) The entire benefit of this project will go to Delhi.
2. Faridabad CCGT (2x143 MW GT+1x141 MW ST) The entire power from this project is dedicated to Haryana State.
3. Liquid fuel based power project (2x50 MW) (Phoenix Power Development)

The entire power from this project will go the Haryana.

4. Panipat Thermal Unit (210 MW).

The entire power from this project will go to Haryana.

Non-Inclusion of Handloom Sector in T.U.F.S.

4897. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the reasons for the non inclusion of the handloom sector to the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : Financial assistance under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is extended primarily for upgradation of technology by installing state of the art or near state of the art machinery and equipments. Since the loan is given for upgradation of machinery and handloom sector does not use any power driven or advanced machinery, the sector is not covered under the TUFS. However, processing of fibre/yarn/fabrics/garments etc. used or produced by handloom sector is eligible for assistance under TUFS.

Incomplete Training by Defence Academy, Dehradun

4898. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the veracity of the news item appeared in some of the media reports that in order to fill the gap of shortage of officers in Indian Army the National Defence Academy, Dehradun, finished the training of its trainees before the stipulated time;

(b) the estimated shortage of officers in each of the three wings of Armed Forces as on date and the main factors attributed thereto;

(c) whether it is adversely affecting the defence capability of Indian Army; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by the Government to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) In order to meet the present shortage of officers in the Army, the training period at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, has been reduced for a period of two years with effect from 01.01.2000 to 31.12.2001 as under :

Kind of Entry into IMA	Earlier Training Period	Revised Training Period
Direct Entry	18 Months	12 Months
Ex NDA	12 Months	06 Months
Ex Army Cadet Corps	12 Months	06 Months

2. Presently, there is a shortage of 12853, 1068 and 591 officers in the Army, Navy and Air Force respectively which could possible affect the overall capability of the Indian Armed Forces. The shortage of Officers could be attributed to various factors such as the extremely arduous nature of the career, early retirement age, disparity in pay vis-a-vis the private sector etc.

3. The following steps are being taken to overcome the shortage of officers :

- (a) Reduction in the training period at Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.
- (b) Increase in the training capacities of the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, National Defence Academy, Pune, and Officers' training Academy, Chennai.
- (c) Continuation of an image projection campaign through the mass media in order to induce recruitment of officers into the Armed Forces.

Gas Based Power Stations

4899. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Gas based Power Projects in Rajasthan;

(b) daily requirement of Gas for these Gas based power stations/projects in Rajasthan;

(c) whether the adequate quantity of Gas is being supplied to these power stations as per their requirement;

(d) whether the Gas provided by GAIL to Gas based thermal power project at Ramgarh (Jaisalmer);

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Union Government to overcome this problem by way of

sanctioning use of High Speed Diesel in Gas based Power Project at Ramgarh in Western Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) There are two gas based power projects in Rajasthan. The details of requirement of gas and the gas actually being supplied to these power stations are as under :

S. No.	Name of Station	Requirement of Gas (MCMD)	Actual Supply (MCMD)
1.	Ramgarh GTPP (35.5 MW) RSEB	0.5	0.40 to 0.45
2.	Anta Gas based Power Project (413 MW)-NTPC	2	1.90

(d) and (e) Presently, as per the existing requirement of power plants, 0.40 to 0.45 MCMD of natural gas is being supplied to Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) for power generation at Ramgarh Power Project. Further, natural gas to the extent of 2 lakh SCMD has also been allocated as additional gas to RSEB for supply to their power project in the State. Recently, a decision has also been taken to permit the use of High Speed Diesel for power generation.

[Translation]

Cease-fire by Hizbul

4900. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the army has refuted the charge of suspending its action against the terrorists after the Hizbul Mujaheedin's announcement of cease-fire;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating on the need of augmenting its activities in view of the terrorist activities of the above outfit; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) After the declaration of cease-fire, operations were suspended against Hizbul Mujahideen. However operations against all other terrorist groups continued.

(b) and (c) After the cease-fire was revoked by Hizbul Mujahideen, intensive operations are on in the hinterland against all terrorists, irrespective of group affiliations, depending on available information and existing operational situation.

[English]

Setting up of Independent Regulatory Authority

4901. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are considering to set up an independent regulatory authority to fix railway tariff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Committee or Panel had been set up for this purpose;

(d) if so, whether the said Committee or Panel had submitted its report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. A proposal to constitute an Independent Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority was considered and it has been decided not to constitute such an Authority for the present.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Investment Made in Power Projects of NE Region

4902. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Power Projects taken up in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of investment made in Power Sector during the last three years Project-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether there is any huge amount unspent on this account;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken for improving the utilisation of funds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The following new Central Sector Projects were sanctioned during the last three years in North Eastern Region and Sikkim :-

S. No.	Name of Project with Installed capacity	Approved Cost (in Crs.)	State in which located	Implementing Agency	Date of Sanction
1.	Kopili HEP Stage-I (25 MW)	76.09	Assam	NEEPCO	27.07.1999
2.	Tuiri HEP (60 MW)	368.72	Mizoram	NEEPCO	16.07.1998
3.	Loktak D/S (90 MW)	578.62	Manipur	NHPC	30.12.1999
4.	Teesta-V (510 MW)	2198.04	Sikkim	NHPC	11.02.2000

In addition, Rs. 20 crores and Rs. 15 crores were released to NEEPCO for pre-construction activities in respect of proposed new projects namely Tuivai HE Project (210 MW) in Mizoram and Kameng HE Project (600 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh respectively in 1999-2000. A sum of Rs. 9.75 crores was also released during 1999-2000 to NHPC for survey,

investigation leading to preparation of DPR of subansiri Lower Side (600 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) The budgetary allocations and actual releases for the above mentioned projects during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are indicated below :

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Projects	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		BE	Actual	BE	Actual	BE	Actual
1.	Kopili HEP Stage-II	-	-	25.38	25.00	25.00	20.86
2.	Tuiri HEP (100 MW)	-	-	28.00	42.08	29.00	47.86
3.	Loktak HEP (90 MW)	5.00	-	5.00	5.00	5.00	30.00
4.	Teesta-V (510 MW)	-	-	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Total .		5.00	-	63.38	77.08	64.00	103.72

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

(e) The execution of power projects in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim are monitored in quarterly performance meetings, taken by Secretary, Ministry of Power as well as in the meetings of Hydel Task Force headed by the Minister of Power. Efforts are invariably made to meet full funding requirements of Power Projects in North Eastern Region and Sikkim. The new initiatives announced by the Government in October, 1996.

[Translation]

Job to Dependents of the Deceased

4903. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees died in the Damodar Valley Corporation, the Chandrapura Thermal Power Station and the Bokaro Thermal Power Station during the last three years and the current year and the number of the dependents of the deceased employees have been given jobs and the number of such cases still lying pending;

(b) the reasons for which these cases are lying pending;

(c) whether the dependents of the deceased employees are permitted to retain the accommodations till the cases of their appointment is disposed of; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The number of employees who died in Chandrapur Thermal Power Station and Bokaro Thermal Power Station of Damodar valley Corporation during the last three years and the current year are as follows :-

	1997	1998	1999	2000
(i) BTPS	11	11	1	nil
(ii) CTPS	6	4	7	nil

Out of these cases, no appointment on compassionate grounds has been made. However, appointment has been given to those whose father/mother expired prior to 1997. The appointment on compassionate ground is made as per

quota fixed by the Corporation and availability of vacancy. The cases are pending basically due to non-availability of vacancy in Group 'D' post.

(c) and (d) Dependents of deceased employees are permitted to retain the accommodations for a period of one year after death of the employee.

[English]

Probe the Sale of ATF to Private Airlines

4904. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector oil companies have allowed credit in the sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to private airlines without checking the credit worthiness of the airlines;

(b) if so, the dues outstanding against these private airlines;

(c) whether most of these airlines are now defunct;

(d) whether any investigation is proposed to be launched to probe the collusion of the officers of the oil companies with the airlines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) As per the available information the outstanding dues on account of sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to private airlines by public sector oil marketing companies is Rs. 40.89 crores (approximately).

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has initiated a preliminary enquiry on the issues of non-recovery of dues from private domestic airlines and international airlines.

Meeting of Petroleum Minister with his Counter Part in Saudi Arabia

4905. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had lately met the petro-Minister of Saudi Arabia to press India's and other developing countries' demand for increasing production and reducing the crude prices; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Minister of Saudi Arabia thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir. However, during the World Petroleum Congress, held in Calgary, Canada, from 11th to 15th June, 2000, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas had a bilateral meeting with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Shri Faisal Bin Turki Bin Abdul Aziz Al Soud, who is also an Adviser in the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement in Handicrafts

4906. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's share is hardly 2% in 75 billion dollar world handicraft market in contrast to china capturing 20% market;

(b) if so, the action proposed to improve Aesthetics and quality of packaging of India's handicrafts fetching good revenue by export of handicrafts; and

(c) the action taken to set up design centres to improve the quality of the items produced for export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Data relating to the size of the world handicrafts market is not maintained by the Ministry of Textiles. However, as per the publication "India Handicrafts-A new Direction", published by the Export-Import Bank of India, the size of the world handicrafts market has been assessed at 75 billion Dollars in the year 1999. The export of handicrafts in the year 1999-2000, excluding carpets was 1367.01 Million US Dollars, which works out to a market share of approximately 2% of the world handicrafts market.

(b) and (c) The actions taken for improving the aesthetics of handicrafts items and its packaging in order to earn good revenue from export of handicrafts and to set up design centers to assist the artisans include: setting up of National Centre for Design and Product Development at Moradabad in UP and in New Delhi equipped with IT infrastructure to provide design and technology related inputs to the artisans and the exporting community; inviting reputed national and international designers for rendering design assistance; training to manufactures and exporters through Indian Institute of Packaging; organization of workshops on packaging; hiring the services of reputed institutions like NID for rendering design and technology related inputs and training to trainers. Besides, the existing Regional Design and Technical Development Centres

located at New Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Bangalore and Guwahati are being upgraded by providing them with Computer Aided Design facilities and modern/latest tools and equipments for enhancing quality and productivity to make the products more market competitive. Other measures like upgradation of Metal Handicraft Service Centre, Moradabad for providing better processing facility of surface finishing of metal craft; development of improved tools for wood and metal craft by IIT, Delhi, development of tools, treatment process and finishing techniques by IIT, Mumbai for Cane and Bamboo crafts; setting up of wood seasoning plants at Trivanduram, Jodhpur and Saharanpur for providing seasoned wood for making quality wood products; setting up of common facility centres in wood crafts at Trivanduram and Jodhpur and for Cane and Bamboo crafts at Agartala and Guwahati with better wood/cane and bamboo processing machines will ultimately contribute towards higher production, reduction in drudgery of artisans, improve aesthetics and quality of handicrafts resulting in increased exports and higher realization of per unit value.

Low Level of Water

4907. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to the low water levels, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been forced to halt generation at two major hydel projects in the State; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the problem of low level water has affected the hydel power projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) There are two major hydro electric power stations in Andhra Pradesh viz. Nagarjunasagar (810 MW) and Srisaillam (770 MW). The reservoir levels during April-July, 2000 have been lower compared to the corresponding months of 1999-2000. The low reservoir levels during June and July 2000 have resulted in lower generation at two major hydro electric power stations of Andhra Pradesh viz. Nagarjunasagar and Srisaillam as per details given below :

Name of H.E. Power Station	Capacity (MW)	Generation (MU)					
		June 2000			July 2000		
		Target	Actual	Shortfall (%)	Target	Actual	Shortfall (%)
Srisaillam	770.0	80	0	80 (100%)	380	256	124 (32.6%)
Nagarjuna-sagar	810.0	90	88	2 (2.2%)	250	207	43 (17.2%)

Thermal Power Stations

4908. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation has been operating its power stations to the maximum possible extent, especially thermal stations;

(b) whether the Union Government had approved the coal linkage; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The plant Load Factor (PLF) of thermal power stations of APGENCO during the current year (April-July, 2000) has been more than 80% except in the case of Nellore Thermal Power Station which achieved a PLF of 67.2%.

(b) and (c) The details of the coal linkage for thermal Power Stations of Andhra Pradesh of APGENCO for the quarter July-September, 2000 as approved by Standing Linkage Committee are given below :-

(Figures in 000 Tonnes)

Name of TPS	Approved Qty. Linkage July-Sept., 2000	Rail Mode	Other Mode	Name of Company	Field
Kothagudem A-D	450	425	25 Road	SCCL	Singareni
Ramagundam "B"	40		40 Road	SCCL	Singareni
Vijaywada	550	550		MCL	Talcher
Mudannur	270	170		SCCL	Singareni
		100 (Rail/Sea)		MCL	Talcher
Nellore 15	15	15		SCCL	Singareni

Investment In Power Sector

4909. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether power sector has failed to attract domestic foreign investors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has made any policy/guidelines for power sector;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the investment targets in power sector?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Government is in receipt of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) analysis on Independent Power Producers (IPPs). In their analysis, CII has attempted to assess the reasons for the delay in implementation of private power projects.

The reasons for adequate domestic or foreign investment not fructifying in the power sector or several, primary among which is the poor financial health of most of the State Electricity Boards who do not have the financial capability to support more than a few projects in terms of regular payment of bills of electricity purchased by them from IPPs. The poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards and the insistence by lenders on strong payment security packages has been the main difficulty in the private power projects achieving financial closure. With a view to finding a resolution to this problem and to simplify/ decentralise the procedure for clearance of private power projects and to attract more investment in the power sector, the Government has already initiated several measures which include :-

- minimising the number of clearances required to be obtained for the purpose of appraisal of the private power projects by Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- minimising the role of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board by providing for automatic approval for foreign equity in selected categories and enlarging the provisions for automatic approval for such projects and liberalisation of the Foreign Direct Investment regime by removal of the upper limit for foreign direct investment in respect of projects relating to electric generation,

transmission and distribution (other than atomic reactor power plants).

- delegating more powers for environmental clearance to State Governments.
- raising the investment limits for power projects which require the clearance from CEA.
- preparation of a shelf of projects to facilitate early execution and reduction of time required for implementation.
- close monitoring at various levels to expedite clearances, remove bottlenecks and to resolve the 'last mile' problems in achieving financial closure.
- the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 has been enacted which has enabled setting up of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to enable decisions like tariff fixation to be taken by independent regulators in a transparent impartial and objective manner, Eleven States have set up Regulatory Commissions and three States have notified setting up of the Commissions.
- The Electricity Laws Amendment, Act 1998 was enacted to make transmission a distinct activity for encouraging greater private participation.
- A policy on Hydro Power Development has been initiated for accelerating the pace of hydro power development in order to exploit the vast hydro-electric potential at faster pace, increase the private investment and promote small and mini hydel projects.
- The development of mega power projects at mine pit-heads and coastal locations both in public and private sector with transmission facilities for evacuation of power to other regions.
- Exploring Alternative Security Mechanisms for financing power projects in the private sector.

[Translation]

Challenge to Cotton Cloth Market

4910. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the synthetic cloth material is posing a challenge to the cotton cloth market; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government for providing assistance to the cotton cloth industry and State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE. N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The textile market consists of various types of textile items produced out of diverse range of textile fibres/yarns viz. Cotton, cellulosic, synthetic, woollen, jute and multiple blend of such fibres/yarns. The diverse range of textile material including that of synthetic material complement and supplement each other in the context of varying consumer demands and preferences. However, the Government, through the policy measures, encourages production of all types of textile material to augment the availability of such textile material at reasonable prices to the consumers.

[English]

Pipeline Between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada

4911. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has built a pipeline between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada;

(b) if so, whether this pipeline is not commercially viable; and

(c) if so, the reasons for making huge investments in building it?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Thermal Power Plants

4912. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to privatise some thermal power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

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

present, there is no proposal to privatise any of the thermal power plants of Central Public Sector Undertakings.

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

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Accidents at Level Crossings

1. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an accident took place at an unmanned railway crossing near Mul Town in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra on the July 28, 2000 where a tractor-trolley was rammed by an approaching speeding Chanda Fort-Gondia train, killing and injuring several persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of unmanned railway crossings in the country;

(d) the number of accidents occurred at these unmanned railway crossings during each of the last three years and the current year so far and the number of persons killed and injured in these accidents;

(e) whether any compensation is paid to the victims of accidents at unmanned railway crossings;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government propose to man the unmanned railway crossings and provide compensation to the victims of accidents as well as jobs to the next of kin of the deceased; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (b) On 28.07.2000 at about 7.22 hours, 3 GC up passenger train dashed with a tractor trolley at unmanned level crossing number 44 between Mulmaroda-Rajoli block section of Nagbhir-Chanda Fort section of Nagpur Division of South Eastern Railway. In this accident, 7 people were killed and 13 persons were injured. The injured were initially admitted to Mulmaroda civil hospital and subsequently to Chandrapur Civil Hospital Out of thirteen injured, two were shifted to Government Medical College, Nagpur.

(c) There are 24049 unmanned level crossings in the country as on 31.03.1999.

(d) The details of consequential unmanned railway crossing accidents during the last three years and till date,

along with the number of persons killed and injured is as follows :-

YearNo. of	No. of Unmanned level crossing gate accidents	No. of persons killed	persons killed
1997-98	50	126	129
1998-99	48	138	107
1999-2000*	67	167	246
2000-01 Upto July, 2000*	23	48	39

*Figures for these years are provisional.

(e) to (h) It has been proposed to man 4449 unmanned level crossings during the next five years subject to availability of funds.

Although Railways are not liable to pay compensation in the case of collision between trains and road

vehicles at unmanned level crossings, ex-gratia payments are made on case to case basis on humanitarian considerations.

Under Section 131 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and under section 161 of the Railway's Act, 1989, driver of the vehicle desiring to cross an unmanned level crossing has to take certain precautions before crossing to avoid accidents.

There is no proposal under consideration for payment of compensation to victims of unmanned level crossing accidents or to provide employment to one member of their family.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow the 25th August 2000 at 11 a.m.

11.42 hours.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 25, 2000/
Bhadrapada 3, 1922 (saka)*

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)
Thursday, August 24, 2000, Bhadrapada 2, 1922 (Saka)

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Col./line	For	Read
14/4	Shri Suresh P. Prabhu	Shri Suresh Prabhu
93/15	Shri Buta Singh	Sardar Buta Singh
* 54/12	17620 17620 17620	17520 17520 17520
(from below)		
190/3	62260768/-	622607
(from below)		68/-
190/2	64561174/-	645611
(from below)		74/-
190/1	52098987/-	520989
(from below)		87/-
192/1	19672392	196723
		92/-

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